



Northern Mallee Local Learning  
and Employment Network



Connecting Schools to Industry

Annual Report  
2022





Emily Barling, Senior VCAL Student, Mildura Senior College at Shippy's Cafe

# Contents

<b>About NMLLEN</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Chair's Report</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Executive Officer's report</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>NMLLEN Highlights</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Staff</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>2022 Committee of Management</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Governance</b>	<b>23</b>



L to R- Rod Martin, Anne Mansell, Janelle McGregor, Vincent Wilson and Andrew Kilroy

## About Northern Mallee LLEN

Northern Mallee Local Learning and Employment Network (NMLLEN) is one of 31 LLENs across Victoria which were established in 2001 as a result of the recommendations of the Kirby Report- Ministerial Review of Post Compulsory Education and Training Pathways in Victoria. LLENs were established as not-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. NMLLEN is a membership-based organisation that brokers partnerships to provide better pathways and support for young people in the Northern Mallee Region. NMLLEN'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 2022, NMLLEN 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

NMLLEN 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

The Board and staff of Northern Mallee Local Learning and Employment Network (NMLLEN) have continued to work toward our vision of “Constructive pathways for our young people leading to employment.” While there were sporadic challenges continuing with Covid-19 disruptions, the NMLLEN delivered on opportunities for students to discover potential career pathways. Over the course of this last year the Board focused on ways in which we could support and assist our local schools and industry partners in delivering on the Government response to the recommendations of the Firth Review. It was reassuring at the LLENs Chairs meeting held in August to hear directly from the Department of Education how supportive the Victorian Government is of LLENs and the work they do in linking young people to vocational education and training. With that in mind, the NMLLEN Board accepted a new three-year funding contract commencing in 2023 for the School to Work program.



With this new focus on vocational education and training, NMLLEN continues to identify employment needs across our local industries, of which there are many in this current post-Covid timeframe. We will continue to work on these areas and promote local training opportunities to assist in filling these gaps, wherever possible. Facilitation of training and professional development for staff and NMLLEN partners continues to be supported by NMLLEN with the delivery of the highly regarded Bridges out of Poverty training. Twenty-three industry representatives attended this with positive feedback obtained. NMLLEN staff have also attended training on the new departmental reforms and Executive Officer, Rod Martin, completed several courses related to responsibilities and duties for the Not-for-Profit Director with the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

NMLLEN worked with schools and industries in the latter half of the year in coordinating and supporting the Vocational Education and Training Delivered to Secondary Students (VETDSS) Awards with eighty students being nominated. This is always a very successful event and the NMLLEN Board offers our congratulations to all the students who participated and to the award winners. NMLLEN continues to manage the Navigator program which supports our most vulnerable young people through outreach and case management, enabling re-engagement in education, training, or employment. I would again like to acknowledge all partners in this program which includes Mildura Rural City Council, Murray Mallee Local Learning and Employment Network, and the Department of Education and Training for their ongoing support in working toward the delivery of new opportunities.

Over the course of this year, the NMLLEN website and social media platforms have ramped up considerably, promoting numerous opportunities in training and education. This has assisted greatly with community engagement and provides an overview of the varied work that NMLLEN staff engage with on a daily basis.

The NMLLEN has a great many partners and supporters. You are all vitally important to the work that we do. To each and every one of our local schools, who work incredibly hard in educating our children, thank you for your continued support and involvement with the NMLLEN. To all our industry partners, we couldn't do this work without your input, support, and assistance. And to all our community partners, whether individuals or local organisations, your support is always highly valued. The NMLLEN looks forward to continuing to work with you all well into the future.

## Acknowledgement

My sincere gratitude for the great support I receive as Chair from the Committee of Management and the Executive Committee. The collaboration, dedication and commitment of Board members is very much appreciated and their enthusiasm to find opportunities in training and education for the young people across our region continues to inspire me personally.

In acknowledging the incredible efforts of the staff of Northern Mallee LLEN, let me begin by saying that our team is only small but has an amazing capability to think outside the square, and to utilise new and established networks to provide training and education opportunities for students across a large geographic region. I applaud the work of our team and thank each one of them immensely.

On behalf of the Board, I once again sincerely thank all those involved with our organization and look forward to the year ahead.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anne Mansell".

**Anne Mansell,  
Chair NMLLEN**

# EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

**“Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.” Helen Keller**

The 2022 year has been a prosperous year for Northern Mallee Local Learning and Employment Network (NMLLEN) with continued growth and engagement with the Department Education, secondary schools in the state, catholic and independent systems, and industry partners. The Northern Mallee LLEN Board and staff remain committed to providing services that link industry with education for the benefit of secondary students. In 2022, an array of opportunities were provided to students that increased workplace learning placements in work experience, structured workplace learning and school-based apprenticeships and traineeships

Staff from NMLLEN delivered a range of events to students including:

- Work Readiness Presentations
- Industry Guest Speakers
- Mock Interviews
- School Industry Roundtable in Early Childhood Education and Care
- Wet Trades: Which One Are You
- Allied Health: Come and Try Days
- STEM Idols
- Hospitality: How About it



The Northern Mallee LLEN team is small, passionate, and dedicated. Staff are always willing to go the extra mile to support schools and industry to provide students with opportunities. I am grateful to have such a talented and committed team and express my heartfelt appreciation for the work they do each day. I am indebted to the NMLLEN Committee of Management, staff, industry, and school staff for their willingness to collaborate and provide students with meaningful opportunities in industry engagement possibilities while still undertaking their secondary school studies.

The Victorian Local Learning Employment Network held the ‘School to Work Summit,’ in March 2022 which brought together experts, innovators, and leaders from education, industry, government, and community to connect the education system with future workforce opportunities. The education minister, The Honourable Natalie Hutchins MP, launched the Department Education – Local Learning and Employment Network School to Work Program that commenced in 2023 – 2025. Following the recommendations of the Firth Review, the Department of Education commenced Senior Secondary Pathways Reforms (SSPR). These reforms will strengthen pathways for students in secondary schools through the Victorian Certificate Education - Vocational Major. In response to the SSRP, the Department of Education, Schools, and NMLLEN are establishing the Northern Mallee VET cluster to investigate avenues to increase access for students undertaking vocational programs as part of the Vocational Major in the future.

NMLLEN was successful in obtaining funding under the Secondary Schools Agriculture project for the 2023 – 24 years in conjunction with Citrus Australia, Almond Board of Australia, and partnering schools. This project will provide opportunities for students in years 9 – 12 to participate in the Northern Mallee Horticulture Immersion Project delivered at Chaffey Secondary College Farm.

NMLLEN is committed to helping all students and is proud of the work we do supporting students who may be experiencing vulnerability. School leavers received support and guidance to assist with their transition from school to further education, training, or employment through the On Track Connect Project. Our Navigator partners have continued to deliver place-based, assertive outreach case management services across Mallee. Our Navigator partners continue to provide support to young people disengaging from education. The expertise and commitment of our Navigator partners have assisted young people to reengage with education, training, and employment. It has also allowed young people to access other wrap-around supports to improve their life circumstances. Northern Mallee LLEN provides an important service for schools and industry in Mallee to build sustainable partnerships. I acknowledge and thank the willingness of our education, industry, and community, stakeholders to bring this to fruition. It is a privilege to be Executive Officer NMLLEN and I am proud of the work we do. As we move to 2023, we will continue to build on our successes and ensure that we continue to assist schools, students, and industry.

**“Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, and working together is a success.” Henry Ford.**

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

**Rod Martin**  
**Executive Officer, NMLLEN**

# NMLLEN HIGHLIGHTS

## DET FEEDBACK

Northern Mallee LLEN received positive feedback from the Department of Education and Training (DET) for our performance in 2022. DET comments included:

*"You have made a solid start to the year already having met yearly KPIs which is a great effort. Your localised approach and ability to adapt to suit the school's needs are evident in these results."*

*NMLLEN has been able to provide schools and students with numerous opportunities to engage with industry in different ways. Strong participation numbers reflect the work you put in to ensure the activity is targeted and meets the needs of local schools, whilst also providing an engaging experience. Your feedback tool should allow you to continue to adapt and improve these offerings as needed.*

*We look forward to learning more about what NMLLEN is able to accomplish over the back end of the year. Well done to you and your team Rod and such a strong start."*

## NEW EMPLOYERS ON THE SWL PORTAL

Northern Mallee LLEN onboarded 34 new Host Employers between 1 Dec 2021 and 30 Nov 2022. SWL Industries of note include Agriculture, Automotive, Construction, Community Services and Health, Education and Training, Retail, Scientific, Engineering, Manufacturing, Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services



## 2022 Structured Workplace Learning Key Initiatives

In 2022, 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 LLENs from the 31 LLENs across the state to achieve 100% of their targets in 2022.

Placements used from Statewide portal in NMLLEN region in 2022	Target	Achieved
SWL Placements	72	107
SBAT Placements	2	11
School Industry Engagement	10	66

Placements used from Statewide portal in 2022 (all LLENs)	Target	Achieved
SWL Placements	4602	4694
SBAT Placements	230	249
School Industry Engagement	500	981

## 2022 School Based Apprenticeship and Traineeship Highlight

Northern Mallee LLEN assisted in arranging with employers, Senior Secondary Schools, students, and parents/carers 11 School-based Apprenticeships and Traineeships (SBATs) opportunities. SBATs are available to secondary students who are 15 years and above. Students can combine study for their VCE or VCAL with employment as an apprentice or trainee, by participating in an SBAT. In 2023, NMLLEN will work in partnership with the Head Start Program, which is delivered in clusters of schools across Victoria, including the Northern Mallee Region. Head Start is an apprenticeship and traineeship pathway that allows school students to spend more time working while completing the necessary vocational training, and a senior secondary qualification.



L to R : Sonia Inglis, Rourke Mudie, Daniel McDonald, Natasha Mudie and Dale Harvey.

**Murrayville College SBAT Program:** Northern Mallee LLEN continued to support school-to-work initiatives by offering support to three SBAT students studying Certificate III in Agriculture from Murrayville Community College. Rourke Mudie, Daniel McDonald, and Cooper Wisneske have integrated the training program well into their Senior Secondary Study Program as School-Based Trainees. The students have had a successful progression in their respective Training Programs and enjoy the training components both at trade school on block release and the job. Well done to Natasha Mudie (Principal) and Sonia Inglis and Murrayville Community College for providing a great learning environment for students wishing to commence an SBAT as part of their Senior Secondary School Study Program.



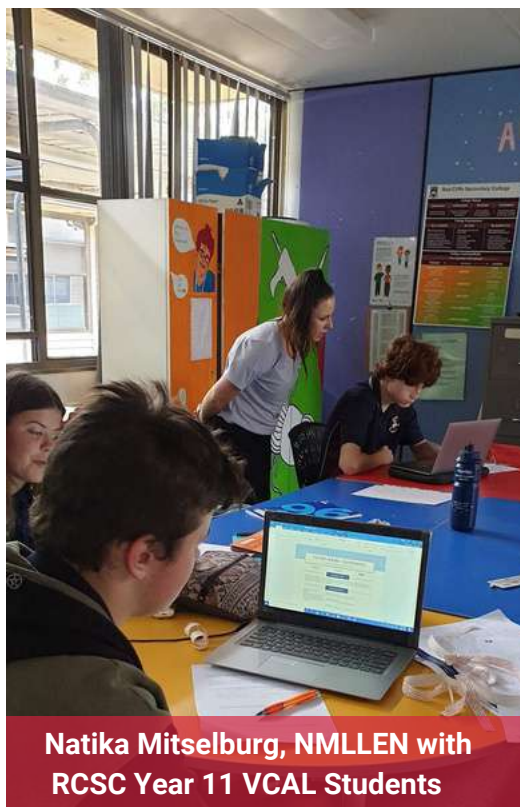
## 2022 Work Experience Highlight

Work Experience enables students to observe and explore possible career options while undertaking a work placement in a real workplace. It is available to all students over 15 years old including VCE students, however, some exceptions for younger students may apply. In 2021-2022, Northern Mallee LLEN through the School Employer Engagement SWL Portal offered up to 50 open work experience placements for students studying at the Northern Mallee Regions Senior Secondary Schools.

Schools that had students arrange a Work Experience placement through the SWL Portal included:

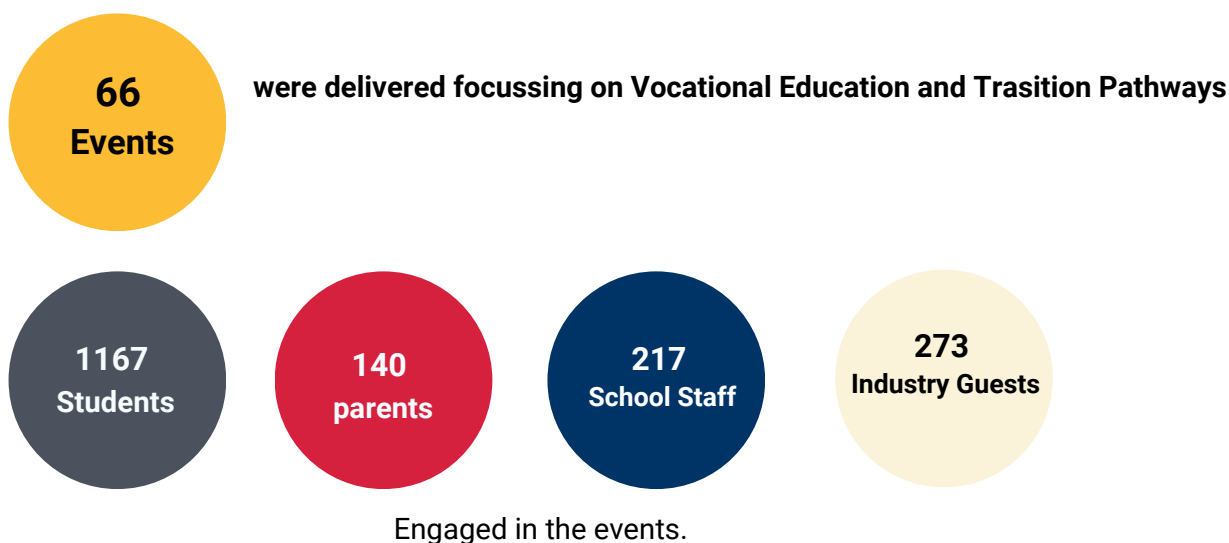
- Chaffey Secondary College
- Irymple Secondary College
- Ouyen P-12 College
- Red Cliffs Secondary College and
- Robinvale College

Northern Mallee LLEN will offer work experience placements on the SWL Portal in 2022 - 2023 to all the Region's Senior Secondary Schools and eligible students.



Natika Mitselburg, NMLLEN with RCSC Year 11 VCAL Students

## Vocational Preperation and Transition Program



The majority of the events in 2022 were delivered face -to-face after Covid 19 restrictions were fully lifted.



## Allied Health Come to Try Day

On Monday, 30th May, 40 Year 9 and 10 students from the Mildura region explored various Allied Health career pathways in an event held at Sunraysia Community Health Services (SCHS) in collaboration with Mildura Base Public hospital (MBPH) and supported by Northern Mallee LLEN.

Eleven schools were invited to attend with eight schools taking up the opportunity for their students to gain specific knowledge and understanding of the different career pathways following an Allied Health journey. The students found the event very engaging, and it helped them to gain knowledge about various career options in Allied Health.



The workshops commenced with a presentation by Jayne Hunt, Workforce Development Manager, SCHS on Allied Health careers followed by a demonstration of techniques by various teams from SCHS and MBPH that included a round of hands-on activities for students related to Allied Health areas such as Physiotherapy, Speech Pathology, Occupational Therapy, Dietetics, Allied Health Assistance, and Social work. The workshop concluded with informative presentations from La Trobe University and SuniTAFE highlighting the career pathways in Allied Health. Allied Health Come to Try event was supported by Northern Mallee LLEN Project Officer Natika Mitselburg.



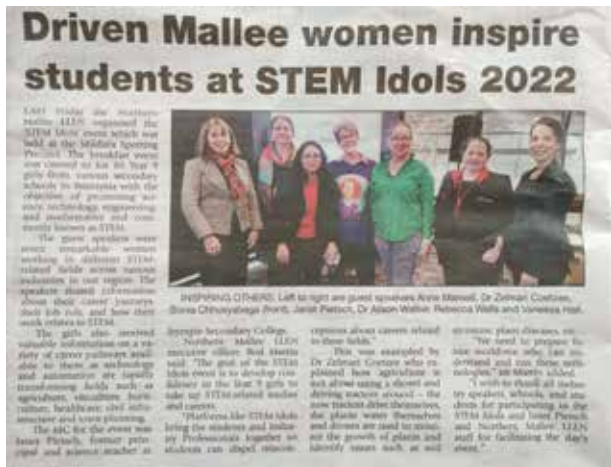
# STEM Idols 2022



On July 29th, the Northern Mallee LLEN organised a "STEM Idols" aimed at promoting STEM to 80 Year 9 girls. The event featured seven women working in STEM-related fields in the region, who shared information about their career journeys and how their work relates to STEM. The girls were also informed about various career pathways available to them in fields such as agriculture, viticulture, horticulture, healthcare, civil infrastructure, and town planning.

## Guest Speakers:

- Anne Mansell, CEO, Dried Fruits Australia
- Rebecca Wells, CEO, Mallee Regional Innovation Centre
- Dr. Zelmari Coetzee, Research Scientist, Agriculture Victoria
- Dr. Alison Walker Director of ICU and Anaesthesia, MBPH
- Dr. Nicole Byrnes, Project Leader of Horticulture Innovation, SuniTAFE Smart Farm
- Vanessa Hall, Smart Cities Project Officer, MRCC
- Sanam Chhuyabaga (Sonia) - Infrastructure Development Officer, MRCC



The participating schools (Red Cliffs Secondary College, Chaffey Secondary College, Merbein P10, Trinity Lutheran College, Irymple Secondary College, and St. Joseph's College, Mildura) received Climate action kits with Microbits to code solutions for problems such as Pollination, Carbon Farming, and Deforestation. In addition, a virtual reality desk was set up for the students to experience an augmented reality-based industrial video tour, in collaboration with SuniTAFE. The event was project managed by Monica Trehan Northern Mallee LLEN Project Officer and facilitated by Northern Mallee LLEN's staff.



The STEM Idols event was emceed by Janet Pietsch, former Principal and Science Teacher, Irymple Secondary College.



## WET Trades

The WET Trades initiative by Northern Mallee LLEN helps students to consider various WET trades as transitional pathways to a career through an Australian Apprenticeship. The event format comprises of workshops on specific WET Trade methods and applications by trade-qualified local employers and concludes with interviews with the employers where they share their career experiences as apprentices, qualified tradespeople, and business owners.

The Term 1, WET Trades workshops were in partnership with Mildura Senior College and were conducted at the Deakin Trade Training Centre for Year 11 and 12 VCE, VCAL, and VET students at Mildura Senior College as part of the College, School Employer Engagement program.



In Term 3, Northern Mallee LLEN, SuniTAFE, Skills and Jobs Centre, and local businesses partnered to hold "Which One Are You" workshops for Year 10-12 students studying Certificate II Building and Construction at SuniTAFE. The workshops included a plastering workshop led by Brett Harvey and apprentice Riley Wise from Harvey Plastering, and a painting and decorating workshop led by Bob Dean and Vann Nixon from R Dean Painting Services. The event aimed to provide students with hands-on experience in wet trades and promote the School Employer Engagement Program

## WET Trade Workshops at SuniTAFE



**Participating Schools: St. Joseph's College, Robinvale College, Ouyen P-12 College, Red Cliffs Secondary College, Merbein P-10 College, Irymple Secondary College, and Trinity Lutheran College**

## Hospitality How About It

Hospitality: 'How About It' – Club Operations was successfully held at Mildura Working Man's Club on Friday, June 17. In attendance were Year 11 and 12 VET Hospitality and Kitchen Operations students from Riverside Trade Training Centre, St. Joseph's Mercy Campus, Trainers, and Vet Coordinators.

The Industry Guests presenters included Steve Banks (CEO), Sam Thorp (Operations Manager), and Gary Henderson (Head Chef) of Mildura Working Man's Club.

Hospitality: 'How About It' is a partnership between Northern Mallee LLEN, Mildura Working Man's Club, and Riverside Trade Training Centre to promote School Employer Engagement.



Steve Banks with VET Hospitality Students

The event comprised Guest Presentations discussing the industry and career pathways at the Club and a workshop on food and beverage services in the club bistro, Bistro 121. A tour of the venue to each operational department including the cellar was well received.

The initiative is to help students in attendance to consider the Hospitality Club Operations sector as a transitional pathway to a career in Kitchen Operations, Hospitality Operations, and Club Administration Services firstly through an Australian Apprenticeship and then progressing onto Management roles. The event concluded with a question-and-answer round.

## Mildura Senior College VET Business Presentations

Mildura Senior College Year 11 and 12 VET Business students attended Guest Speaker Presentations on "Designing and Producing Business Documents", organised by Northern Mallee LLEN. The guest speaker was Monica Trehan, Projects and Marketing Officer, Northern Mallee LLEN. Monica shared information on the process of development of marketing documents from creative brief to release and distribution, the importance of brand assets and different colour systems. The presentation included a practical demonstration and information on career pathways in Marketing.



Monica Trehan (L) with VET Business Teacher Tauree Kay (R) and VET Business Students

# Industry Visits

Northern Mallee LLEN facilitated a range of Industry Visits for Secondary students through 2022.



Mildura Working Man's Club- Mildura Specialist School



Qualia winery- Irymple Secondary College



Ostra Distilleries and Robinvale Leisure Centre - Robinvale College



Manangatang Industry Visit Day - SuniTAFE, LaTrobe University Mildura Campus and Mildura Sports Precinct



Sunraysia Bread and Butter- Mildura Senior College



Mallee Track Health and Community Services Industry Tour - Early Years Childcare service and Allied Health Services



Bunnings Warehouse - Mildura Specialist School



SCBA in partnership with La Trobe University Mildura successfully offers a leading Accounting Cadetship Program locally.

### SCBA Cadetship Presentation

The Northern Mallee LLEN partnered with Southern Cross Business Advisers and La Trobe University to organise a presentation on the Business Services and Accounting Cadetship Program for Mildura Senior College's Year 11 and 12 Accounting students. The event featured guest speakers from SCBA, including Tony Jones, Noel Costa, Trudi Martin, Mikayla Trobbiani, and James Pricor, as well as Mei Li Kok from La Trobe University.

The speakers shared their career pathways, and Tony Jones, Noel Costa, and Mikayla Trobbiani discussed SCBA's services, purpose, and vision, which included compliance, business advisory, business improvement, wealth creation, and human resources. The presentation aimed to provide students with an alternative to full-time post-secondary study and an understanding of the accounting industry's opportunities.

### Bridges Out of Poverty Workshop

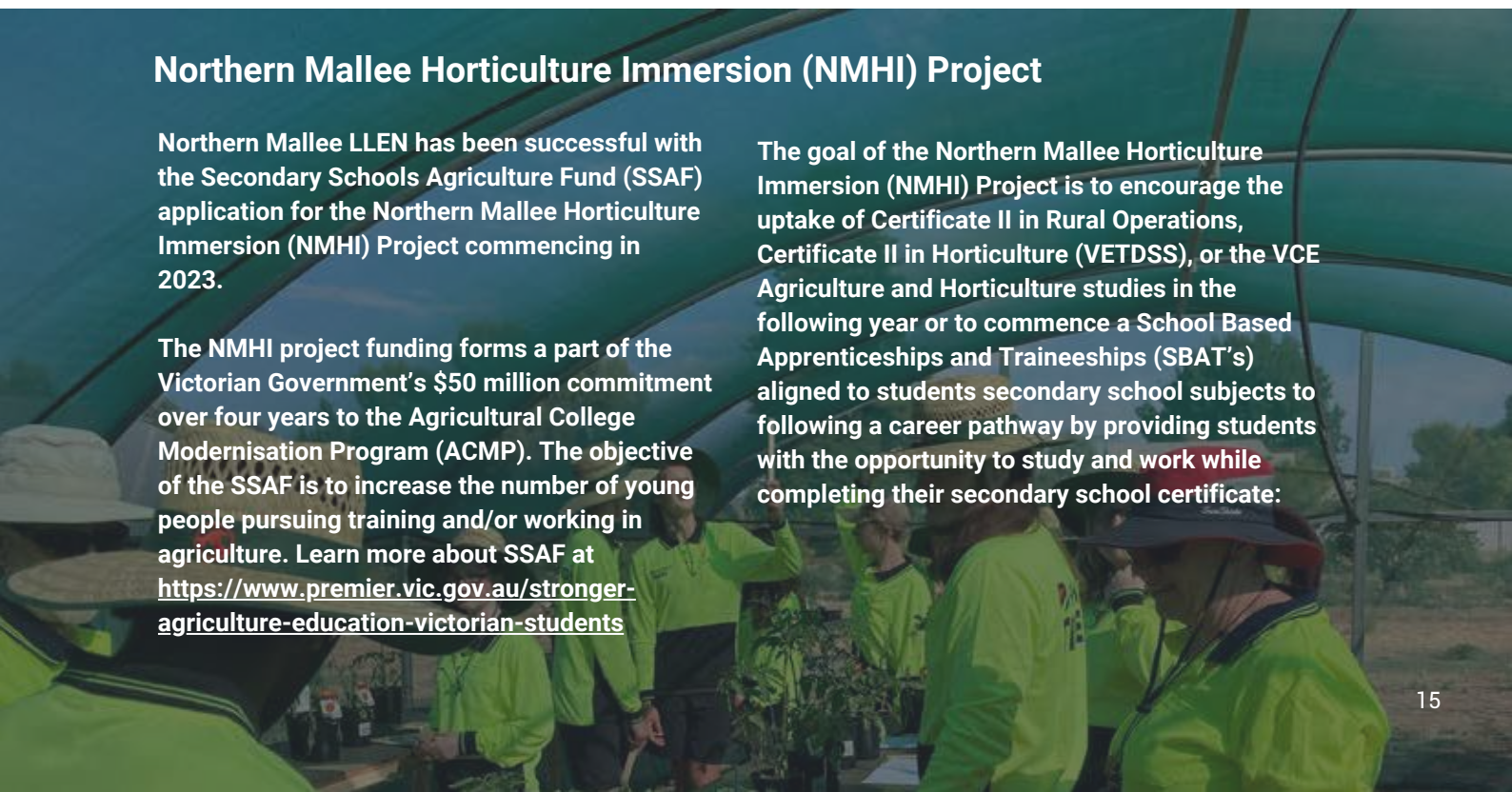
Northern Mallee LLEN along with the Department of Education and Training (Mallee/ North West Victoria Region) Mildura Senior College and Mildura Regional Development partnered to organise Hawker Brownlow Education to deliver the Bridges Out of Poverty workshop to industry representatives. The intended purpose of the workshop was to educate and upskill local employers with strategies, knowledge, and a greater understanding of how to support young people transitioning into the world of work and participating in employment. The event was catered to 30 Industry representatives and had 23 attend with 7 being unable to attend due to staffing issues.

### Northern Mallee Horticulture Immersion (NMHI) Project

Northern Mallee LLEN has been successful with the Secondary Schools Agriculture Fund (SSAF) application for the Northern Mallee Horticulture Immersion (NMHI) Project commencing in 2023.

The NMHI project funding forms a part of the Victorian Government's \$50 million commitment over four years to the Agricultural College Modernisation Program (ACMP). The objective of the SSAF is to increase the number of young people pursuing training and/or working in agriculture. Learn more about SSAF at <https://www.premier.vic.gov.au/stronger-agriculture-education-victorian-students>

The goal of the Northern Mallee Horticulture Immersion (NMHI) Project is to encourage the uptake of Certificate II in Rural Operations, Certificate II in Horticulture (VETDSS), or the VCE Agriculture and Horticulture studies in the following year or to commence a School Based Apprenticeships and Traineeships (SBAT's) aligned to students secondary school subjects to following a career pathway by providing students with the opportunity to study and work while completing their secondary school certificate:





Jane Maine, Jeanette Pope and Rod Martin

## School Industry Roundtable

The Northern Mallee LLEN, in partnership with the Department of Education and Training, coordinated the School Industry Roundtable event in Mildura on June 16, 2022. The event aimed to encourage students to pursue entry-level career pathways in Early Childhood Education and Care, with input from industry professionals, local employers, higher education providers, and secondary schools. Participants collaborated to develop new approaches to engage young people in the high-growth sector. The event was funded by the Victorian Government's Transforming Career Education in Victorian Government Schools plan.

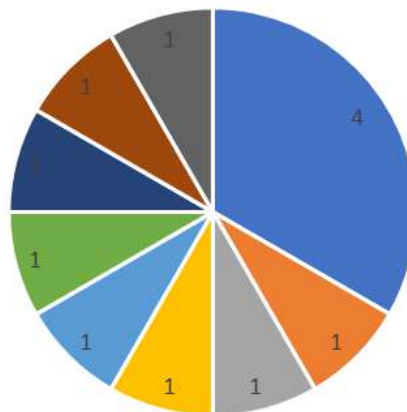
*Thanks, Jeanette Pope, Former Foundation for Young Australians Director for facilitating the discussion, Will Trimble and Jane Maine and others from the Department of Education and Training, Deb Quin, Murray Mallee LLEN and Jane Hosking from North Central LLEN and Industry participants for collaborating with Northern Mallee LLEN to deliver the School Industry Roundtables across the Mallee in Swan Hill and Mildura.*



Participants at the School Industry Roundtable

## Ontrack Connect

On Track Connect aims to assist young people who have left school in the previous year and who are not studying or in full time work at the time of the annual Department of Education and Training (DE&T) 'On Track' survey of school leavers – a large-scale survey run by the Social Research Centre, on behalf of the Department of Education and Training. In 2022, 12 students were referred out of which 8 were female and 4 were Male.



Status of Ontrack referrals from 2022

- Not contactable.
- Moved states and is now studying VET.
- Referred to local GTO's
- Employed fulltime but looking at applying for Uni in a few years
- Referred to employment services.
- Referred to Reconnect program
- Studying VET locally
- Had part time employment and was not looking at anything further.
- Employed fulltime not looking any further





**Moni Kuluka , Senior VCAL Student, Mildura Senior College at Senector**

## Navigator Program

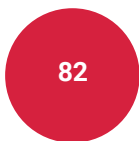
Northern Mallee LLEN in partnership with Murray Mallee LLEN, Mildura Rural City Council and the Department of Education Training delivers the Mallee Navigator Program across the Mallee, providing intensive assertive outreach case management services for our communities' most vulnerable young people. The Navigator program aims 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 the community can refer eligible disengaged students to the Navigator program. Eligible young people are then referred to NMLLEN/MRCC and MMLLEN for intake and assessment before being referred to active hold or intensive case management support. In 2022, Navigator received 85 referrals from across Mallee. On average:



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



Students exited the Navigator program after meeting the minimum attendance requirements in 2022.



Young people re-engaged with education or training in 2022.



Young people exited the program before completion



## Sunraysia Career's Network (SCN) AL TSA Industry Tour

Northern Mallee Local Learning & Employment Network (NMLLEN) provided Sunraysia Careers Network (SCN) lunch and an Industry Tour on Friday 9th September of Analytical Laboratories & Technical Services Australia (AL TSA).

With multiple laboratories situated inside its major complex staffed by high-level scientists, AL TSA offers a range of analyses for Agriculture/Horticulture and Food Processing industry knowledge, consultancy, and R & D including testing for Freshcare, Global G.A.P, and HARPS.

Ray Harris, General Manager, AL TSA provided the SCN members with an overview and history of AL TSA and how it has been developed on the old CSIRO site based in Merbein South providing analytical testing services from Sunraysia for Victoria, South Australia, Queensland, and NSW. The tour helped the SCN members in developing a better understanding of the technology used in the Ag Tech industry and its benefits to the industry.



Dr Abolghasem (Sam) Tohidpour – Microbiology & Molecular Biology Lab Manager. RHS  
Ray Harris – Bachelor of Science Microbiology General Manager. LHS

## Sponsorship of SuniTAFE Awards

Northern Mallee LLEN sponsored the SuniTAFE Apprentice of the Year 1st Year Award. Northern Mallee LLEN congratulates Gordan Lewis on receiving the NMLLEN Apprentice of the Year (1st Year) | for Certificate III in Light Vehicle Mechanical Technology.

## 2022 Sunraysia Careers Network VETDSS (VET Delivered to Secondary Students ) Excellence Awards



**NMLLEN Executive Officer Rod Martin with Mercedes Robertson, Runner up Student of the Year**

The Northern Mallee LLEN sponsored the 2022 Vocational Education Training Delivered Secondary Students Excellence Awards through the Sunraysia Careers Network (SCN) and was involved in the organising committee. Dale and Natika arranged 82 interviews with industry representatives for VETDSS students. NMLLEN congratulates all the VETDSS student nominees and winners, SuniTAFE, MRTTC trainers, and industry for their efforts in celebrating the achievements of local students studying vocational education and training subjects.

### VETDSS Awards Details:

**Nominations: 82 VETDSS enrolments Categories: 21 VETDSS subjects**

**Student of the Year: Lilli Rogers**

**Runner up Student of the Year: Mercedes Robertson**

**Trainer of the Year: Terry Pain, Automotive teacher SuniTAFE**

**Advocate of the Year : Natika Mitselburg, NMLLEN**

**Employer of the Year : I-FIX iphone repair**



**Natika Mitselburg, NMLLEN was awarded Advocate of the Year**

### 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' and Homebase Hoops
- Headspace Mildura
- Mildura Regional Development
- Mildura Region Trade Training Centre
- Northern Mallee VET Cluster
- MRCC Youth Services Youth Expo
- Mallee Workforce Working Group



**NMLLEN organised VR activity at Homebase Hoops**



The 2022 School to Work Summit brought together experts, innovators and leaders from education, industry, government and community to step up to the challenge facing Victoria over the next decade: How do we connect our education system with future workforce opportunities so that every student has a great pathway from school to work?



The summit tackled challenges such as economic disruption, equity and inclusion, in-demand skills and the role of technology.



L to R: John Firth, Trent McCarthy, Helene Rooks and Howard Kelly in a panel discussion on Senior Secondary Reforms

The event brought together 570 attendees and 47 speakers to create hundreds of connections where many ideas were shared! Four members from Northern Mallee LLEN had the pleasure of attending the Victorian LLENs 2022 Victorian School to Work Summit!



L to R: Rod Martin, Natika Mitselburg, Monica Trehan and Dale Harvey representing NMLLEN at School to Work Summit

# NMLLEN STAFF



## Rod Martin, Executive Officer

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. Dale Harvey is also the Project Officer for the Northern Mallee Horticulture immersion Project starting in 2023.



## 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 structured workplace Learning opportunities and develop and deliver programs that will support and enhance the essential needs to connect students with the local industry. Natika curates School Industry engagement events such as Allied Health-Come and Try Day.



## 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 managing the NMLLEN website, social media, marketing collaterals, and supporting NMLLEN projects. Monica also leads STEM Idols, an event based on promoting STEM-related career pathways to the region's students.

# 2022 Executive Sub Committee



Anne Mansell, Chair, NMLLEN (2019 to present)  
Former CEO, Dried Fruit Australia, Category 10



Geoff Dea, Deputy Chair, NMLLEN (2017- present)  
CEO, Sunraysia Institute of TAFE  
Category 2



Peter Devilee, Treasurer, NMLLEN (2011- present)  
Managing Director, Devilee's Air Conditioning &  
Refrigeration, Category 6



Peter O' Donnell, Secretary, NMLLEN (2022 – present)  
Executive Director, Southern Cross Farms  
Category 6



Rod Martin, Executive Officer, NMLLEN  
(January 2021- Present)

## 2022 NMLLEN Committee of Management

- Belinda Hudak
- Andrew Kilroy (Resigned)
- Janelle McGregor
- Vincent Wilson
- Greg Kluske
- Graeme Forrester
- Mark Morgan
- Karen Levey

# Governance

## Committee of Management

Committee of Management is drawn from 11 membership categories.

Membership Category	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	-
5 Trade Unions	-
6 Employers, Peak employment organisations, Regional employer organisations and employment agencies	3
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	-

### Committee of Management member changes

In 2022 the following changes to the Committee of Management occurred:

#### Members who continued their participation:

- Greg Kluske, Graeme Forrester,
- Belinda Hudak, (Category 1)
- Geoff Dea, (Category 2)
- Karen Levey, (Category 3) Peter
- Devilee and Peter O'Donnell, (Category 6)
- Mark Morgan, (Category 9)
- Anne Mansell (Category 10)

#### Members who resigned:

- Cindi Power, (Category 7)
- Andrew Kilroy, (Category 8)

#### New Members:

- Janelle McGregor, (Category 6)
- Vince Wilson, (Category 8)

**Northern Mallee LLEN thanks all the new, retiring, and continuing Committee of Management members for their contributions in 2022.**

## 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:  
Anne Mansell  
(Chair)

Members:

- Geoff Dea  
(Deputy Chair)
- Peter Devilee  
(Treasurer)
- Peter O'Donnell  
(Secretary)
- Rod Martin  
(Executive Officer)



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Education and Training



NMLLEN is supported by the Victorian Government