



Annual Report

January - December 2024



The North Central LLEN respectfully acknowledges the traditional custodians of this land where our work takes place, and we pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

For many centuries Aboriginal people have met and cared for children and young people on the lands on which we work, learn and play.





Contents

Chair and CEO Report.....	3
About the North Central LLEN.....	5
Solid Foundations.....	12
Resilient Middle Years.....	16
Strong Careers and Pathways.....	23
Financial Report.....	35
Our Supporters.....	37





Chair & CEO Report

Empowering Rural Futures: From Cradle to Career



**“There is no keener revelation
of a society’s soul than the
way in which it treats its
children.”**

— Nelson Mandela

These powerful words are a profound reminder of the responsibility we share, especially in rural communities, where opportunities can too often be shaped by postcode and circumstance.

Our work is grounded in a bold, enduring vision: to empower rural children and young people by facilitating the opportunities they need to thrive in education, work, and life – from cradle to career.

At the heart of this vision is a commitment to breaking down the barriers that rurality can create, replacing them with innovation, equity, and partnership.

Cradle: Laying the Foundation for Lifelong Opportunity

The journey begins in the earliest years. We remain steadfast in our commitment to expanding access to quality Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) across rural areas because every child deserves the best start.

Through advocacy and collaboration with families, early years, schools, governments, and local communities, we work to ensure rural children have equitable access to the support and education they need.

This year, we were delighted to strengthen our Strong Families Strong Children (SFSC) initiative in Loddon through a new partnership with the Loddon Child Health and Wellbeing Local, a joint state and federal initiative laying stronger foundations for success.



Seeds: Empowering the Next Generation

As children grow, it is critical that we provide them with opportunities to develop their unique skills, discover their passions, and prepare for a future in an ever-changing world.

Our shared strategic vision focuses on working closely with children and young people, families and our rural partners to support earliest aspiration and create pathways for success –whether through mentorship, vocational training, or career exploration.

We continue to facilitate curated evidence-based opportunities through the framework of the Careers Explorium. Together we are helping young people explore the wide range of careers and pathways, and to gain the vital skills that enable them to succeed.

We are especially grateful for additional funding from the Victorian Department of Education, which has enabled us to:

- Strengthen governance, quality and sustainability across the committed North Central Schools VET Cluster.
- Facilitate VET Transport funding to support access to courses aligned with student aspirations- wherever they live.
- Expand our Broader Horizons work experience program beyond St Arnaud to include all Year 9 students from seven additional north central schools.

A sincere thank you also to our growing industry supporters. We are encouraged by the role engagement with students through career events and Work Based Learning plays in supporting pipelines into regional workforce growth areas.

A New Strategic Vision: Together, We Build the Future

As we look to the future, we are excited to co-create a new strategic plan rooted in even deeper engagement with our rural communities. This shared vision will harness the local knowledge, expertise, and community spirit that defines our regions.

A refreshed brand identity will accompany this work; helping us communicate more clearly, connect more meaningfully, and reflect the renewed energy of our mission.

Looking Ahead: Gratitude and Shared Commitment

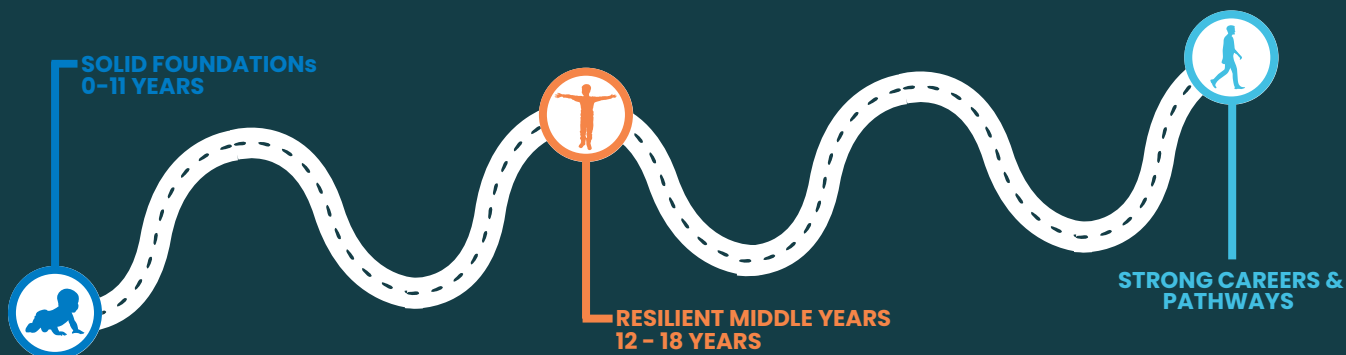
To our Board members, Staff, Funders, and community champions – thank you. Your dedication and collaboration are laying the foundation for a more vibrant future for our rural communities.

Together, we are not just supporting children and young people to reach their full potential, we are investing in the next generation of rural leaders, workers, carers, creators, and changemakers. Whether they choose to stay close to home or take their talents further afield, these young people will carry the spirit, values, and resilience of rural life with them.

As we move forward, we remain committed to building communities where every child is valued, every young person is empowered, and every future is possible. Thank you for partnering in this vital work.

Dan Straub
Chair

Jane Hosking
CEO



A Cradle to Career Approach (0-21 years)

The North Central LLEN is a charitable incorporated association with Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status. We work in partnership with a wide range of organisations – including education and training providers, businesses and industry, community agencies, and parent and family groups – to create opportunities for children and young people to thrive in education, work and life. Since our incorporation in 2002, we have supported over 8,000 children and young people across the region.

Our work focuses on facilitating and coordinating partnerships that empower children, young people, their families, and carers – particularly those experiencing rural disadvantage, social isolation, or living in low socio-economic circumstances– across the Shires of Loddon and Buloke, as well as the community of St Arnaud in the Northern Grampians Shire. We also collaborate with partners in surrounding rural areas, across the Mallee, Loddon Campaspe and Wimmera South West.

At the heart of our approach is a commitment to working alongside communities and organisations to enable children, young people, and their families to get the right support at the right time.

Over the past three years, we have been strengthening our "cradle to career" approach – from birth to 21 years. The infographic above illustrates how our partnerships align with key developmental stages, while our efforts are guided by five core outcomes (below) across three focus areas:

- **Solid Foundations (early years),**
- **Resilient Youth (middle years), and**
- **Strong Careers and Pathways.**

Amplifying Voices

Empowering children and young people to actively participate and be heard

Fostering Connections

Developing partnerships and networks that make a difference

Growing Capacity

Building on knowledge and expertise across the region

Expanding Knowledge

Engaging and supporting research to inform and advocate

Creating Solutions

Facilitating system change and a culture of continuous improvement

Strategic Plan Progress

In 2024, the North Central LLEN's current five year Strategic Plan is in its fourth year of implementation, and as illustrated in the graphic at the bottom of the page, we've continued to make strong progress toward the outcomes outlined within it.

All four Key Focus Areas are tracking well, with measurable progress made across all 13 key performance indicators.

A key priority remains securing funding to further strengthen our work in the early years, recognising the critical importance of ensuring every child starts school ready to learn and fully participate in school life.

The establishment of the new Loddon Children's Health & Wellbeing Local in 2024 will be instrumental in helping more children reach key developmental milestones by the time they begin school. We remain focussed on scaling this earliest collaboration across our rural region and beyond.

We are incredibly proud of our achievements over the past 12 months and are pleased to present this Annual Report as a reflection of our collective efforts and impact.



2024 – MEASURING OUR SUCCESS

Solid Foundations (0–8 years)

- Maternal Child Health, Kindergarten, Playgroup and School attendance in the early years will improve
- More children will be on track developmentally when they start school
- More parents and carers will tell us they are feeling confident about knowing what is needed for their children and how to access or provide for this

Resilient Middle Years (9–19 years)

- Young people report increased confidence and optimism and actively explore careers and pathways to align with interests and aspirations
- Young people are more connected and active community participants participating in conversations and decisions on important issues
- Few barriers to education and participation

Strong Careers & Pathways

- Increase the number of students finishing school with Year 12 or equivalent
- Increase the number of school leavers who continue their studies in VET or University courses
- Increase the number of employed Youth in our region

A Dynamic Organisation

- Research and advocacy foundation for all work
- High performing Board with a proactive risk appetite to explore opportunities
- A well-resourced organisational structure of highly capable staff with a diverse range of skills and leadership abilities
- A culture of innovation and continuous improvement



2023 AGM Celebration

The North Central LLEN's Annual General Meeting and Stakeholder Event, held at the Rex Theatre in Charlton, brought together over 50 board members, staff, partners, stakeholders, and community members for an evening of reflection, and inspiration.

Centred around the theme of exploring vocational pathways to success, the evening offered a rich and engaging program. In addition to the formal proceedings of the AGM, attendees were treated to a dynamic panel discussion featuring young people sharing their vocational career journeys.

The event also included the official launch of the 2023 Annual Report, the unveiling of a new regional initiative "Find your Feet", and a video presentation showcasing the LLEN's impactful work throughout the past year.

Panelists Lilly, Darby, Braedon, and Tahljia offered candid and thoughtful reflections, responding to questions that spanned from their childhood career aspirations - ranging from shearer and doctor to truck driver and zoologist- to the current realities of their work. They spoke about what they love most about their chosen paths, the people who supported them along the way, their decision to pursue trades over university, and the visions they hold for their futures.

Their stories provided authentic and powerful insights into the value of vocational pathways and offered valuable advice for other young people navigating their own career decisions.

A highlight of the evening was the introduction of our Loddon Campaspe LLEN partnerships, Find Your Feet set, a reimagined careers experience designed to inspire students' parents and community alike. This evaluated program facilitates conversations that spark enthusiasm for future pathways and begin a roadmap for how to get there.

The North Central LLEN acknowledges with gratitude the support of Agnico Eagle Community Partnerships and Bendigo Regional Tourism in making this initiative a reality.

The event reaffirmed the North Central LLEN's commitment to enabling meaningful opportunities for young people, strengthening partnerships across the region, and championing vocational education as a vital and valued pathway. As the organisation looks ahead, the stories shared and connections made during the evening will continue to inform and inspire its work in supporting successful futures for all young people across the North Central region and beyond.

Our Impact in 2024



571

Learner driver hours gained as part of the L2P program



40+

Resources provided to teachers and students as part of the Careers Education program



275

Students supported to undertake valuable work experience



800+

Individual career sessions provided with students Years 10-12



35

Stakeholders attended the State Gannawarra's Children and Young People forum



6

Parenting workshops for families facilitated in the Loddon Shire



12

Events linking schools to industry attended by more than 500 young people in Years 7-12



28

Students participated in Youth Take Over projects facilitated with Vocational Major students to build skills, confidence and job readiness



148

Work experience placements as part of the Broader Horizons program

Our Partners



900+

Children and young people



31

Schools



20

Pre-school, playgroups
& Maternal Child
Health Centres



150+

Regional and rural
businesses



10

Neighbourhood
Houses



6

State & two Federal
Government
departments across
three regions



4

Local Government's



30

LLENs across Victoria



7

Healthcare groups



Our team pictured (L to R): Claudia Cox, Tori Gentle, Julie Slater, Pam McConville, Angela Poxon, Julie Bourke, Sue Gould, Julie Roberts, Jacinta Sutton, Jane Hosking, Jerri Nelson, Molly Meadows, Barb Bear, Sue Clay, Julie Martin, Mary-Ann Sait. Not pictured: Jess Turner and Peter Aurisch

Our Projects and People

Solid Foundations – Jerri Nelson, Jess Turner, Jane Hosking, Julie Martin

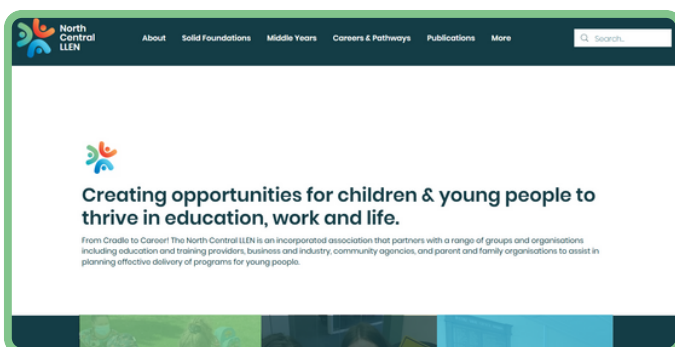
Resilient Middle Years – Pam McConville, Tori Gentle, Molly Meadows, Julie Slater, Julie Roberts

Strong Careers & Pathways – Jacinta Sutton, Mary-Ann Sait, Julie Bourke, Claudia Cox, Sue Clay, Angela Poxon, Susan Gould, Barb Bear, Peter Aurisch

News & Advocacy

- 467 Instagram followers
- 616 Facebook followers
- Two Newsletters to 414 recipients

In 2024, we launched the design of our new website – a modern platform that reflects who we are and all the great work we do. With improved navigation, updated visuals, and a user-friendly layout, the site makes it easier to explore our programs, initiatives, and impact in the community. Throughout the year, our events and activities were also regularly featured in local newspapers, celebrating the achievements of our students and community.



Board and Governance

Throughout 2024, the North Central LLEN Board continued their focus on overseeing the implementation of our five-year Strategic Plan, aimed at creating opportunities for children and young people to thrive in education, work and life. Ensuring ongoing compliance to maintain our DGR status remained a key priority, alongside regular reviews of our policies and procedures as they became due.

In April, we bid a grateful farewell to Cheryl McKinnon, a long-time champion of young people on the Board through her time as a Councilor and then returning again as a community Board member. This was followed by the departure of Cr Bronwyn Simpson and Cr Karen Hyslop in October as they finished their Terms. We thank them all for their valued contributions.

In December we welcomed: Cr Bernadette Hogan, Cr Karen Probst as our new Council delegates, and, Simone Christie, and Joe Collins as co-opted members.



Board Attendance

Six North Central LLEN Board Meetings were held during 2024 – February, April, June, August, October and December. Meeting attendance averaged 79%, as per the table below. The Finance, Audit and Risk (FAR) Committee also met six times during the year (one week prior to the Board Meeting). Our thanks to FAR Committee Members Anthony Hogan (Chair), Dan Straub, Tony Hand and Colleen Condliffe.

Board Member	FEB	APRIL	JUNE	AUG	OCT	DEC
Cr Dan Straub	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Win Scott	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗
Anthony Hogan	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Brooke Arnold	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓
Simone Christie	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	✓
Joe Collins	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	✓
Colleen Condliffe	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Tony Hand/Christine McKersie	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bernadette Hogan	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	✗
Cr Karen Hyslop	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	N/A
Cheryl McKinnon	✓	✓	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Cr Karen Probst	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	✗
Cr Bronwyn Simpson	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	N/A

Solid Foundations

Supporting children & young people

Despite limited resourcing, our Early Years Facilitator, Jess, continued our Strong Families Strong Children partnerships commitment to collaborating to “change the system one child and family at a time”. This included beginning the year by connecting with local families and kindergartens across the region and attending Welcome Days. It was wonderful to see so much enthusiasm as many new and children families began their early childhood education journey.

These events also provided valuable opportunities to partner and support families as they navigate this new phase of life. This included assisting with accessing essentials such as lunchbox options, school bags, and shoes, as well as connecting families to support services including Occupational Therapists, Speech Therapists, and Paediatricians.

We’ve seen a growing number of families across our region seeking a trusted connector to help them access the timely services they need.



SADEY NETWORK

The North Central LLEN remained actively involved in the SADEY network (Supporting the Advancement of Donald Early Years).

The network has evolved to bring together a growing network of community champions and stakeholders, such as maternal and child health services, schools, and community agencies – to collaborate and strengthen local support for children, young people and their families. The group’s vision is to ensure children start school ready to learn and are equipped to actively participate in school life and beyond.

Looking ahead, we are aiming to facilitate the establishment of similar community-led, place-based networks across our region to best empower and support our children and young people.



5

Key initiatives involving the Early Years team:

- Strong Families Strong Children
- Loddon Children’s Health and Wellbeing Local
- SADEY Project
- By Five WSW Partnership
- The Gannawarra State of Children and Young People Report launch and forum



PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION HEARING – ECEC

In collaboration with By Five Wimmera Southern Mallee we worked hard to have a Productivity Commission Hearing held in our rural region, to highlight the challenges of rural Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) and the voices of rural parents.

The statement ‘Powerful and Unforgettable’ was used by the Commission to summarise our 2-hour presentation that involved 17 passionate parents and community leaders.

The focus on the need for unique solutions to address the unique ECEC challenges faced by small rural communities – that differ from regional areas – was critical in informing the recommendations tabled in Federal Parliament at the end of June.

CONTINUED SPOTLIGHT ON EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION & CARE

Following on from our extensive advocacy work in 2023, and working alongside key partners By Five, Regional Development Victoria and Regional Development Australia across Loddon Mallee and Wimmera Southern Mallee, we continued to take every opportunity to highlight the need for equitable access to sustainable ECEC in all small rural areas across our region and beyond.

We have formed a cross-regional Rural ECEC Steering Committee and developed an advocacy and activation strategy with a focus on delivering a clear and unified message around rural equity, quality and access, to all levels of government and other key partners and stakeholders.

To read the reports below head to our website www.ncellen.org.au > Publications > Research & Reports



Thousands of rural families cannot access childcare

The Wimmera Southern Mallee, Mallee, and Loddon Campaspe regions span over 91,000 sqm covering 43% of Victoria's landmass. These areas are home to more than 26,000 children under the age of four, many of whom live in what is described as 'childcare deserts'.

Our research on small rural towns in this region, with populations ranging from 500 to 5,000, reveals that 50% have no access to childcare, while the remaining towns are under-served, unable to meet the full demand for services. **Urgent reform is needed.**

The costs are significant

The lack of adequate childcare hinders the development of our children, burdens our families, and impedes economic growth. This inquiry means:

- Our rural children are starting out life behind**
Up to 50% of children in the region start school developmentally vulnerable and not ready to learn, compared to the Victorian average of 20%. This has lifelong consequences, affecting literacy, skill development, school completion rates, lifetime earnings, and increasing the likelihood of unemployment and welfare dependency.
- Our families remain disadvantaged**
Family income, career progression, financial independence, and future prosperity are impacted. Women must notably cannot return to work, with female workforce participation rates in these small rural areas at 48%, compared to the Victorian average of 58%.
- Our economy is suffering**
There are significant and growing skills shortages across the board in rural areas. Over 20,000 new workers are needed across key industries including agriculture, visitor economy, food production, manufacturing and essential services, such as education and health care. One P-12 school has reported up to a 25% of its current workforce is 'at risk' of not being able to work due to no childcare. A conservative cost-benefit analysis across three of our local government areas (LGAs) in rural communities shows that an investment of \$52.8 million would yield \$70.1 million in benefits.

Our communities want sustainable, structural reform

Our rural towns cannot access the highly valued center-based long day care. Long Day Care is funded by the Commonwealth Government through a subsidy per child and is only financially viable with over 60 children. Most of our small towns have fewer children than this, and our research shows:

- Only 12 of 24 (50%) towns with populations between 500-5000 have long day care.
- All long day care services are delivered by not-for-profits including local government and health services, heavily reliant on short-term Commonwealth subsidies for financial survival, making services precarious.
- Balance an sole trader sources of childcare provision (family day care) has not provided families and communities with service confidence regarding the reliability of childcare services.
- Whilst some not-for-profits have taken on the challenge of operating long day care in underserved and under-served towns, most are reluctant to enter the market due to the financial burden.

High-quality early education is essential services for all our communities.

Existing investments aimed at supporting equitable early education are not effective for rural communities.

Structural reform is necessary to ensure rural children are not left behind. Both the Commonwealth and the State are focused on improving outcomes for all children.

- The Commonwealth Government is committed to identifying solutions that will shift the course for underserved, affordable early education and childcare – in the great tradition of universal medicine and universal superannuation?
- The Victorian Government has allocated \$14 billion over the next decade to give children the best start in life through transforming early childhood education?

Childcare is a strong economic investment

Every \$1 spent on childcare returns \$3.22 in benefits

CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND WELLBEING LOCAL

The North Central LLEN, on behalf of our Strong Families Strong Children partnership in the Loddon Shire, is excited to be one of nine partners in the roll out of the new Loddon Children's Health and Wellbeing Local (LCHWL) across the Loddon Campaspe region.

LCHWL provides a range of free health and wellbeing services to children up to 11 years of age who may be experiencing some challenges such as developmental, emotional, relational or behavioural concerns.



An innovative model co-designed with partners – including people with lived experience, the LCHWL provides a regionally based system response that improves access across prevention, primary and tertiary care in the Loddon Campaspe region. The service is particularly targeting those children who are not accessing support under other mechanisms such as NDIS.

Services provided through the LCHWL include paediatric health, mental health support, parenting support, specialist assessments, allied health, family services and care coordination.



The LCHWL is one of three initial pilot services across Victoria that has been established in response to the Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System. The partnership is being led by Bendigo Community Health Services and Bendigo Health, with the support of seven other regional partners–Bendigo and District Aboriginal Cooperative, Njernda Aboriginal Corporation, Echuca Regional Health, Dhehkaya Health, Sunbury & Cobaw Community Health, Maryborough District Health and the North Central LLEN (SFSC).

In June, Julie Martin joined our team as the new Loddon Shire Children's Care Coordinator to partner directly with local families and carers to identify needs and support navigation into timely programs and services.

A focus on travelling around the Shire speaking with families and service providers has helped to increase awareness and inform early priorities.

This led to local initiatives such as Parenting Workshops (see next page), as well as a new Wattle Sprouts group in Wedderburn and a Lego Group at East Loddon to begin in early 2025.



PARENTING WORKSHOPS

Following consultation with children, families, service providers and key stakeholders, a series of local parenting programs took place at Tarnagulla and Inglewood Primary Schools during October focusing on: Stop the Tech, Building Social skills, Parents Wellbeing, Anxiety in Children, Building Social Skills, and Setting Family Limits (six sessions in total).



The programs, facilitated by a Mental Health Clinician, were well attended by families and staff at the schools providing insights on how to deal with a range of issues confronting modern families and received positive feedback:



“As the principal of a small rural school, I cannot speak highly enough of the incredible support we receive from the Locals. I am filled with deep gratitude for everything you do. You not only save us valuable time, but you are truly changing lives – making a significant and lasting impact on our students’ achievements and their overall social experiences.”

–Principal, Inglewood Primary School

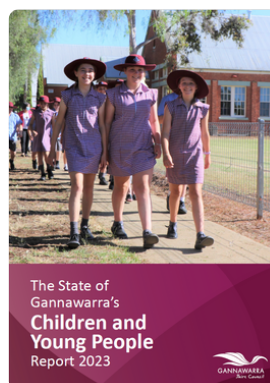
GANNAWARRA'S STATE OF CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE REPORT – LAUNCH & WORKSHOP

At the end of November, the North Central LLEN partnered with Gannawarra Shire Council to facilitate the launch of their State of Gannawarra's Children and Young People Report alongside a workshop to develop a Family & Community Engagement Action Plan.

The Gannawarra Shire Council commissioned The State of Gannawarra's Children and Young People Report to assess the well-being, learning, and participation of children and young people aged 0–24 years. By analysing 72 data indicators, the report highlights positive trends and areas requiring improvement to ensure better outcomes for young residents.

The Family & Community Engagement Action Plan (Action Plan) aims to provide parents, families, and the broader community with a clear understanding of the current challenges and opportunities facing children and young people in Gannawarra Shire.

Ultimately, the Action Plan will serve as a framework to drive collective action, ensuring that children and young people have the resources, support, and opportunities they need to thrive.





Resilient Middle Years

Empowering Young People across Buloke, Loddon & Gannawarra Shires

The principle of “Strong Youth Strong Communities” continues to guide our efforts in supporting young people. Our vision is for every young person to be connected and empowered to develop the internal resources needed to thrive. This community-based initiative promotes wellbeing and school engagement during the formative years to continue to help break cycles of disadvantage and prevent long-term social and economic challenges.

By linking community resources, we are developing and implementing a model of preventative well-being initiatives in schools and communities that are both cost effective and designed to strengthen partnerships. Together, we are building the capacity of schools and the broader community.

In 2024, our Team engaged with a variety of educational and wellbeing networks across the region to create meaningful connections that positively impact young people’s lives. These include the Buloke Schools Wellbeing Network, the Buloke, Gannawarra, and Swan Hill Healthy Minds Network, the Loddon Healthy Minds Network, and the Buloke Youth Network. Additionally, North Central LLEN remains an active member of local school well-being networks.

The initiatives outlined on the following pages work together to connect and focus efforts to better empower young people across the Buloke, Loddon, and Gannawarra Shires and beyond.

600+

Students engaged through Middle years programs across the Buloke, Loddon and Gannawarra Shires

Strong Youth
STRONG COMMUNITIES



BULOKE LODDON L2P

2024 was another busy and successful year for the Buloke Loddon L2P Program. We now have vehicles based in Pyramid Hill, Boort, Wedderburn, Wycheproof, Birchip, and Charlton – thanks to strong community partnerships with local Neighbourhood Houses in Pyramid Hill and Wycheproof, and schools in Birchip and Wedderburn. We also continue to partner with Central Grampians LLEN in supporting their L2P delivery to St Arnaud.

Throughout the year, 38 young people participated in the program, supported by 18 dedicated volunteer mentors.

Three New Partnerships & Three New Probationary Drivers

This year the North Central LLEN established valuable new partnerships with Pyramid Hill Neighbourhood House, Wycheproof Community Resource Centre, and Birchip Cares. By utilising their community vehicles as part of the L2P Program, we've made it easier for young people to access the program and complete the 120 hours of supervised driving required to obtain their probationary license. We are excited that three new young people successfully passed their probationary driver's test.

13 New Mentors

Our mentor team grew significantly in 2024, with seven new volunteers completing training in February and another six in August. These dedicated individuals learned about road safety and how to effectively support young learner drivers on their journey toward independent driving.



Two New Vehicles

In August, we invested in two new vehicles for the L2P Program – one based in Wedderburn and another in Charlton. These additions have expanded our capacity to support more young people across the region.

New Community of Practice and Fresh L2P Marketing Materials

In 2024, we formed a new community of practice with other rural LLEN's across the North West and Wimmera South West region to share good practice and innovation.

To enhance engagement and with feedback from young people, we refreshed our social media marketing materials. These visuals helped to raise awareness and attract more participants and mentors to the program.

571

Total learner driving hours with 38 new learner drivers in the L2P Program in 2024 supported by 18 mentors



ENGAGE!



Empowering Young People across Buloke & Loddon

Thanks to funding from the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing, the North Central LLEN once again delivered a diverse and engaging calendar of activities designed for young people aged 12 to 25 as part of the Buloke and Loddon Engage! program. The Engage! program empowers young people to take the lead, build new skills, and connect with their communities through workshops, events, and hands-on projects.

In 2024, eight major events were delivered across the Buloke and Loddon Shires, along with seven additional activities through our Engage!-FreeZA partnership with Northern District Community Health (see next pages for details).

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL (SRC) TRAINING

We kicked off the year with SRC training for 45 student leaders from four local schools. Based on resources developed by VicSRC – the peak body representing Victorian school students – these workshops helped young people understand how to use their voice and drive positive change in their school communities.

CIVIC PRESENTATIONS

Throughout the year, young people presented to Buloke Shire Councillors on topics such as youth groups, student leadership, Youth Parliament, and the role of Agricultural Shows. These sessions gave Councillors valuable insights into youth priorities while offering students the chance to speak directly with local decision-makers.

COOKING & LIFE SKILLS CLASS

At the request of local youth, we delivered a series of practical life skills classes. Participants learned to cook simple, nutritious meals and picked up essential skills like how to change a tyre and how to create a budget-preparing them for life beyond school.



YOUTH PARLIAMENT

The 2024 Buloke Loddon Youth Parliament team had another outstanding year in the YMCA Youth Parliament program. Their “Mandatory Concussion Education Bill” was unanimously passed, and they strongly debated the “Student Public Transport Concession Bill”, showing both passion and insight – even while opposing a bill they personally supported.





BOORT WRITER'S FESTIVAL

Held in April, the Boort Writers' Festival brought together students from Years 7–12 and members of the local community to explore different writing genres. Workshops included songwriting, illustration, and various writing styles. The festival sparked the formation of a new reading and writing group, The Page Turners, and boosted student participation in the Premiers' Reading Challenge. Planning is already underway for the next festival in 2026.

ACTIVE BYSTANDER TRAINING

In partnership with Women's Health Loddon Mallee (WHLM), we delivered Gender Equity and Active Bystander training in Pyramid Hill and Wycheproof. MATES mentors and their mentees took part in these interactive workshops, building confidence through scenario-based activities to prepare them to safely challenge inappropriate behaviour.



16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM

As part of the international 16 Days of Activism campaign, additional Active Bystander and Gender Equity sessions were held at Donald High School to raise awareness of gender-based violence and empower students to take action in their own lives.

DREAM SEEDS WORKSHOPS

Through our ongoing collaboration with YouThrive Victoria, we delivered another round of Dream Seeds workshops for students transitioning from primary to secondary school at St Mary's Sea Lake School, Tyrrell College, and Boort District School. YouThrive also ran a Train the Trainer session in Charlton, enabling local young people to lead future workshops themselves- building local leadership and sustainability into the program.



FReeZA

Over the past three years, the North Central LLEN and Northern District Community Health have partnered to deliver Engage! and FReeZA programs across the Buloke, Loddon, and Gannawarra Shires. This collaboration enables young people to connect beyond their local communities and maximizes the impact of available funding.

HOMELESSNESS AWARENESS WEEK

Aligned with the national theme "Homeless Action Now," the team worked with young people from Wedderburn, East Loddon, Boort, and Kerang to construct five cubby houses. These were displayed in local communities for a week and then auctioned, with proceeds donated to Backpack Beds, a charity supporting people experiencing homelessness.

R U OK

In partnership with Donald High School, the team created a safe space where students could take a break and reflect during broader R U OK? Day activities. The event focused on the critical importance of continuing the conversation and checking in with friends and family regularly to support mental wellbeing – not just on this one day.



YOUTH FEST

With Youth Fest funding, the Engage-FReeZA team collaborated with Pyramid Hill College and East Loddon P-12 College to deliver a variety of free, engaging activities at their school fetes.

TARNAGULLA COLOUR RUN

In response to recent tragic community losses, the team joined forces with young people and the Loddon Shire to add their support to delivering a healing community event in Tarnagulla. The day featured a colour run, live music, and pizza, creating an uplifting space for young people to reconnect and support one another.



WEAR IT PURPLE

To promote inclusivity and support LGBTQIA+ youth, a Lego Brick Project was introduced. Students created their own pride flag using Lego bricks, each keeping their creation as a lasting symbol of acceptance and inclusion.

BOORT SHOW

Continuing tradition, the team partnered with event organisers to deliver a range of youth-focused activities at the Boort Show, including tie-dye workshops, games, and live music.

This past year has highlighted the strength and impact of collaboration in supporting young people across our region. Through creative, inclusive, and purposeful events, the Engage! and FReeZA programs have empowered youth to express themselves, build community connections, and contribute to causes that matter to them. We look forward to continuing this important work and building even more opportunities for young people to thrive.



BLG YOUTH AWARDS

In November, young people from across the Buloke, Loddon and Gannawarra (BLG). Shires gathered at the Rex Theatre in Charlton to celebrate the 2024 BLG Youth Awards.

Nominated by their peers for their achievements, the finalists represented a strong and diverse field. The evening's honours were awarded as follows:

Award recipients included:

- Community Service Award: Tom Ayars
- YACVic Rural's Leadership Award: Ned Cartwright
- Elias Art Achievement in Art Award: Brylie Clough
- Music HQ Legacy Music Award: Elias Lanyon
- Birchip Cropping Group's Agricultural Award: Jenna Alday
- Team of the Year: Birchip-Watchem Girls Football Team
- Event of the Year – People's Choice Award: Battle of the Bands at the Mali Festival in Birchip.

Youth of the Year Awards:

Buloke: Keely Allan, a strong advocate for youth voice across her community

Loddon: Elias Lanyon, a young musician who is a great advocate for mental health and our rural communities

Gannawarra: Rory Martin, an aspiring artist and CFA volunteer

Guest speaker for the evening was Neighbours star Jordy Lucas, who inspired attendees with her personal story of resilience and perseverance.

The 2024 BLG Youth Awards was a night of celebration, inspiration, and community pride – shining a light on the incredible spirit and potential of our local young people.



LCLLEN Present

The Careers Explorium

[Learn More](#)

“High quality careers exploration resources to help schools, job agencies, and industries guide young people to their best job”

Throughout the year, Loddon Campaspe LLEN’s have continued to develop the Careers Explorium framework. This Explorium provides a curated menu of evidence-based resources and evolved after research showed that many young people do not know the range of careers are out there, or how to get them. Many instead choose one of 10 popular jobs – whether they suit them or not. This creates expensive missteps including high rates of higher education drop out.

The good news is that research also shows that 9 teenage experiences are associated with faster transition into employment with higher pay and greater job satisfaction. We look forward to partnering to continue rolling this framework out across our region and beyond.

Year 5/6
Build career ambition early



Young people at the centre



Early careers education



Self exploration tools



Classroom speakers/videos

Year 7-10
Explore options with industry



Virtual reality workplace tasters



Come and try events



The reinvented careers night



Industry tours

Years 10-12
Get vital work experience



A full year work readiness program



Work placements: individual



Work experience: group



Industry challenges

Year 12
Prepare for work



Work explainer lessons



Micro credential courses



Pathways support



Local Jobs

Strong Careers & Pathways

School to Work

2024 marked the second year of our current three-year School to Work contract, funded by the Department of Education. This program is designed to support schools and students in accessing work-based learning opportunities that help them develop vital employability skills and make informed career choices for their future.

Throughout the year, the program facilitated a diverse range of work-based learning, industry events and career and work-readiness activities with a focus on new and emerging local industries.

The School to Work program continues to play a pivotal role in bridging the gap between education and employment, equipping students with the confidence, knowledge, and practical experience to navigate their future career paths.

**SCHOOL
TO WORK**



2024 SCHOOL TO WORK EVENTS:

- VIC VICE – VR Classroom workshops
- Local Legends social media campaign
- Broader Horizons group based work experience
- Field Trips to Career Expos including Tomorrow Bound in Bendigo, Trade & Tech Fit in Melbourne and Wimmera Careers Expo in Horsham
- VET Taster Day at the North Central Trade Training Centre
- Three Vocational Major (VM) – Youth Take Over events
- Industry Tours – Mining and Engineering to Stawell Gold Mine and Fosterville Gold Mine
- Exploring Futures – Bendigo Field Trip
- Industry guest speakers in schools
- Practice Job Interviews with industry representatives

500+

Students attended School to Work events in 2024



A job isn't just working hard to make money. It's a lot about meeting new people, learning skills and having something different to do everyday."



WORK-BASED LEARNING

Work-based learning is a key component of our School to Work Program, offering students in Years 9-12 the chance to bridge the gap between education and employment.

By engaging in hands-on learning within real-world environments, students gain practical skills, build confidence, and develop a clearer understanding of potential career pathways.

With a focus on ensuring these experiences match aspirations and providing valuable exposure to a range of industries, we aim to empower young people to make informed decisions about their future directions.

Direct engagement with workplaces also equips students with the knowledge and readiness needed for life after school – whether they choose to enter the workforce, pursue vocational training, or continue with further education.



I loved getting to experience a work environment and getting treated like an adult.”

380+

North Central students took part in quality work-based learning placements; some close to home, others further afield in Bendigo, Ballarat and Melbourne.



VICVICE – VR CLASSROOMS

In 2024, over 200 secondary students participated in the VicVICE VR Classroom experience.

Developed with the Victorian LLENs network, this innovative platform allows students to explore real-world workplaces in a fully immersive environment.

Using VR headsets, students are introduced to career options across four key industry streams: Food & fibre, community services, health, and transport & logistics.

The sessions are supported by tailored curriculum resources, giving schools the flexibility to align content with student interests.

By engaging with virtual workplaces, students gain insights into industries they may not have considered before; helping them make more informed decisions about their futures.

216

Students attended VicVICE Workshops in 2024

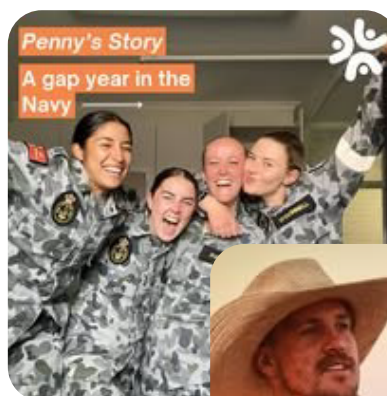


LOCAL LEGENDS

The Local Legends social media campaign features a series of interviews with former students from the North Central region focussing on their career pathways after leaving school. During 2024, ten interviews took place recording their journey from school to work.

Featured students have found employment in all different sectors including health, agriculture, sport, fashion, retail management, tourism, and the Navy.

To read these stories head to our social media ([@northcentralllen](https://www.instagram.com/northcentralllen))



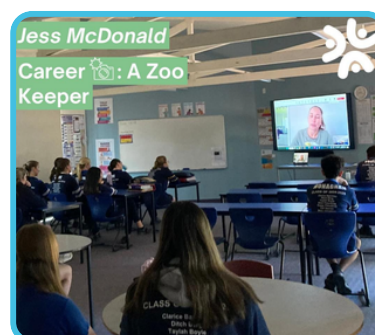
Chloe's advice:
Work hard and make good connections at uni or work. Strong relationships get you places. It's who you know, not what.

– Local Legend Chloe, on taking the fashion industry by storm at 23

CAREER TO CLASSROOM AT CHARLTON COLLEGE

In 2024, North Central LLEN brought Careers to the Classroom to Charlton College, where Years 10–12 students heard from ten professionals with diverse and often unexpected career journeys.

Jess McDonald shared how volunteering led her to become a zookeeper at Melbourne Zoo, while Detective Naresh Prasad encouraged goal-setting and persistence. Mitch Barry spoke about starting his career through a School-Based Apprenticeship at O'Connor's, and Tessa Sexton explained how agricultural training at Longerenong College led her to a role at Elders. Courtney Sait and Lily Campbell both found their way into nursing after initially pursuing other health fields, with Courtney reflecting on a placement in Nepal. Tori Gentle shared her varied path through multiple industries including hospitality and youth work, and Claudia Cox spoke about studying architecture and working overseas. Diane Roberts described moving from nursing to agriculture, then into childcare.



2024 WORKPLACE AWARDS

Each year the North Central LLEN sponsors a work-based learning award and an industry engagement award at each North Central school in recognition of the value of vocational work experience as part of senior secondary education.

Below is a list of our 2024 award winners:

 North Central Trade Training Centre	 WORK-BASED LEARNING AWARD Glenn Pearse	 WORK-BASED LEARNING AWARD Nick Thompson	 WORK-BASED LEARNING AWARD Mia Heritage	 WORK-BASED LEARNING AWARD Ashley Jackson
 INDUSTRY ENGAGEMENT AWARD Birchip Early Learning Centre	 INDUSTRY ENGAGEMENT AWARD Goodwin Village	 INDUSTRY ENGAGEMENT AWARD Charlton Authorised Newsagency	 INDUSTRY ENGAGEMENT AWARD Royal Mail Hotel	 INDUSTRY ENGAGEMENT AWARD Northern Grampians Shire
 WORK-BASED LEARNING AWARD Jett Hird	 WORK-BASED LEARNING AWARD Darcy Condliffe	 WORK-BASED LEARNING AWARD Jasmine Dovere	 WORK-BASED LEARNING AWARD Blake Farnsworth	
 INDUSTRY ENGAGEMENT AWARD Leersons Landscaping	 INDUSTRY ENGAGEMENT AWARD Calmo Farms	 INDUSTRY ENGAGEMENT AWARD Pyramid Hill Coffee Bank	 INDUSTRY ENGAGEMENT AWARD MOA Plumbing Services	



BROADER HORIZONS

The Broader Horizons Program, developed by the North Central LLEN, offers Year 9 students a unique opportunity to explore career pathways through curriculum-supported, hands-on work experience in small industry groups.

Designed to build career awareness of local opportunities, support aspirations, foster industry engagement, and develop essential work-readiness skills, the program connects classroom learning with real-world industry exposure.

In 2024, around 150 students from eight schools—Birchip P-12 College, Boort District School, Charlton College, Donald High School, East Loddon P-12 College, Pyramid Hill College, St Arnaud Secondary College, and Wycheproof P-12 College—participated in Broader Horizons.

A total of 219 work experiences were delivered, providing students with deeper insight into local career and training opportunities, including apprenticeships and traineeships.

Many students expressed a strong interest in pursuing further individual work experience, with some positive discussions for future employment. They also reported a better understanding of career options within their own communities—many of which they had previously been unaware of.

A heartfelt thank you goes to the 44 industry partners who made this possible by offering exposure to key growth sectors, including Agriculture and Environment, Health, Community Services and Early Childhood Education and Care, Trades, and Local Government.



Corian Park, Earthmoving



Calmo Farms, Dairy Farm



Myopathy at Central Mallee Health



Boort Grain Co-Op



VM YOUTH TAKE OVER (YTO)

In 2024, the North Central LLEN delivered three Youth Take Over (YTO) programs as part of the VCE Vocational Major (VM), connecting students with industry to explore real industry challenges through a youth lens.

With support initially from the Agnico Eagle Community Foundation, the YTO programs aimed to equip students with job-ready skills while building meaningful industry connections.



Boort District School- Nutrien Ag Solutions

Students partnered with Nutrien Ag Solutions for the “Ag Industry Explorers” project. Through this collaboration, students gained valuable insights into agriculture and agribusiness while developing literacy skills.

They produced newsletters featuring staff profiles and agricultural themes – such as the role of the Bureau of Meteorology – which were then shared with Nutrien Ag clients at a special showcase event.

East Loddon P-12 College- Loddon Shire Council

Students teamed up with Loddon Shire Council to create a promotional video titled “Cool Careers in Council”. The aim was to inspire more young people to consider careers in local government. The video was launched at an event planned and hosted by the students, who applied their skills in interviewing, communication, and event coordination.

Wycheproof P-12 College- Buloke Shire Council

Students collaborated with Buloke Shire Council to explore career pathways in Local Government as part of their literacy studies. After visiting several Council sites, students used their new communication and design skills to create promotional materials that highlighted the diverse roles available within the Shire.



I thought all the Shire did was mow lawns and fix roads. The YTO opened my eyes to all the jobs that they do.”

–Lily, Wycheproof P-12 College



HEADSTART SCHOOL BASED APPRENTICESHIPS / TRAINEESHIPS (SBATS)

For the second consecutive year, the North Central LLEN has coordinated the HeadStart program across the Buloke and Loddon Shires, as well as St Arnaud in the Northern Grampians. The program supports students in completing an apprenticeship or traineeship (SBAT) alongside their senior secondary studies.

In 2024, 28 students supported in their SBAT, allowing them to gain paid, on-the-job experience while earning credits toward their VCE, VCE Vocational Major (VM) or Victorian Pathway Certificate (VPC), ultimately leading to a qualification.

The industries students have chosen include agriculture, landscape construction, childcare, carpentry, automotive, agricultural machinery technology, engineering, and hairdressing.

28

Students supported to undertake SBATs as part of the HeadStart program in 2024



NORTH CENTRAL TRADE TRAINING CENTRE – VET TASTER DAY

In June the NCTTC ran its annual 'Try a VET Day'. The purpose of this day is to give students the opportunity to learn about the VET studies on offer at the NCTTC, so they can make informed choices regarding their future pathways.

Around 140 students from Boort District School, Charlton College, Donald High School, East Loddon P-12 College, Pyramid Hill College, St. Arnaud Secondary School, Wedderburn College, and Wycheproof P-12 College attended.

This year we had a slight point of difference, as our current cohort of VET students were also in attendance. This made for a busy day, however it allowed our visiting staff and students to see VET 'in action', which was very beneficial.

Initially, the students learnt about different industries from a number of guest speakers. The NCLLEN supported the day by arranging a range of industry speakers to share insights into their career journeys and what they have learnt along the way about school and life in general!

Students then had the opportunity to participate in 3 different VET sessions, which gave them some insight into the requirements and content for the 11 studies we have on offer.

Our North Central young people are very fortunate to have access to the wonderful range of quality VET offerings available at the NCTTC.



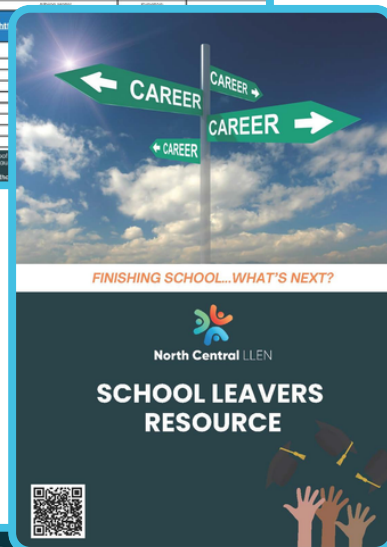
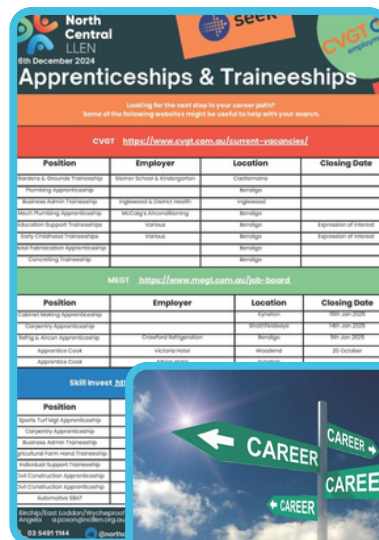
CAREER EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP (CEP)



The Career Education Partnership (CEP) is a long-standing and trusted collaboration between the North Central LLEN and our local north central schools. The partnership is designed to empower and support individual students in exploring career options and future career pathways.

Each student is supported by a dedicated Careers Practitioner who empowers them to develop a tailored pathways plan. This includes assistance with subject selection, encouragement to engage in extracurricular activities, and guidance to ensure a smooth transition from school to further education, training, or employment – support that continues for up to 24 months after leaving school.

The Team provide personalised one-on-one career planning sessions, up-to-date career resources, information on university and TAFE Open Days, weekly careers newsletters, scholarship opportunities, listings of current apprenticeships and traineeships, work experience support, and a comprehensive School Leavers Guide.



400

Students benefitted from the Career Education Partnership across Years 10 – 12

800+

individual career interviews to empower students on their career journeys

REPORT CARDS

At the end of 2024, Partnership report cards were developed for each of the eight participating schools, highlighting the work carried out through the Careers Education Partnership over the year.

While the primary focus of the Careers Education Partnership is to deliver personalised career advice and support to students in Years 10 to 12, the report cards also captured the broad range of activities that students from Years 7 to 12 engaged in as part of the School to Work program and other North Central LLEN facilitated initiatives.

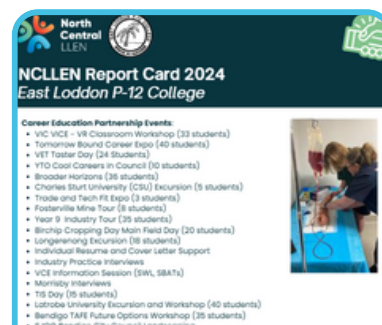
The report cards also outlined the various resources made available to both students and teachers to support career planning, work-based learning, further education and training options, scholarship opportunities, apprenticeships and traineeships.

2024 TERTIARY INFORMATION SERVICE EVENT

In early Term 3, approximately 80 rural VCE students gathered at Charlton Park for a Tertiary Information Service (TIS) Presentation and Expo. The event featured representatives from a range of Universities who were on hand to meet with students and discuss their study options and future plans.

Students in attendance came from Birchip P-12 School, Boort District School, Charlton College, Donald High School, East Loddon P-12 College, Wedderburn College, and Wycheproof P-12 College.

We continue to advocate alongside our schools for the North Central TIS Day in our local community. This service provides equitable access to tertiary information for all students across our rural region.



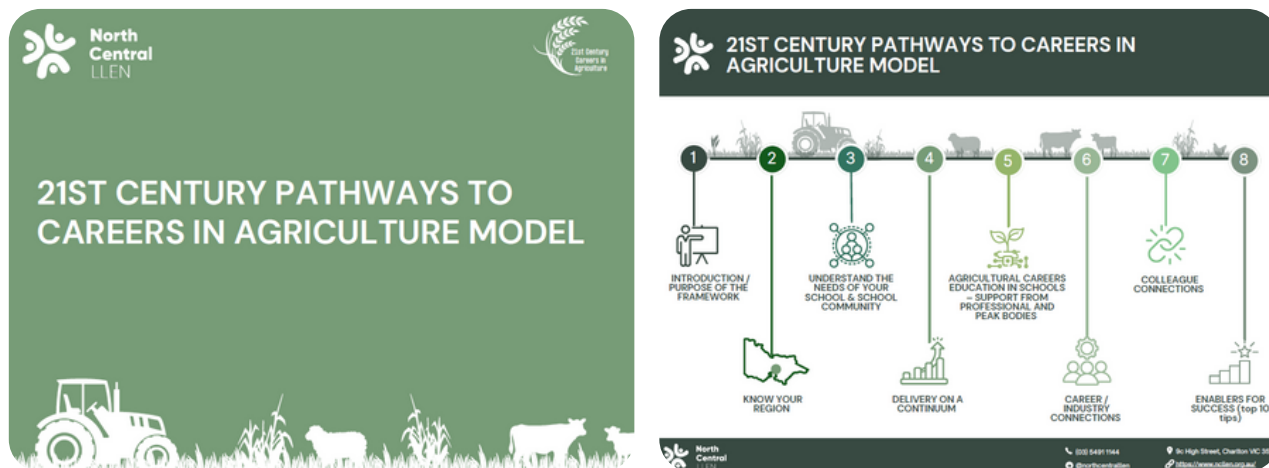
CAREERS IN AGRICULTURE

The "21st Century Careers in Agriculture" project, supported by the Secondary School Agriculture fund, has now concluded. It has left behind a number of significant legacies for schools and students across the North Central region.

Among these are the development of a comprehensive framework to guide future efforts in agricultural education, and the introduction of a new annual scholarship program to support students pursuing careers in agriculture. The full framework can be found [here](#) or on our North Central LLEN website under 'Publications' > 'Research & Reports'.

The project also led to the inclusion of agricultural careers education at the annual BCG Main Field Day, showcasing the sector's diversity and innovation.

It has fostered stronger connections with local agricultural enterprises, reinforced Agriculture as a core VET subject at the North Central Trade Training Centre and established valuable new links with tertiary and further education providers in the field.



AG ACTIVITIES IN 2024

Throughout 2024, the Sustainable Careers in Agriculture project continued to explore new and engaging ways to promote agricultural careers to young people across the North Central region, working closely with teachers, industry partners, and students.

The Nutrien Ag Scholarship entered its second year, beginning with a dedicated day for scholars at Nutrien Ag in Bendigo and culminating in the announcement of the 2024 recipients in December. A highlight of the program was seeing one of the 2023 scholars, Eliza, join the Nutrien Ag team as a Trainee – an outstanding outcome and a testament to the program's impact.

The Youth Take Over initiative, which linked students from Boort District School with Nutrien Ag Solutions, further strengthened the growing relationship between local schools and the agribusiness sector.

Agricultural field trips to Charles Sturt University and Longerenong College were another highlight, providing students with valuable insight into two distinct pathways for studying agriculture at a tertiary level. These hands-on experiences gave students a deeper understanding of the opportunities available in agricultural education and careers.

The Ag Shed newsletter continued to keep teachers, students, stakeholders, and industry representatives informed, sharing project updates along with a range of curriculum resources and teaching ideas to support agriculture-related learning.

Now in its second year, the student stream at the BCG Main Field Day continued to be a success, with 50 students from Birchip P-12 School, Donald High School, East Loddon P-12 College, Pyramid Hill College and St Arnaud Secondary School participating in a dedicated program designed to inspire and inform young people about the diverse and innovative career opportunities within the agriculture sector.

50

Students attended the BCG Main Field Day to discover the many different facets of agriculture as a career pathway

Finally, the development of the Agricultural Careers Framework marked a major milestone. This lasting resource will continue to support schools in embedding agricultural careers into their career education programs, ensuring agriculture remains a visible and viable pathway for students now and into the future.

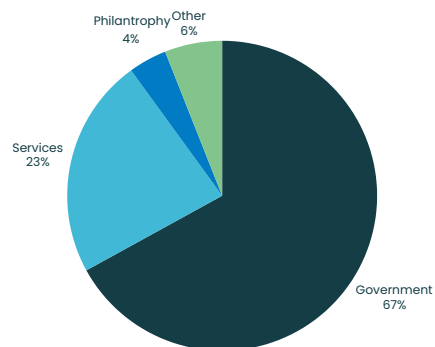


Financial Report

Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income for the Year Ended 31 December 2024	2024 \$	2023 \$
Revenue	1,729,230	2,063,714
Salaries & employee benefits expense	(1,170,299)	(1,182,423)
Depreciation expense	(79,185)	(76,339)
Finance costs	(7,589)	(2,497)
Project costs	(686,137)	(428,814)
Motor vehicle expenses	(34,480)	(40,147)
Administration/Association costs	(49,645)	(29,396)
Occupancy and associated costs	(29,717)	(34,344)
Advertising and promotional costs	(0)	(8,165)
Other expenses	(0)	(0)
Surp/(def) before income tax exps	(327,822)	261,589
Surp/(def) after income tax exps	(327,822)	261,589
Other comprehensive income	-	-
Total comprehensive income attributable to members of the entity	(327,822)	261,589

Statement of Changes in Equity As at 31 December 2024	Retained Surplus \$
Balance at 1 January 2023	891,227
Surplus for the year	
Other comprehensive income for the year	261,589
Balance at 31 December 2023	1,152,816
Balance at 1 January 2024	(327,822)
Surplus for the year	
Other comprehensive income for the year	(327,822)
Balance at 31 December 2024	824,994

2024 INCOME SOURCES



GOVERNMENT GRANTS:

- Department of Education School to Work Contract \$384,879
- Sustainable Schools Ag Fund \$23,859
- Head Start \$69,238
- WE Broader Horizons \$93,301
- VET Transport \$103,316
- Department of Families, Fairness & Housing – Engage! Buloke & Loddon \$100,000
- Department of Transport Buloke Loddon L2P Program \$88,328

PHILANTHROPY:

- Agnico Eagle Community Foundation \$64,000

SERVICES:

- Careers Education Partnership \$230,950
- FLO \$45,000
- Strong Youth Strong Communities \$48,850
- By Five Wimmera Southern Mallee \$15,000
- Loddon Local (LCHWL) \$149,500

OTHER:

- Management Fee \$224,487
- Bank Interest/Other \$87,522

Statement of Financial Position as at 31 December 2024	2024 \$	2023 \$
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	840,203	1,238,966
Trade and other receivables	193,376	170,830
Other current assets	–	–
Total current assets	1,033,579	1,409,796
Non-current assets		
Property, plant and equipment	71,259	31,1881
Right-of-use assets	99,288	147,135
Total non-current assets	170,457	179,016
Total assets	1,204,126	1,588,812
Current liabilities		
Trade and other payables	55,113	93,796
Employee Provisions	86,591	96,600
Contract Liabilities	131,339	97,491
Interest Bearing Liabilities	53,636	64,199
Total current liabilities	326,679	352,086
Non-current liabilities		
Employee Provisions	252	189
Interest Bearing Liabilities	52,201	83,721
Total non-current liabilities	52,453	83,910
Total liabilities	379,132	435,996
Net assets	824,994	1,152,816
Equity		
Retained surplus	824,994	1,152,816
Total equity	824,994	1,152,816

Statement of Cash Flows as at 31 Dec 2024	2024	2023
Cash flows from operating activities		
Receipts from customers	1,682,247	1,891,439
Payments to suppliers and employees	(2,018,907)	(1,702,261)
Interest received	58,285	38,458
Interest paid	(7,589)	(2,497)
Net cash provided by/used in operating activities	(285,964)	210,313
Cash flows from investing activities		
Payment for property, plant and equipment	(51,038)	(175,953)
Cash flows from financing activities		
Repayment of lease liabilities	(61,761)	90,112
Net increase / (decrease) in cash held	(398,763)	124,472
Cash on hand (start of the financial year)	1,238,966	1,114,494
Cash on hand (end of the financial year)	840,203	1,238,966

The North Central LLEN Inc. financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards - Simplified Disclosure Requirements as set out in AASB 1053: Application of Tiers of Australian Accounting Standards (Australian Accounting Standards Board) and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012.

The association is a not-for-profit entity for financial reporting purposes under Australian Accounting Standards.

Australian Accounting Standards set out accounting policies that the AASB has concluded would result in Financial Statements containing relevant and reliable information about transactions, events and conditions.

Material accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the Financial Statements are presented here and have been consistently applied unless stated otherwise. The Financial Statements, except for the cash flow information, have been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historical costs, modified, where applicable, by the measurement at fair value of selected non-current assets, financial assets and financial liabilities.

The amounts presented in the Financial Statements have been rounded to the nearest dollar.

A copy of the full audited financial statements prepared by AASB Accounting & Audit Solutions Bendigo can be downloaded from our website – <https://www.ncllen.org.au/publications> > Financial Reports or [Click Here](#)



Thank you

to our major investors for their continued support



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Department of Families, Fairness & Housing
Department of Transport



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