

A collage of six photographs showing diverse people in a workshop or manufacturing environment. Top left: A man in a dark polo shirt with 'AIRCRAFT' on it. Top center: A woman in a dark t-shirt with 'PUMP' on it. Top right: A man in a cap working with a large circular saw. Bottom left: A young man in a white t-shirt. Bottom center: A young woman in a dark t-shirt with a butterfly design. Bottom right: A young girl and a young woman looking at a book. The photos are overlaid with a semi-transparent reddish-brown filter. Large yellow chevron arrows point towards the center text.

2021

ANNUAL REPORT



Celebrating

20 YEARS

2001-2021



*DET Representatives with NMLLEN Chair Anne Mansell (Centre)
L to R: Cath Murphy, Will Trimble, Jane Maine and Kim McCarty*

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*Kate Arnold, SWL Placement Student at
Goodstart Early Learning, Mildura, Eleventh Street*

About NMMLLEN

Background

Northern Mallee Local Learning and Employment Network (NMMLLEN) is one of 31 LLENs across Victoria which were established in 2001 arising from recommendations of the Kirby Report- Ministerial Review of Post Compulsory Education and Training Pathways in Victoria. LLENs were established as non-for-profit, community-based incorporated associations to identify gaps in education and training, provide advice on local and State-wide policy issues, and broker cross-sector partnerships.

NMMLLEN is a membership-based organisation that brokers partnerships to provide better pathways and support for young people in the Northern Mallee Region.

NMMLLEN's region covers the Mildura Rural City Council LGA (including the towns of Mildura, Merbein, Irymple, Red Cliffs, Ouyen, Werrimull, and Murrayville) and Robinvale (part of Swan Hill Rural City Council LGA).

In 2021, NMMLLEN was funded by the Victorian Department of Education and Training for the LLEN contract, On Track Connect contract and Navigator-Mallee contract.

Our Mission

Brokering strategic partnerships with stakeholder groups resulting in better outcomes in education, training, and employment for young people.

Role

NMMLLEN brokers strategic and sustainable community partnerships aimed at improving education and transition outcomes for young people including increasing Year 12 or equivalent attainment rates.

Our Vision

Constructive pathways for our young people leading to employment.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Anne Mansell

Northern Mallee LLEN along with schools, industry and the broader community has felt the effects of COVID and its disruptions in 2021. With the continued support of our industry partners and schools, Northern Mallee LLEN navigated and overcame the restrictions to assist students to engage with industry. Students undertook Structured Workplace Learning placements in line with their VETDSS subject. Work Experience and School Based Apprenticeships continued at different times of year. Northern Mallee LLEN acknowledges the immense support of industry and other employment stakeholders to provide students with every opportunity. NMMLLEN continued to provide exposure to the workplace through industry events. Northern Mallee LLEN's vision to develop pathways for our young people enabled nine School Based Apprenticeships and Traineeships in 2021.

Under the leadership of Executive Officer, Rod Martin, two new project officers, Natika Mitselburg and Monica Trehan, were engaged to enhance the services provided across the area. Staff have a passion and ongoing commitment to ensuring students are provided opportunities. The focus is, how can we make it work? An updated website and enhanced social media campaign was launched to increase awareness of the NMMLLEN and provide accurate and accessible information to the wider community.

LLENs across Victoria have experienced significant disruption to services. NMMLLEN adapted quickly to support our education and industry partners to provide opportunities for students. This is the strength of an organisation that understands its community and has a focus on building relationships to continually improve.

The Navigator program in the Mallee continued to support our most vulnerable young people through assertive outreach case management so young people can re-engage with education, training or employment. As Chair of Northern Mallee LLEN, I acknowledge Mildura Rural City Council, Murray Mallee Local Learning and Employment Network and the Department of Education and Training for their ongoing support in partnering with the NMMLLEN to deliver the Navigator Program.

Acknowledgment

My heartfelt thanks to the Committee of Management and the Executive Committee for their commitment to the NMMLLEN as it collaborates with various stakeholders to create opportunities that enable young people in this community to have access to programs that assist with transition, education, training, and various wrap around supports.

To the entire staff of Northern Mallee LLEN, on a daily basis your dedication, flexibility and innovation turn policy into practice. This has a direct impact on the lives of young people and is something to be proud of.

Yours Sincerely,



Anne Mansell

Chair NMMLLEN



EXECUTIVE OFFICERS REPORT

Rod Martin



I have been privileged to lead the Northern Mallee Local Learning & Employment Network (NMLLEN) during the last twelve months as the Executive Officer. Northern Mallee LLEN has experienced significant change over the last few years with contract variations and navigating the effects of COVID. Our adaptive staffing structure has allowed us to fulfill our contract obligations. NMLLEN is well supported by our Committee of Management which guides our ongoing strategic direction. As Executive Officer I have learnt much over the previous twelve months. I am grateful for the support and guidance of my predecessor Ron Broadhead and the Committee of Management.

NMLLEN has a small, dedicated staff who are passionate about helping young people to engage with industry across the community. In 2021 NMLLEN has provided a range of activities both online and face to face to meet the diverse needs of schools, employers and students. NMLLEN is well supported by our industry partners in delivering new initiatives including: Wet Trades: "Which one are you?" in partnership with Mildura Senior College at the Deakin Trade Training Centre. The initiative highlighted the wet industry that includes plastering, bricklaying, tiling and painting as career options for students.

In 2021, SuniTAFE and NMLLEN continued to deliver STEM4Sunraysia. Year nine secondary students from across the area were challenged to develop a solution for current industry problems using STEM related technology. Chaffey Secondary College, the winner provided a well-researched solution, demonstrating initiative in visiting the site out of school hours to gain a greater understanding and developing a prototype which displayed a real passion for the activity. All schools should be proud of the efforts of the students for providing quality solutions and showcasing them in a video format. NMLLEN developed a new website which will be a valuable resource for schools, students, parents and the wider community to access relevant and accurate information. I encourage you all to take the time to visit the website at www.nmlen.com.au and to follow our social media posts.

I thank the Sunraysia Careers Network (SCN) for their continued support of our secondary school careers teachers and practitioners. This network is essential to ensuring that all our education and training stakeholders have access to information from industry, training providers, higher education and apprenticeship providers. The SCN under the leadership of Nicole Clisby -Weir continues to be instrumental in delivering and promoting the annual Vocational Education and Training delivered to Secondary Students Awards. These Awards celebrate the achievements of VETDSS students and highlight the possibilities of following a vocational pathway.

As Executive Officer I am very appreciative of the work and collaboration with our partners: Mildura Rural City Council, Department of Education and Training and Murray Mallee Local Learning & Employment Network for their ongoing commitment to the Navigator program across the Mallee area. Navigator uses assertive case management to re-engage some of our most vulnerable young people with education and training and ensure they have wrap around supports to help them thrive.

To the NMLLEN staff, my most sincere and personal thanks for your support and willingness to work together and ensure NMLLEN continues to grow from strength to strength. I look forward to 2022 and seeing NMLLEN continue its vital work.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'R Martin'.

Rod Martin

Executive Officer, NMLLEN

HIGHLIGHTS



Maylynn Sefo, SWL Placement Student
at Mildura 4WD Accessories

Department of Education and Training, Industry Engagement Unit | Senior Secondary Pathways Reform Taskforce Feedback

Northern Mallee LLEN received positive feedback from the Department of Education and Training (DET) for our performance in 2021. DET comments included:

"We want to commend you and your team on your hard work across what has proven to be another challenging year. We note this has been a challenging year to meet SWL Placement target. Despite this, NMMLLEN have managed to meet all KPI's in 2021. Well done!"

"We acknowledge the regular contact you have had with your Job Skills Pathway Manager (JSPM) and contribution to the local VET network throughout 2021. It's great to learn about the work you have done to educate local teachers on how to better integrate industry skills and knowledge when developing curriculum."

"Thank you again for your submission, your continued support of schools throughout 2021 and appreciation for the challenges they faced is to be commended."

Structured Workplace Statewide Portal expands its membership

Murrayville Community College and Indie School (Mildura Campus) joined the SWL Statewide Portal in the Northern Mallee Region.

HIGHLIGHTS



*David Keller (Master Builder) with
Hekmatullah Mirzaee (SWL Placement Student)*

Twenty Nine new employers join the SWL Statewide portal

SWL Industries of note include Agriculture, Automotive, Business Services, Construction, Creative Arts and Culture, Community Services and Health, Retail and Personal Services and Transport and Logistics.

2021 STEM4Sunraysia

Faced with COVID 19 disruptions, STEM4Sunraysia evolved into a hybrid format. School excursions were not permitted. The STEM4Sunraysia Committee filmed four local businesses presenting four different industry problems related to Manufacturing, Engineering, Marketing, and Agriculture (Irrigation). SuniTAFE and NMLLEN in collaboration coordinated a zoom event for six secondary schools and sixty five year nine students showcasing the industry problems. With facilitation from Regional Rising, students were challenged to be creative to find solutions. Future Crunch presented the Adaptability Quotient for students to consider in the ever changing environment of technology. For three weeks, students worked in groups with their teachers and support from mentors. Students

filmed their solutions which were submitted for the judging panel. Chaffey Secondary College devised the winning solution amongst the highly competitive field. Solutions from Irymple Secondary College, St. Joseph's College and Red Cliffs Secondary College received positive feedback.

Industry, Industry Engagement and SWL Placements recommence

Industries in the Northern Mallee including Agriculture, Horticulture, Construction, Hospitality, Tourism, Manufacturing, Retail, Transport / Logistics and Automotive progressively re-opened during 2021 as COVID restrictions eased. Some sectors were unable to re-open due to health restrictions. As restrictions eased, broader industry engagement occurred which was fantastic for students and employers.



Federal Government Boosting Apprenticeship Commencements Initiative

The Federal Government's "Boosting apprenticeship Commencements Initiative" provided funding for new Australian Apprenticeships. Feedback from some host employers was that the requirement to supervise a new apprentice / trainee and a student placement simultaneously placed a strain on the organisation. While there was limited uptake of work placements for students, the initiative created a number of employment opportunities for young people commencing Apprenticeships and Traineeships.

2021 Structured Workplace Learning Key Initiatives

In 2021, COVID 19 restrictions posed some challenges for the continuity of work placements. In response to these challenges, Northern Mallee LLEN collaborated with schools and employers to develop a range of events that facilitated student to industry workplace experiences. NMLLEN was one of the eleven LLENs from the 31 LLENS across the state to achieve 100% of their targets in 2021.

Placements used from Statewide Portal in NMLLEN region in 2021	Target	Achieved
SWL Placements	72	97
SBAT Placements	2	9
School Industry Engagement Events	10	42

Placements used from Statewide portal in 2021 (all LLENS)	Target	Achieved
SWL Placements	4602	3221
SBAT Placements	230	228
School Industry Engagement Events	500	530

In response to COVID 19, NMLLEN implemented practical health and safety precautions, such as social distancing and working from home. NMLLEN adhered to the DET School Operations Guide to ensure students, staff and employers were safe. NMLLEN assisted the students in classes operating remotely or in a hybrid model. When permissible some on-site activities occurred. NMLLEN worked with schools, industry and training providers so students could complete mandatory work placements.

DET Early Childhood Education and Care Presentation

Northern Mallee LLEN in collaboration with the Department of Education and Training (DET), Early Childhood Division, coordinated a presentation for students studying community services on the topic of, Early Childhood Education and Care as a future pathway. The presentation was delivered by Lisa Smyth and Grace Stevens from the Department of Education and Training together with Country Way Early Learning Owner/Director – Tarlee Dowsley. The presentation covered Early Childhood industry pathways, government financial support for Early Childhood study and a question and answer session.

HIGHLIGHTS



Robert Dean of R Dean Painting Services with MSC Students at the Wet Trades - Painting and Decorating Workshop

Wet Trades: 'Which One Are You?' Workshops

Wet Trades: 'Which One Are You?' was held at Mildura Senior College as part of their, school employer engagement program. The objective of the wet trade initiative was to assist students to consider Plastering, Bricklaying, Painting & Decorating, and Tiling as future careers and apprenticeships.

As a result of the success of the initiative, the concept will expand into other key local industries in 2022, including Automotive, Engineering and Hospitality.

Murrayville Community College School - Employer Engagement Program

Northern Mallee LLEN delivered the School-Employer Engagement presentation to Murrayville Community College. The topics included Work Experience, SWL, and SBATs, and a description of NMLLEN industry engagement activities.

The key focus of the presentation was School Based Apprenticeships and Traineeships (SBATs) as the school wanted to commence three SBATs in Agriculture at the start of the 2022 school year.

The SBAT concept was presented in great detail explaining the integration into VCE or VCAL program, employment/training commitments and the responsibilities of the various stakeholders. Future pathway options and transition after school/SBAT completion were outlined. Angela Wait, Apprenticeship Coordinator, from Longerenong College was an additional expert speaker who discussed the block release training model for an SBAT in Certificate 3 in Agriculture.

2021 School Based Apprenticeship and Traineeship Highlight

In 2020, work commenced on a School Based Apprenticeship and Traineeship Agriculture project drawing from findings from the Victorian Skills Commissioner's report that identified agriculture as a skills shortage area. NMLLEN continued to work on this project in 2021 and organised five SBATs in Agriculture with two starting in 2021 in Production Horticulture and three in Agriculture Dryland Farming in early 2022. In 2022, the SBAT focus will be on Community Services with a focus on Individual Support (Aged Care & Disability Support) and Education and Training (with a focus on Early Childhood Education and Care).



Sharon Pastore and Manfred Payen (from SMECC) with Tenzin and Indy (SWL students) and Natika Mitselburg (NMLLEN Project Officer)

Indie School Mildura School-Employer Engagement Program

Northern Mallee LLEN delivered a presentation to the staff of the Indie School (Mildura campus). The presentation centered on School-Employer Engagement and covered: Work Experience, Structured Workplace Learning, School Based Apprenticeships / Traineeships, Industry Visits guest speakers and vocational preparation.

NMLLEN presented an overview the NOUS Report (Mallee Regional Skills Demand Profile "Pulse Check 2020") on future employment growth industries. We supported the Indie School to engage with the Statewide Portal and assist their students find work placements.



Gary Dawson (of Sunraysia Mower Centre) with Aidan Solomon (SWL Placement Student)

HIGHLIGHTS



Dale Harvey with Alex Tanginoa (SBAT Student) and Peter O'Donnell and Kelly James (of Southern Cross Farms)

School Based Apprenticeship and Traineeship Success Story

St. Joseph's College's Alex Tanginoa applied for the School Based Apprenticeship and Traineeship (SBAT) opportunity with Southern Cross Farms that was advertised by Northern Mallee LLEN on the SWL Portal. At the time, Alex was a Year 12 student at St. Joseph's College Mildura, studying a Certificate II in Rural Operations VETDSS program. St. Joseph's College VET Coordinators and teaching staff, Adele Kennedy and Fiona Dimasi worked with Dale Harvey (NMMLLEN) to educate Alex on the SBAT pathway opportunities in the industry, how it would integrate into his study timetable, his commitment requirements, and the employer and their expectations. Of note was how well Alex was supported through the process of commencement of the SBAT by the school, his parents, the employer, and NMMLLEN. Alex has now finished year 12 and commenced a full-time Traineeship in Horticulture (in continuation of the training program from the SBAT).

Peter O'Donnell and Kelly James, Employer, Southern Cross Farms:

"We saw the SBAT opportunity as a way to encourage a young person into the farming industry while still being supported by their school. We were well supported by both Dale Harvey at NMMLLEN and by St Joseph's College. The process was seamless for us. The process to meet, offer, induct, and employ Alex was made very easy for us. Alex is motivated and polite and got along well with other employees. We are keen for Alex to progress through our organisation. The SBAT opportunities support the industry, introduce young people to farming, and create positive team dynamics on the farm."

Fiona Dimasi – Careers practitioner and Adele Kennedy – VET Coordinator:

"The SBAT opportunity at Southern Cross Farms was brought to our attention by Dale Harvey, NMMLLEN, SWL Coordinator. We were able to get Alex to focus on the skills and knowledge that he has gained by studying VET at SuniTAFE to get him to self-assess his suitability to apply for the position. Alex has grown in maturity and commitment to his VCAL studies, his SBAT, and his continuing studies in VET Rural Operations. His personal growth through undertaking the SBAT has been very rewarding for him. This SBAT has also prepared Alex for the transition from being a full-time student into the workforce"

Vocational Preparation and Transitions Program (VPTP)

The Vocational Preparation and Transitions Program was developed in 2020 to facilitate and deliver a selection of Vocational Education and Training information sessions in partnership with industry to secondary school students to enhance their vocational pathways. Northern Mallee LLEN identified and researched topics with school and industry representatives before developing the online presentations. The presentation topics that have been updated for delivery in 2021 include:

- Occupational Health and Safety
- Local Industries
- Get VET
- Structured Workplace Learning Portal (SWL)
- School Based Apprenticeships and Traineeships (SBATs)
- Australian Apprenticeships
- Job Readiness
- Pathways
- Work Experience

The ability to provide this program online is important considering COVID 19 and the remoteness of some of our secondary schools such as Ouyen (100km), Robinvale (80km), Werrimull (50km), and Murrayville (200km).

Mildura Specialist School - Retail and Hospitality Programs

Students at the Mildura Specialist School study Certificate II in Retail as part of their VCAL program. Students also study units of Certificate II in Kitchen Operations. Northern Mallee LLEN conducted mock interviews for students in years 10, 11, and 12. The interviews were based on an opportunity selected from Statewide Online Portal by the student.

The aim was to introduce students to work placement opportunities on the portal. Feedback was given to each student after their interview and a summary sheet of each interview was provided to teachers. As a follow up to the mock interviews in Term 2, an Industry Guest Speaker Presentation was conducted with Mildura Bunnings Warehouse which twenty eight students attended.

Alex Tanginoa, Student:

"I have always had an interest in Horticulture as I was raised around farms since my childhood. I have gained a lot of skills from the training in my Horticulture Traineeship such as how and when to spray certain chemicals, using different machinery, and safety around these tasks. I have gained more confidence by being encouraged to speak and ask questions. My goal is to achieve Certificate III Horticulture and to own my very own farm/land and provide fruits and vegetables to Australia and worldwide. I can fulfill my school life and work-life commitments with the support of my teachers."



Dale Harvey (NMMLLEN SWL Coordinator) with Renee Norton (from Bunnings Warehouse) and Mildura Specialist School Students

HIGHLIGHTS



Mildura Senior College Professional Development Day

The Mildura Senior College Professional Development Day was supported by Northern Mallee LLEN for college staff and to engage with industry. The day consisted of two industry visits from a range of employers across growth industries in the Mallee Region.

The purpose of the professional development day was to:

- Increase the understanding of teacher knowledge of employability skills needed in various industries.
- Deepen the link of transferring industry understandings back to the classroom.
- Supplement teachers' industry knowledge to support students in career pathway options.

In 2021, the school engaged 20 local employers to undertake industry visits. Employers provided staff with information on:

- Background information on industry and business.
- Changes to the industry through advances in new technologies/regulations.

- Employment and pathway opportunities including work placement for students.
- Employability skills and knowledge employers are seeking when employing trainees, apprentices, new TAFE or University graduates, or young employees entering the workforce.

The industry visits were attended by fifty eight staff. After the visits, staff listened to a school-employment engagement presentation delivered by NMLEN.

Northern Mallee LLEN assisted the Mildura Senior College organising team of: Ben Milsom (Assistant Principal), Amanda Smith (Industry Engagement Officer) and Nick Goodieson (Workplace Transition Coordinator) in the planning stages. Dale Harvey and Natika Mitselburg acted as event group guides on the day. NMLEN is proud to be an ongoing partner with Mildura Senior College for this initiative which occurs annually.

Event Statistics Statewide Portal

42
EVENTS

Were delivered focusing
on Vocational Education
Transition Pathways

789
STUDENTS

45
PARENTS

168
SCHOOL
STAFF

Engaged in the events

The 42 events were
presented in a
combination of face-to-
face and online delivery
with a shift back to
face-to-face as the
preferred delivery type.

Sunraysia Careers Network: Industry Visit Haeusler's Group

Northern Mallee LLEN in partnership with Sunraysia Careers Network (SCN) coordinated an industry visit to Haeusler's. A presentation from Lou Haeusler and the Haeusler's Group focussed on career opportunities with Haeusler's and the advancements in technology in Agriculture. The presentation had some focus on entry-level careers offered as Australian Apprenticeships including Ag Machinery Mechanical Technician and Business Administration. The presentation provided SCN members with a better understanding of the technology used in the Agriculture industry and its benefits to industry. Haeusler's Group provided an in-depth look at the innovation side of their business and the partnerships they are developing that incorporate technology into farming practices.



Sunraysia Careers Network Members at the Professional Development Industry Visit Presentation with Haeusler's Group

Robinvale College and Manangatang P12 College Careers Working Party

A working group was established for two Mallee schools - Robinvale College and Manangatang P-12 College working with Northern Mallee LLEN, Murray Mallee LLEN, SuniTafe and the Department of Education and Training to share information and increase careers opportunities for the two schools.

The objectives of the Working Party:

- Increase student and staff careers collaboration across the schools.
- Improve student, parent, and staff understanding of career and pathway options available across the Mallee.
- Increase staff knowledge of the world of work, employability and transferable skills to influence curriculum planning and delivery so there is an increased connection to the future employment landscape.
- Assist students to make a connection between their studies and the requirements of future study, and employment.

- Prioritise and capitalise on prior knowledge in subject areas including (but not limited to) Agriculture, Science, STEM, IT, and Health.
- Improve the alignment between school and industry needs
- Capitalise on shared resourcing across the schools and services.

After meeting five times, the objectives of the working party were achieved. Going forward schools will continue working with their regional LLENs.

Red Cliffs Secondary College Work Experience Program

Northern Mallee LLEN supported Red Cliffs Secondary College (RCSC) to place ten students into Work Experience. Following feedback from the College that the school and students were finding it difficult to find placements NMLLEN SWL Project Officer, Natika Mitselburg supported RCSC and their students into their preferred placements. Work experience placements included Outdoor Power Equipment, Automotive, Legal Receptionist, Business Services, Sign Writer, Production Assistant, Construction, Education Assistant and Pharmacy Assistant – Retail Trade.

HIGHLIGHTS



Cleonie Quayle, Simone Spensor and Maurice Day (Koorie Education Support Officers) provided the Navigator team with an overview of their services in schools and who to contact for support with young aboriginal clients.

Navigator Program

Northern Mallee LLEN in partnership with Murray Mallee LLEN, Mildura Rural City Council and the Department of Education Training delivers the Mallee Navigator Program across the Mallee providing intensive assertive outreach case management services for our communities' most vulnerable young people.

The aim of the Navigator program is to reengage young people between the ages of 12 and 17 who have less than 30% attendance in a term with education or training. Schools, parents and/or community can refer eligible disengaged students to the Navigator program.

Eligible young people are then referred to NMLEN/MRCC and MMLLEN for intake and assessment before being referred into active hold or intensive case management support.

In 2021, Navigator received 50 referrals from across the Mallee. On average:

92

Young people receive individual case management support on a quarterly basis.

72

Young people re-engaged with education or training in 2021.

23

Students exited the Navigator program after meeting the minimum attendance requirements in 2021.

66

Young people exited the program before completion.

Mallee Navigator Professional Development Day

The Mallee Navigator Professional Development Day facilitated by Northern Mallee LLEN was an opportunity for the Mallee Navigator teams from the Murray Mallee LLEN, Southern Mallee (Swan Hill, Kerang & Charlton) and the Northern Mallee MRCC case management teams to come together and hear from guest speakers from the Department Education Training (DET) including the Koorie Education Workforce (KEW), Mallee Mental Health Practitioners Initiative and the Health, Wellbeing and Inclusion Workforce (HWIW).

Cleonie Quayle, Simone Spencer, and Maurice Day (Mallee, DET, Koorie Education Support Officers) delivered an insightful presentation and answered questions on how Navigator can best engage with and support our Aboriginal youth to reengage back into education and or training. Cam Turnbull, Mallee Mental Health Coordinator provided the team with valuable information and strategies to assist our Navigator Case Managers with knowledge and understanding of how the Mental Health Practitioners Initiative will be supporting schools and students in school at different levels.

Helen Martin, Student Support Services (SSS) Mallee Branch Manager also provided quality information on the Mallee SSS priorities and opportunities for case managers to engage with SSS to support students requiring different levels of support. Helen also presented an overview of the Disability Inclusion principles and examples of the different levels of supports that are available through the Department of Education Training.



Helen Martin, Student Support Services (SSS) Mallee Branch Manager with representatives from DET and Mallee Navigator Team



Kelly Morrison, Brooke Phipps, Sue Phillis, Melissa Van Reyersdael, Ashley Cameron and Gary Green (MRCC Northern Mallee Navigator team)

Research: VETDSS Enrolments NMLLEN Region 2021

Northern Mallee LLEN conducted research to capture the total number of VETDSS enrolled students from Secondary Schools in the NMLLEN Region. Vet Practitioners and Careers representatives from participating schools provided NMLLEN with student VETDSS enrolment numbers to finalise the total VETDSS enrolments across the region.

The report highlights the number of students enrolled in individual VETDSS subjects for each school in the region. The report also states which facility each student from each school is enrolled at to undertake the VET subject. The research was done in collaboration with the Sunraysia Careers Network to help with its distribution to the network members to understand the vocational subject categories students are studying.

NMLLEN uses this information as a snapshot of VETDSS offered in our region for planning purposes and to assist with obtaining employers for SWL placements students are studying. The research assists in identifying enrolment trends year on year across the region. The data also enables NMLLEN to build and offer additional SWL, WE, and SBAT Placements with Industries and certain sectors to facilitate the demand for work placements inline with VETDSS subjects.

2021 Survey results:

- 1014 VETDSS enrolments (commenced).
- 29 VETDSS courses offered.
- 1 VETDSS package (combined course units).
- 43 VET subjects delivered by providers.

School Industry Roundtable (SIRT)

Northern Mallee LLEN was part of the School Industry Round Table (SIRT) Steering Committee in 2021. The Steering committee focused on themes identified as priorities at the roundtable held in November 2020. The Steering Committee included the Department Education Training, Industry, Education, Regional Development, SuniTAFE and NMLLEM.

The steering committee held five meetings in 2021 to collaborate and provide recommendations for actions identified in the initial SIRT meeting.

Proposed Actions:

1. Starting career education earlier than Years 11 and 12. Greater attention to informing parents of the local/regional opportunities and pathways in schools, TAFE, and universities.
2. Stronger pathway development focus across all industry sectors identified in Pulse Check/ Skills Demand Profile, including in schools and the more remote areas of Mallee.
3. Bridging the gap for students and families on available pathways and improved information sharing with parents and students, especially around the findings of the Pulse Check.
4. Industry-based training and commitment such as Structured Workplace Learning.
5. Matching future workforce demand.
6. Explore opportunities to attract young people who leave the region for higher education, to return to the region.

HIGHLIGHTS



Hamish Ride featuring in the Mallee Regional Skills Demand Profile Pulse Check Video

Mallee Regional Skills Demand Pulse Check Summary

One action identified from the steering committee was to engage the Nous Group Principal Hamish Ride to film a short video summary of the Pulse check finding to be available across the Mallee for students, parents, schools and the wider community to gain a greater understanding of the career pathway opportunities available in the Mallee.

Mallee Regional Skills Demand Profile Pulse Check Report

<https://nmllen.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Mallee-Regional-Skills-Demand-Pulse-Check-FINAL.pdf>

Mildura Region Trade Training Centre Survey

Northern Mallee LLEN was engaged by Mildura Region Trade Training Centre Governance Committee to survey cluster schools in their Pre-Vocational Education Training offerings to students in years 7 to 10. The survey captured a "point in time," snapshot of the pre-vocational subjects that students are exposed to prior to commencing their year 11 studies. The results of the survey were discussed at a strategic planning meeting facilitated by Leonie Burrows with MRTTC Governance Committee, cluster schools, and other stakeholders.

Sunraysia Careers Network (SCN)

Northern Mallee LLEN was proud to sponsor the Sunraysia Careers Network (SCN) 2021 Vocational Education Training Delivered Secondary Students (VETDSS) Excellence Awards. NMLLEN is pleased to support the awards on the organising committee. NMLLEN project officers Dale Harvey and Natika Mitselburg coordinated and arranged 77 online interviews with industry representatives in line with student VETDSS subjects.

VETDSS Awards Details:

Nominations: 77 VETDSS enrolments

Categories: 21 VETDSS subjects

Student of the Year: Aimee Pearce, Certificate III in Allied Health, Red Cliffs Secondary College

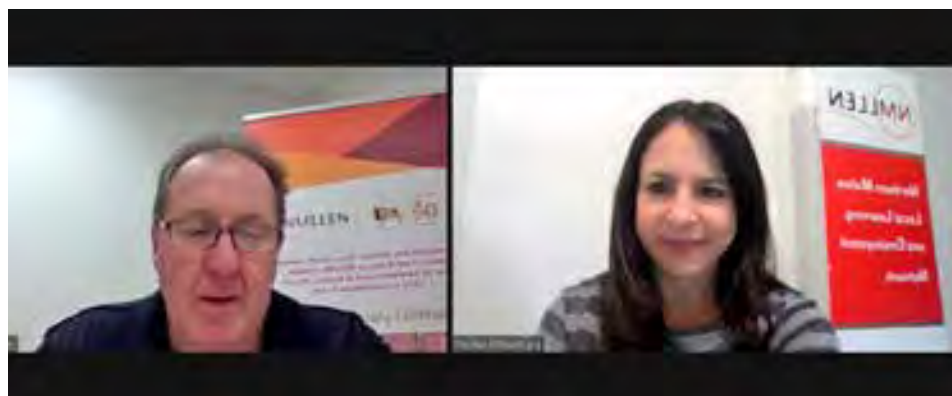
Runner up Student of the Year: Laura Davidson, Second Year SBAT, Mildura Senior College

First Year SBAT: Ryley Whitelegg, St Joseph's College Mildura

NMLLEN congratulate all VETDSS student nominees and winners, SuniTAFE and the MRTTC trainers and industry for their continued efforts to celebrate the outstanding achievements of our local students studying vocational education and training subjects.



Anne Mansell (Chair, NMLLEN) with Laura Davidson (Runner up VETDSS Student of the Year)



Ange Myers (of Fairways Bistro) and Natika Mitselburg (NMLLEN Project Officer) undertaking online VETDSS interviews with students.

Community Networks

Northern Mallee LLEN continued its involvement and support for a wide range of community networks including:

- Sunraysia Careers Network
- Northern Mallee Community Partnership 'Hands Up Mallee'
- Sunraysia Community Health Services (SCHS) Youth Action Team - Homebase Hoops
- Headspace Mildura
- Mildura Regional Development
- SCHS Social Enterprise Advisory Group
- Northern Mallee Leaders
- MRCC Youth Services Youth Expo

HIGHLIGHTS

Sponsorship of SuniTAFE Awards

Northern Mallee LLEN sponsored the SuniTAFE Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning Senior Award. Northern Mallee LLEN congratulate Gemma Melton as the VET Student of the year winner.



Rod Martin (NMLLEN Executive Officer) with Gemma Melton (winner of SuniTAFE VETDSS Awards 2020)

NMLLEN 20th Anniversary

Northern Mallee Local Learning and Employment Network (NMLLEN) celebrated its 20th anniversary on May 20, 2021.

Several representatives from the Department of Education and Training (DET), industry, education/training providers, and community organisations from across the region were present for a morning tea and cake cutting ceremony held at NMLLEN's office.

Anne Mansell, Chair NMLLEN, addressed the attendees with a special note of thanks mentioning NMLLEN's first Chair the late Heather Hewitt and Ron Broadhead who led NMLLEN as its Executive Officer from 2008 to 2020 and was involved with the organisation as a Committee Member from its inception in 2001 to 2007.

Jane Maine, DET Area Director and Anne Mansell, NMLLEN Chair celebrated the occasion by cutting the cake and thanking everyone in attendance for the support of NMLLEN over the past twenty years.

Rod Martin thanked Jane and Anne and acknowledged the support from past and present board members, Department of Education and Training, Schools, Mildura Rural City Council, SuniTAFE, Victorian Skills Commissioner, Sunraysia Careers Network, Mildura Region Trade Training Center, FLO Connect, Headspace, and Mildura Regional Development, industry, schools and training providers for their involvement with NMLLEN over twenty years.



Jane Maine (DET Area Director) and Anne Mansell (NMLLEN Chair) celebrating 20 years of NMLLEN service to the community



Ron Broadhead (former EO, NMLLEN), Anne Mansell (Chair, NMLLEN) and Rod Martin (current EO, NMLLEN)



NMLLEN 20th Anniversary Special Feature in Mildura Weekly

The event was followed by a special feature in the Mildura Weekly on May 21, 2021, covering the major milestones and highlights of NMLLEN's 20 year history. The feature is available at: <https://nmllen.com.au/wpcontent/uploads/2021/11/Mildura-Weekly-20th-Anniversary-Feature-21.05.2021-3.pdf>

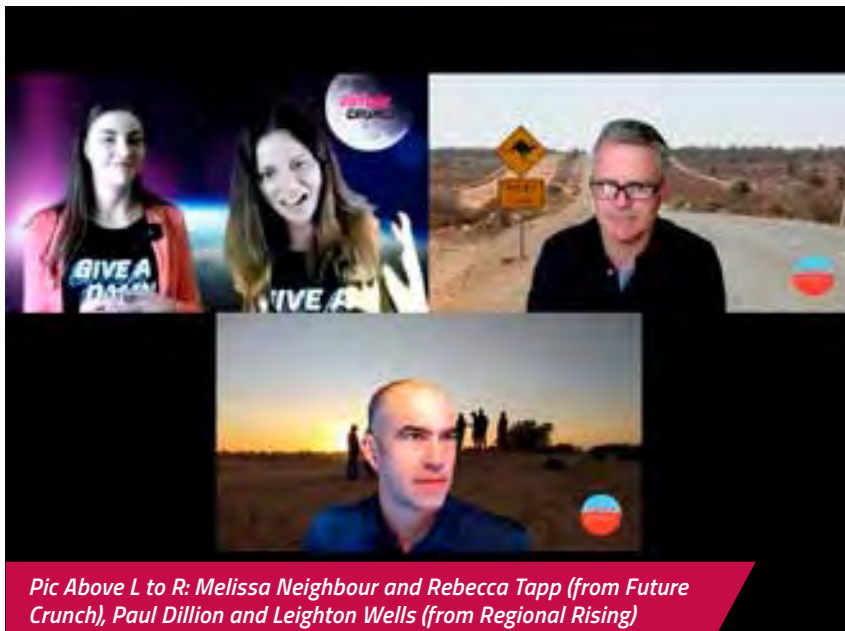


NMLLEN 20th Anniversary branded giveaways

HIGHLIGHTS

STEM4Sunraysia 2021

STEM4Sunraysia is a partnership between SuniTAFE, Northern Mallee LLEN, Skills and Jobs Centre, Mildura Regional Development and Regional Development Australia. STEM4Sunraysia is designed to deliver an interactive project to challenge year nine students to find solutions for real world problems using STEM related technology. The STEM4Sunraysia project had to be flexible to adapt to the ever changing restrictions from COVID 19 in 2021. The organising committee scheduled weekly meetings during the



year to plan, design and make alterations in line with schools, businesses, facilitators, guest speakers and the organising committee requirements. A hybrid model was adopted where four local businesses were filmed, highlighting their real industry problems. The students were provided with filmed footage of the industry problems. Industry mentors and STEM teachers supported students to use STEM related technology and to think of innovative solutions. The participating businesses were Cooke Industries, Christie Centre Inc.- GrowAbility Nursery, SuniTAFE Smart Farm, and Mildura Paddle Steamers.

A virtual event on the 10th November was facilitated by Regional Rising with the participation of 65 students from 6 secondary schools. Three minute industry videos capturing the four problem scenarios were shown to the students. The students were

given the opportunity to ask relevant questions. The video presentation was followed by a key note presentation by Rebecca Tapp and Melissa Neighbour from Future Crunch. The 2021 STEM4Sunraysia original format had planned participation from 80 students from 12 secondary schools, however, with the ongoing COVID-19 related disruptions, it was a challenge for all the schools to participate.

Over the next 3 weeks, students continued to work in groups with support from their teachers and mentors in class through virtual mentorship sessions facilitated by NMLEN. The mentor panel included Cr. Jason Modica (MRCC), Shane Hatchard, CEO- (Redstar Media), Jeremy Gidding- Regional Manager Irrigation – Mallee, Biosecurity and Agriculture Service, (Agriculture Victoria, Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions) and Dean Matulick, Managing Director (DMW Engineering).

The students were required to prepare their pitch presentations in under 6 minute videos. The judging committee convened on 30th November 2021 to select the winning solution.

Regional Rising returned to facilitate the online 2021 STEM4Sunraysia winning solution on 1st December 2021. The schools presenting were Irymple Secondary College, Red Cliffs Secondary College, Chaffey Secondary College, and St. Joseph's College. The feedback from the Judging panel members was shared with the students. Chaffey Secondary College was announced as the winner of 2021 STEM4Sunraysia.

Comments from the judging panel:

'It would be an understatement to say that the 2021 STEM4Sunraysia participants set a new benchmark and left the judges super impressed.'



NMLLEN website

Northern Mallee LLEN launched its new website: www.nmlLEN.com.au in December 2021. The website features various programs supported by NMLLEN such as School Employer Engagement, Vocational Preparation and Transition Program (VPTP) and STEM4Sunraysia while highlighting its partnerships with Mildura Region Trade Training Centre, Sunraysia Career's Network, Ontrack Connect, Navigator and other community partners.

The website features student success stories, testimonials from employers, students and teachers/ VET Coordinators and a resource hub.

The website upgrade was managed by Monica Trehan, NMLLEN's Marketing and Project Officer who worked closely with Daniel Kelly from Build Digital Growth to develop the website. NMLLEN will continue to develop the website in 2022 with additional resources for students, parents, schools and the wider community.



NMLLEN STAFF



ROD MARTIN

Executive Officer, NMLLEN

Rod has extensive experience in Employment Services, Education & Training, and government-funded programs. Rod previously managed Apprentices & Trainees, Industry Trainers, and Youth workers under the Group Training, RTO, and Youth Connections programs while employed with SMGT.

Rod coordinated the Work for the Dole program across the Wimmera Mallee before joining NMLLEN as the Structured Workplace Learning Coordinator in January 2018. In January 2021, he succeeded Ron Broadhead as NMLLEN's Executive Officer.



DALE HARVEY

SWL Coordinator

Dale joined NMLLEN in April 2018 as the Structured Workplace Learning Program Project Officer and transitioned to the role of SWL Coordinator in January 2021.

He has extensive experience across Education and Employment Services Sector including as an Employment Consultant, School Based Training Coordinator and Business Development Officer.



PETA MAAS

Administration Officer

Peta joined NMLLEN in December 2018 as the Administration Officer. Peta has an extensive background in administration and management gained via her lengthy service in the Royal Australian Navy and other administrative roles. Peta's role is to maintain the day to day operations of NMLLEN and provide support to the Executive Officer, Staff, and Board.



NATIKA MITSELBURG

SWL Project Officer

Natika joined NMLLEN as a Project Officer in March 2021. She has extensive experience in the Vocational Education and Training industry. Natika works closely with the local secondary schools, their students, and industry to assist with the Structured Workplace Learning opportunities and develop and deliver programs that will support and enhance the essential needs to connect students with the local industry.



MONICA TREHAN

Marketing and Project officer

Monica joined NMLLEN as a Marketing & Project Officer in March 2021. Monica has extensive experience in Marketing and Communication working across a range of industries such as Education, Automotive, Health, Technology and Business Consulting. Monica's role involves working on development of the new NMLLEN website, managing social media and supporting NMLLEN projects.

2021 EXECUTIVE SUB COMMITTEE



Anne Mansell

Chair, NMMLLEN (2019 to present)

*CEO,
Dried Fruits Australia
Category 10*



Geoff Dea

Deputy Chair (2017 to present)

*CEO,
Sunraysia Institute of TAFE
Category 2*



Peter Devilee

Treasurer (2011 to present)

*Managing Director,
Devilee's Air Conditioning & Refrigeration
Category 6*



Melissa Wade

Secretary (2019 to present)

*Executive Manager,
Sunraysia Community Health Services
Category 6*



Rod Martin

Executive Officer

(2021 to present)

2021 NMLLEN COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT



Belinda Hudak

*Principal,
Mildura Senior College
Category 1*



Graeme Forrester

*Executive Principal,
Chaffey Secondary College
Category 1*



Cr Cyndi Power

*Deputy Mayor,
Mildura Rural City Council
Category 7*



Bethany Simpson

*Team Leader,
Sunraysia Residential Services
Category 11 (Resigned Dec 2021)*



Peter O'Donnell

*Executive Director,
Southern Cross Farms
Category 6*



Mark Morgan

*Murray Valley Wurreker Broker,
Victorian Aboriginal Education
Association Inc - Category 9*



Janet Hicks

*Chief Nursing &
Midwifery Officer
Category 6*



Dr Deb Neal

*Head of Mildura Campus,
La Trobe University
Category 4 - (Resigned Sept 2021)*



Greg Kluske

*Deputy Principal,
St. Joseph's College, Mildura
Category 1*



Trudi Chant

*Management Performance & Risk,
MASP
Category 8 - (Resigned Dec 2021)*



Karen Levey

*State Training Manager,
VIC & NSW, MADEC
Category 1*



Joelle Brown

*Interim Executive Officer,
SMECC
Category 8 - (Resigned Dec 2021)*



Alisi Fangaloka

*Former Executive Office,
SMECC
Category 8 - (Resigned April 2021)*



GOVERNANCE

Sylvia Bowden (SWL Placement Student) at Café 1909

Committee of Management

The Committee of Management is drawn from 11 membership categories.

Membership Category Members	Number of Committee
1. Schools: Government and non-government	3
2. TAFE Institutes or Universities with TAFE Sectors	1
3. Adult Community Education organisations	1
4. Other education and training organisations including private registered training organisations, universities, and Group Training Companies	1
5. Trade Unions	-
6. Employers, Peak employment organisations, Regional employer organisations and employment agencies	4
7. Local Government	1
8. Other community agencies and organisations, Commonwealth and State government departments, Parent Organisations, School Focussed Youth Service, Adult Community and Further education Regional Councils, Regional Youth Councils, Regional Development Australia	2
9. Koorie Organisations, Peak Koorie agencies and Regional Koorie organisations	1
10. Community Members	1
11. Co-opted member appointed by the Committee of Management as a community member or a person associated with an organisational member	1

Committee of Management member changes

In 2021 the following changes to the Committee of Management occurred:

Members who renewed their participation:

Greg Kluske, (Category 1)
Graeme Forrester, (Category 1)
Geoff Dea, (Category 2)
Deb Neal, (Category 4)
Peter Devilee, (Category 6)
Peter O'Donnell, (Category 6)
Alisi Fangaloka, (Category 6)
Joele Brown, (Category 6)
Trudie Chant, (Category 8)
Anne Mansell, (Category 10)
Bethany Simpson, (Category 11)

Members who resigned:

Dr Deb Neal, (Category 4)
Trudie Chant, (Category 8)
Alisi Fangaloka, (Category 8)
Joele Brown (Category 8)
Bettany Simpson, (Category 11)

New Members:

Belinda Hudak, (Category 1)
Mark Morgan, (Category 9)
Cr Cyndi Power, (Category 7)

Executive Sub Committee

The role of the Executive Sub Committee is to ensure the efficient operation of Northern Mallee LLEN through receiving reports, monitoring financial reports, and making recommendations to the Committee of Management for consideration and approval.

The Executive Sub Committee meets bimonthly.

Members:

Chair: Anne Mansell
Deputy Chair: Geoff Dea
Treasurer: Peter Devilee
Secretary: Melissa Wade
Executive Officer: Rod Martin

**Northern Mallee LLEN
thanks all new, retiring, and
continuing Committee
of Management
members for their
contributions in
2021.**

WHAT PEOPLE SAY ABOUT US

"The work readiness information provided by the NMMLLEN staff was extremely valuable and relevant to each student that they assisted in preparation for job interviews. The students felt positive that they could approach the interview with confidence and that they had a chance of being successful. The NMMLLEN staff went above and beyond in assisting students at Red Cliffs Secondary College in connecting our students with the new host employers. The NMMLLEN staff spent a lot of time and effort in making sure that the students were well matched with suitable industry and employment fields."

JULIA LEWIS

VET Coordinator and Teaching Staff, Red Cliffs Secondary College

"As an employer, we have been using the services provided by NMMLLEN for the last six years as the organisation takes the hard work out of finding suitable candidates for Structured Workplace Training for our organisation. We have employed most of the students screened and referred by NMMLLEN on an ongoing basis as they have proven to be very outstanding employees after the training was finished. NMMLLEN works closely with the local schools and refers suitable applicants for workplace learning in any industry as they can assess the potential qualities that employers are looking for. We highly recommend NMMLLEN, and we would be using their services for years to come."

ANDREW MYERS

Owner/Manager, Fairways Bistro

"NMMLLEN held Staff Personal Development Day in December 2020. This opportunity helped Mildura Senior College Staff to see first-hand the prospects and diversity of businesses across Sunraysia. They were able to hear from employers first-hand and understand the different ways that these industries and businesses linked to their curriculum areas. Teachers were able to hear about how employers recruit their staff and the diversity of roles within the organisations they visited. Each year we have been able to send all our teachers to three different businesses in the Sunraysia area which we felt linked to the diverse curriculum needs of our teachers' areas."

BELINDA HUDAK

Principal, Mildura Senior College

"NMMLLEN staff's SWL presentations and interviews helped Mildura Senior College students to discuss one on one their interests in different career pathways which industry/employer they would like to participate in the SWL arrangements with. NMMLLEN staff targeted the suitable industry and employment fields in line with the student's VET subjects and interests for participation in the SWL arrangements. Through the SWL Portal presentations, the NMMLLEN highlighted numerous industries and prospective employers' availability in real time so students can contact and brief themselves on employment pre-requisites such as contact details, address, PPE and workplace expectations."

NICK GOODIESON

Workplace Transition Coordinator, Mildura Senior College



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NMMLLEN is supported
by the Victorian Government