



# 2023 – Year in Review

Creating opportunities for children and young people to thrive in education, work and life

# Our Focus in 2023...



**North Central LLEN**

## A Cradle to Career approach 0 - 21 years





# A Solid Foundation...



## 2023 Activities

- SADEY Project @ Donald (early years network)
- Support for families and children to navigate services (changing the system one child at a time)
- Boort Storytime Project
- By Five Project
  - Steering Group participation – new Taskforce to be created in 2024
  - Research and Networks
  - Childcare Advocacy document & Cost Benefit Analysis
  - ECEC Forum @ Warracknabeal





## Creating viable childcare services in rural areas



An investment that can deliver big economic returns.

September 2022



## Promises but no follow-through

In Gannawarra, the council is the only provider of early childhood education and care, as commercial operators do not see it as a viable market. Fernee says different, non-market-based models are needed to make childcare in rural and regional areas viable - such as co-locating services with kindergartens, primary schools and maternal child health centres.

## The Guardian



‘It makes your working life so much harder,’ Sutton says. Photograph: Steve Womersley/The Guardian

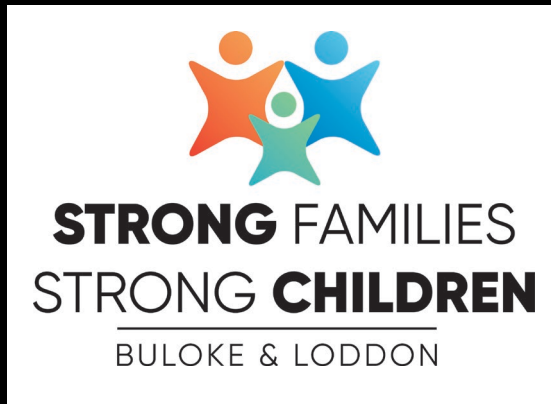
Higher

Childcare in crisis

Childcare is like a game of Tetris for this teacher and mother of two in regional Australia

to be required from the government to offset the Fernee says, but it is hard to get the state or federal







# Resilient Middle Years



## Youth Engagement activities

- SRC Training – Buloke and Loddon Schools (69 students)
- Homelessness Awareness – Boort & Pyramid Hill (60 students)
- Buloke Youth Health Expo (55 students)
- Flipside Magazine (360 young people)
- Buloke Youth Strategy consultation (36 students)
- Victorian Youth Parliament team (4 students)
- Buloke Shire Council Briefings (12 young people)
- Boort YACVic Health Futures consultation (14 young people)
- YACVic CEO Visit (8 young people)
- Skills Training Workshop – RSA, First Aid (20 young people)
- Mural Projects at Donald, Boort and Wedderburn (141 students)
- Kindness Factory workshops (220 students)
- Year 12 Support Bags (95 students)
- Wings without Barriers – autism awareness (16 young people)
- Wycheproof Colour Run & Relay for Life (175 young people)
- BLG Youth Awards (130 young people)

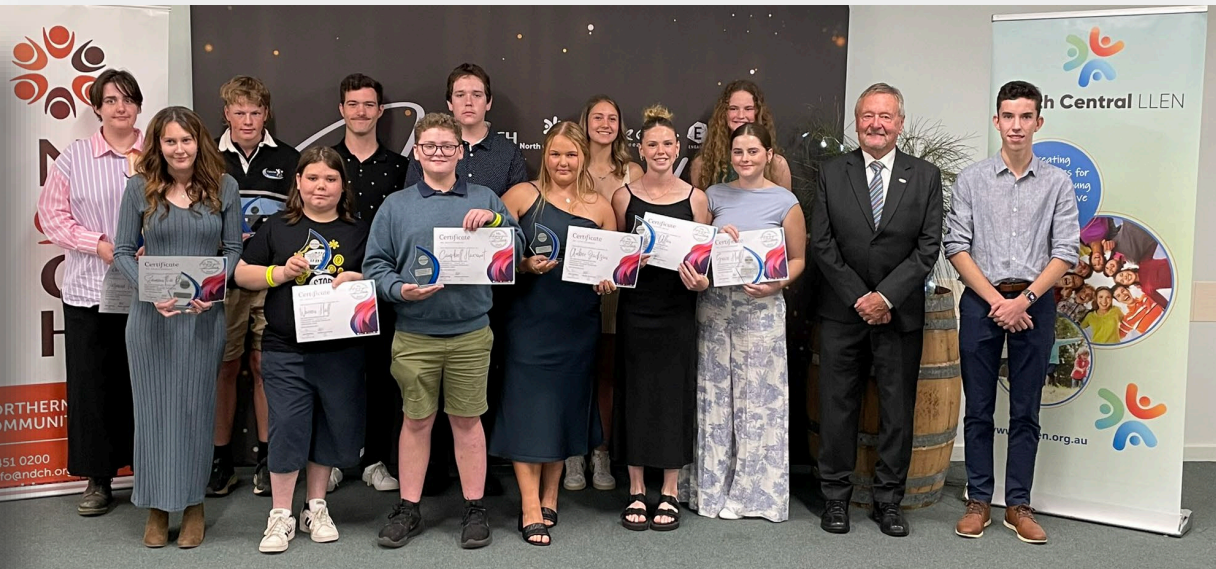
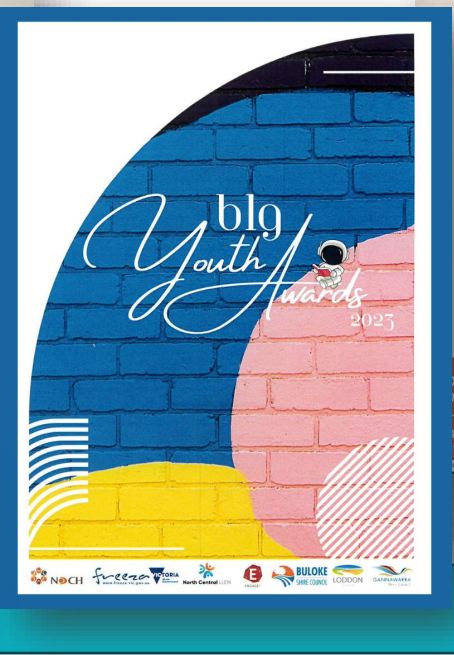


**Engagement with more than  
1400 young people during 2023**













## April 2023 Council Briefing Blake Lee from Birchip - Heywire



## October Council Briefing



North Central LLEN







3 FLIP\$IDE MAGAZINES PRODUCED  
 100 BEANIES MADE  
 80 SHIRTS TIE DYED  
 29 PEOPLE TRAINED  
 9 MOVIES SHOWN  
 23 INDIVIDUAL ARTISTS EMPLOYED  
 4 WORK EXPERIENCE STUDENTS

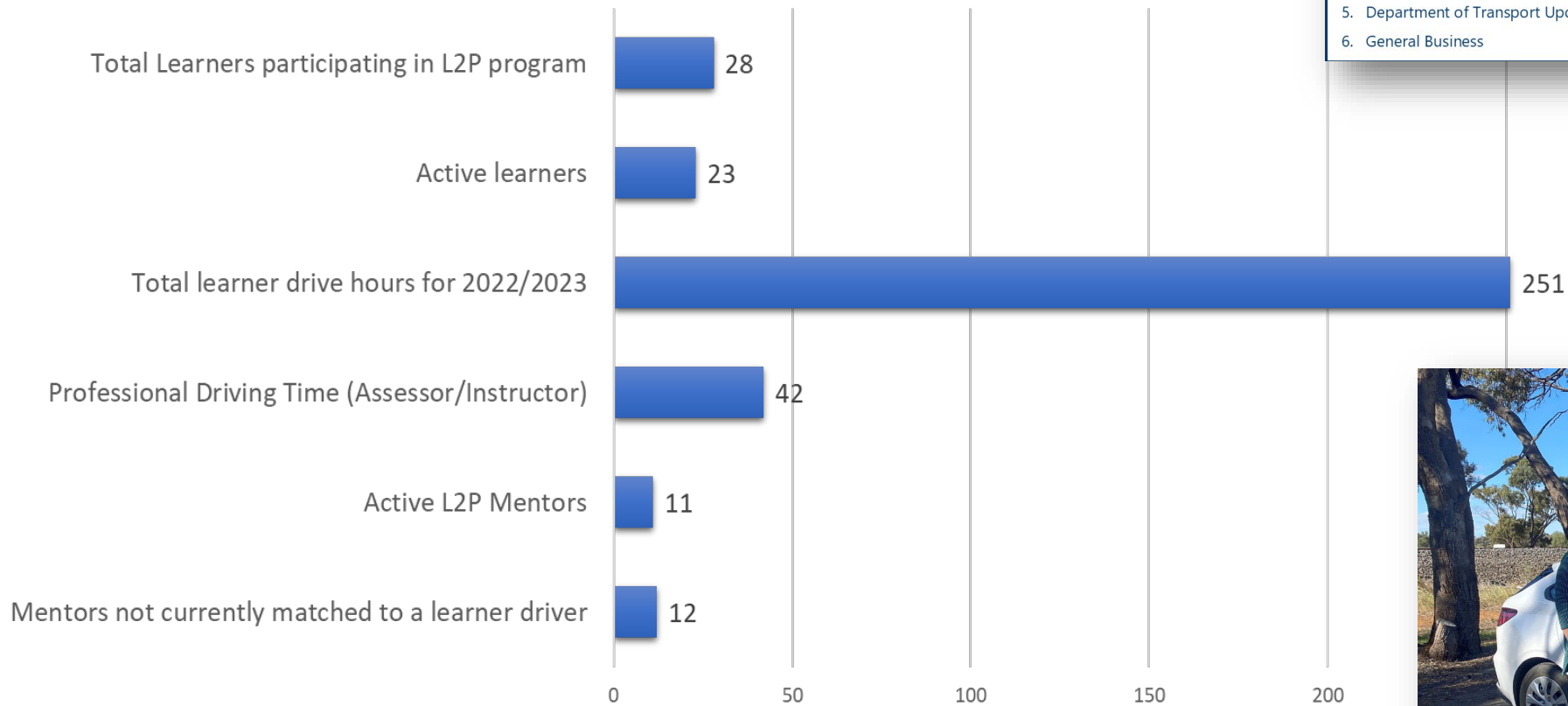
4 SUMMERWAVE EVENTS  
 3 POOL PARTIES  
 3 MURALS  
 7 VIC YOUTH FEST EVENTS  
 122 YOUTH AWARDS GIVEN OUT  
 4 COUCHES PAINTED







## Buloke Loddon L2P Program - 2022/2023



**23 active learners and 23 trained mentors**

**Buloke Loddon TAC L2P Program  
Advisory Committee Meeting**  
Tuesday 12 September 2023  
10.00 - 11.30 am via ZOOM

### AGENDA

1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting
2. Program Update
3. Financial Report - 2022/2023
4. Plans for 2023/2024
  - Budget
  - Vehicles
  - Mentor Training
  - Marketing/Fundraising
5. Department of Transport Update
6. General Business







BULOKE LODDON



## NEED HELP GETTING YOUR P's?

The TAC L2P program helps young learner drivers (16-21) with limited access to a supervising driver or vehicle to get on the road with trained mentors available to help them obtain the 120 hours necessary to get their licence.



For more information call 03 5491 1144,  
email [l2p@ncllen.org.au](mailto:l2p@ncllen.org.au) or scan the QR code



**MENTOR TRAINING**  
this Sunday 26 February  
2023 in Wycheproof



*Congratulations!*  
**Conrad**



on obtaining your  
licence as part of the  
Buloke Loddon  
L2P program.

A big thank you to mentors  
Robyn and Peter (pictured here  
with Conrad  
after he successfully  
completed his driving test)  
from Wedderburn College.

To find out more about the  
L2P program visit  
[www.ncllen.org.au/l2p](http://www.ncllen.org.au/l2p) or call

03 5491 1144





**BULOKE  
LODDON**

**TAC**

**L2P**  
PROGRAM

## Need help getting your P's?

Struggling to get your 120 hours of learner driving experience?

Don't have the money for professional lessons?

The TAC L2P program helps young learner drivers living in the Buloke and Loddon Shires (16-21 years of age) with limited access to a supervising driver or vehicle to get on the road with trained mentors available to help them obtain the 120 hours necessary to get their licence.



**North  
Central  
LLEN**

For more information about this FREE program contact the North Central LLEN on 03 5491 1144 or email [l2p@ncllen.org.au](mailto:l2p@ncllen.org.au)



**BULOKE LODDON**

**TAC**

**L2P**  
PROGRAM



## Mentors Wanted

Would you like to help young people learn to drive?  
Do you have at least two hours per fortnight to spare on a regular basis? Are you over 21 years old?  
Do you hold a full current driver's licence?

The Buloke Loddon L2P program matches volunteer driver mentors to young learner drivers to assist them in gaining on the road driving experience in a vehicle that is provided through the program - all we need is your time (and interest). Training and support will be provided.

**North  
Central  
LLEN**

If you are interested, please email [l2p@ncllen.org.au](mailto:l2p@ncllen.org.au) or contact the North Central LLEN on 5491 1144.

Creating opportunities for children and young people to thrive in education, work and life





**Buloke & Loddon**



# Thankyou Dream Team

**GANNAWARRA DREAM SEEDS TRIP**

## The Team

Charlie Farrell  
Tori Gentle  
Stephanie Hartshorn  
Maryann Brown  
Deaken Fawcett  
Molly Meadows  
Matilda Zander  
Stacey Barbagallo

**3**

**Workshops**

**81**

**Students**

## The Schools

Cohuna Consolidated School  
Gunbower Primary School  
Leitchville Primary School  
Murreabit Group School  
Koonbrook Primary School  
Kerang Primary School  
Kerang South Primary School

*youThrive*  
VICTORIA

**RURAL**

**Umbrella  
Project**



# Strong Careers & Pathways



**SCHOOL  
TO WORK**

**/HEADSTART**  
APPRENTICESHIPS AND TRAINEESHIPS

## School to Work Program & Head Start

- 53 students supported to undertake Structured Workplace Learning (SWL) across 11 different industries
- 11 students supported to undertake School Based Apprenticeships (SBATS) as part of the Head Start program
- 12 school-industry events facilitated for North Central students

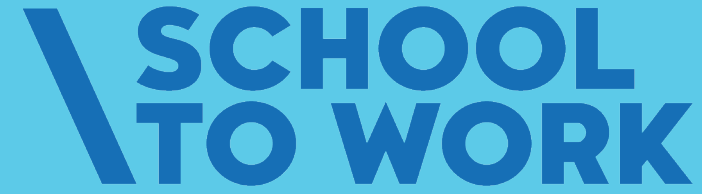


Department  
of Education

**622 students supported (Years 10 – 12)**



# Strong Careers & Pathways



## 2023 Events

- 'Careers Day Out' at the Charlton TIS (87 students)
- NCTTC VET Taster Day (97 students)
- Explore Health with Emma Campbell (49 students)
- East Loddon explores Bendigo Tomorrow Bound (30 students)
- MATES Careers on the Couch Q&A (16 students)
- Boort District Health Heroes Showcase VM Major (6 students)
- Broader Horizons Health, Agriculture, Local Government, Business and Retail (6 students)
- Stawell Gold Mine Industry Tour (24 students)
- Charlton College Industry Guest Speakers (44 students)
- VR at the Birchip Cropping Group Main field Day (114 students)
- Mock Interviews – Wycheproof & East Loddon (20 students)
- Exploring Futures – Bendigo Field Trip (68 students)

**558 students attended events  
in 2023 (Years 7 – 12)**







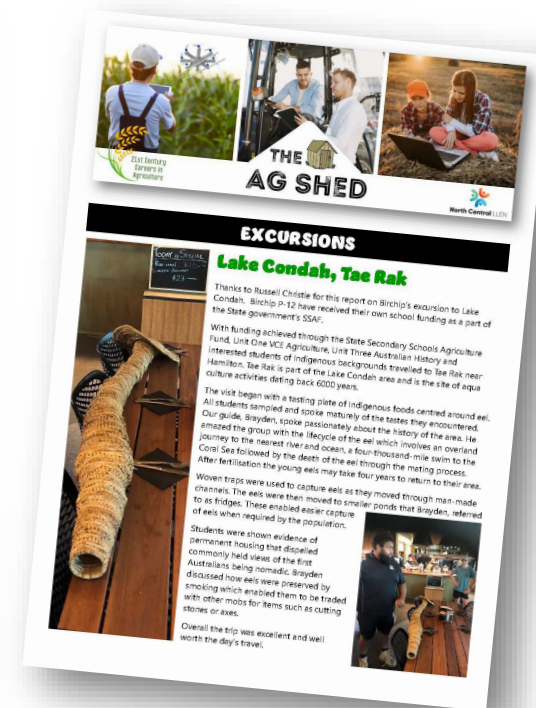
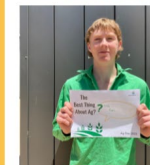


**‘Careers Day Out’  
at the Charlton TIS**





Department  
of Education



# Sustainable Careers in Agriculture

- The Ag Shed Newsletter
- Agricultural Careers Survey
- Why Ag Forum – Rex Theatre
- BCG Main Field Day
- Ag Day 2023 – Charlton College
- Nutrien Ag Scholarship

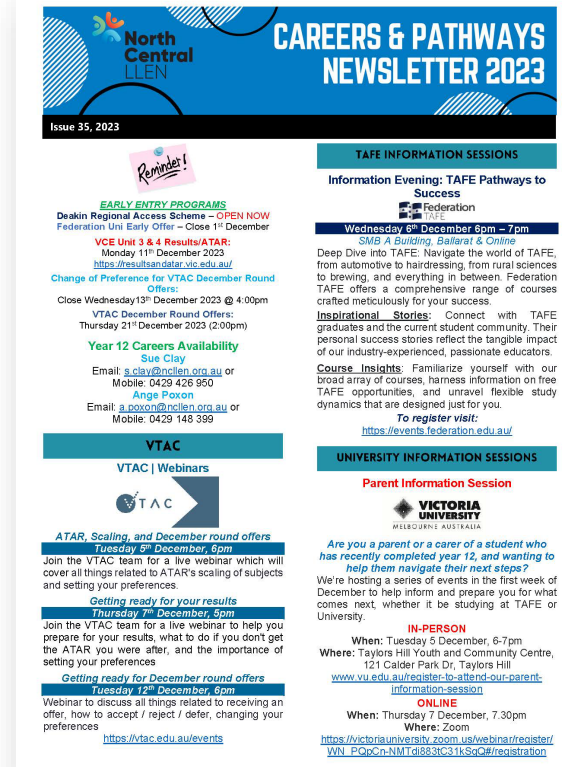


# Careers Education Partnership



- Careers Curriculum Materials
- Community of Practice for school-based Careers Practitioners
- Weekly Careers Newsletters
- Individual Pathway support to students
- Industry Mock Interviews
- Latrobe and Federation University Tour & Workshops
- Supported Work Experience placements

**700+ students supported (Years 7 – 12)**







**North  
Central  
LLEN**

# CAREERS & PATHWAYS NEWSLETTER 2023

**NL** North Central LLEN

Home feed

Communities

Storylines

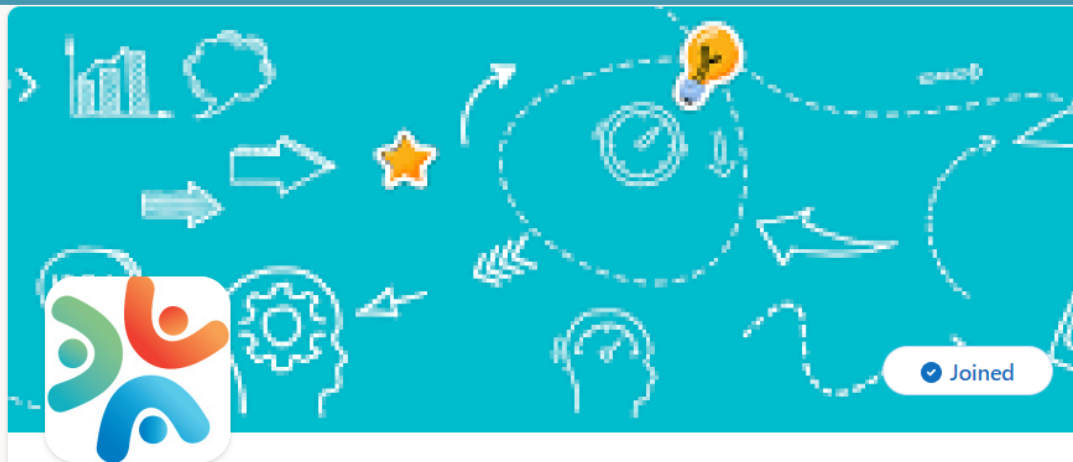
Inbox **9**

## Favorites



Improve your Yammer experience by creating a list of your favorite communities.

My communities



## VCE-Vocational Major & VPC Shared Resources

Private

Conversations

About

Files

Events

Members • 57



A community of practice for VCE - Vocational Major and VPC Educators in the North Central Region.  
[Edit description](#)

## Info



Welcome to the North Central VCE - Vocational Major & VPC Shared Resources Portal. Please share your ideas and resources, ask questions, and use this portal as an opportunity to access the skills and support of others working across the region.











**North  
Central  
LLEN**

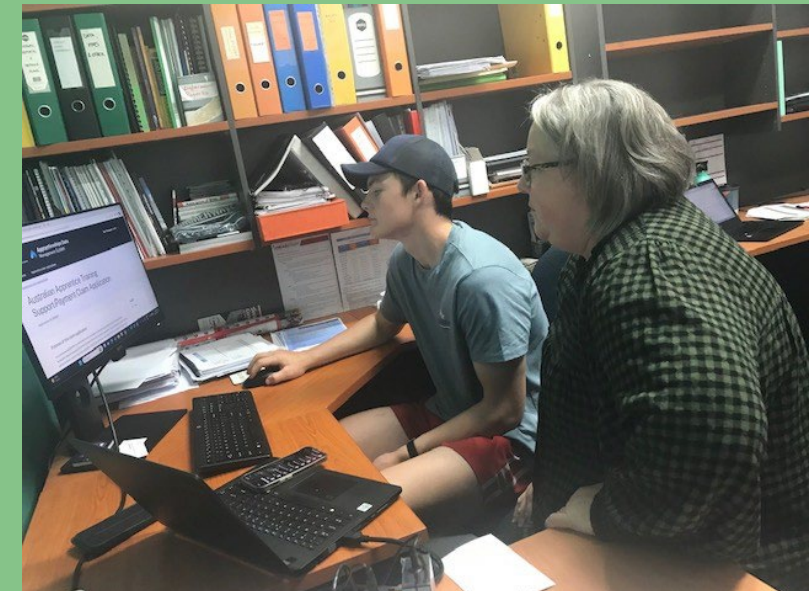
**/HEADSTART**  
APPRENTICESHIPS AND TRAINEESHIPS

**SCHOOL BASED  
APPRENTICESHIPS (SBAT)  
2023**



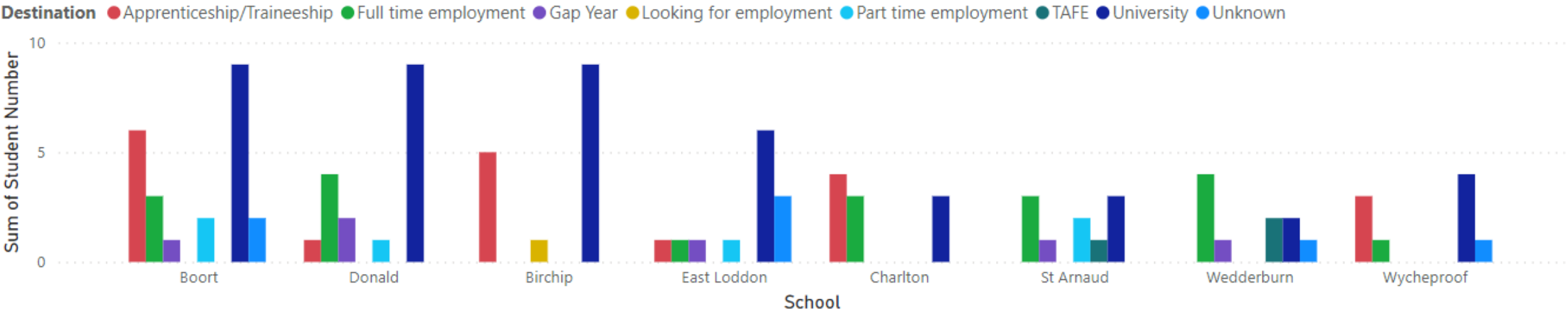
Above: Nick Thompson from Charlton College signing with Jack Thompson Constructions to undertake a HeadStart SBAT

Above Right: Brady Whykes from Boort District School signing up with Streader Constructions to undertake a HeadStart SBAT

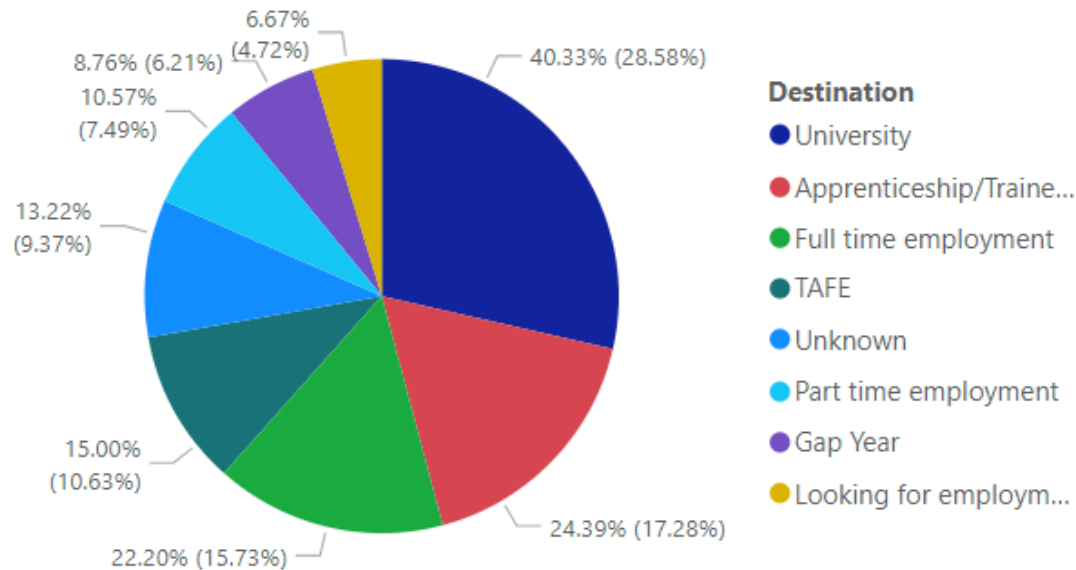




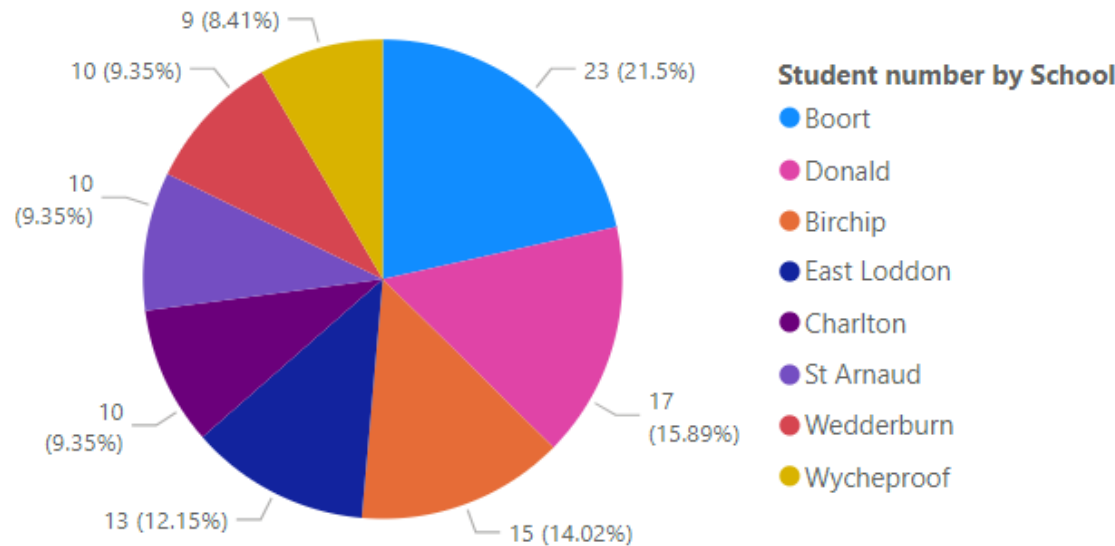
Student Number by School and Destination



Average of % chosen destination by Destination



Student Numbers by School





**SUBMISSION:**  
Inquiry into the Victorian  
State Education System

**North Central  
Cluster Schools**



**North Central LLEN**

Creating opportunities for children and young  
people to thrive in education, work and life

**October 2023**

Submission to the Inquiry into the Victorian Education System on behalf of the North Central Schools Cluster covering the challenges our schools face including:

- Supporting Student aspirations
- Resource distribution
- Financial Incentives & teacher recruitment
- Rural Infrastructure challenges
- Professional Trust
- Rural Disadvantage
- Well-being challenges
- Covid & Flood Impacts
- Disparities & advantages in Victorian Education



# Recommendations

- Backbone support for facilitation of **place-based partnerships** such as SFSC & SYSC
- Support for **Passions and Pathways**
- Review of **cost and barriers** to students accessing higher education
- Encouragement and incentives to support collaborations with industry to **explore place-based**, more sustainable, **grow-your-own solutions**
- Exploring and funding **quality rural ECEC delivery models**
- Consult with rural Principals/schools to **simplify admin processes**, consolidate several portals and support Principals' wellbeing
- Rural schools supported to **access local and regional resources** and a more flexible approach to accessing the most appropriate service available
- **Per-capita funding** to be reviewed in terms of constraints on enabling adequate well-being support in rural areas



# Work Experience Review

- Completed face to face interviews with key staff at the North Central 9 schools
- Gained insight to the positives and barriers of work experience in our regions
- Next Steps: Gain feedback from industry and students. Create a report combining best practice research for work experience programs





# Careers & Pathways

## Six Youth Take Overs in 2023:

1. Join a Landscape Design Team
2. Become a Digital Campaigner
3. Rally an Environmental Science Squad
4. Youth-ify a Community Place in Castlemaine
5. Showcasing Health Heroes
6. Hospitality Kickstarter





ARE YOU READY FOR YOUR 'NEXT STEP?'



**HOSPITALITY KICKSTARTER**

Boost your career adventure with group-based work experience

Kicking off 4 May

AGNICO EAGLE AUSTRALIA  
COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

KYNETON COMMUNITY HOUSE  
DAYLESFORD MACEDON TOURISM  
SOCIAL GROUND  
CENTRAL RANGES  
LODDON CAMPASPE

**JOIN A LANDSCAPE DESIGN TEAM**



Are you 25 or under?  
Ready for paid work experience?

- Work with Pollen, a landscape architecture studio
- Create a reflection space for animal carers at Edgar's Mission
- Upskill by seeing a project through from start to finish

**YOUTH TAKE OVER**  
LODDON CAMPASPE



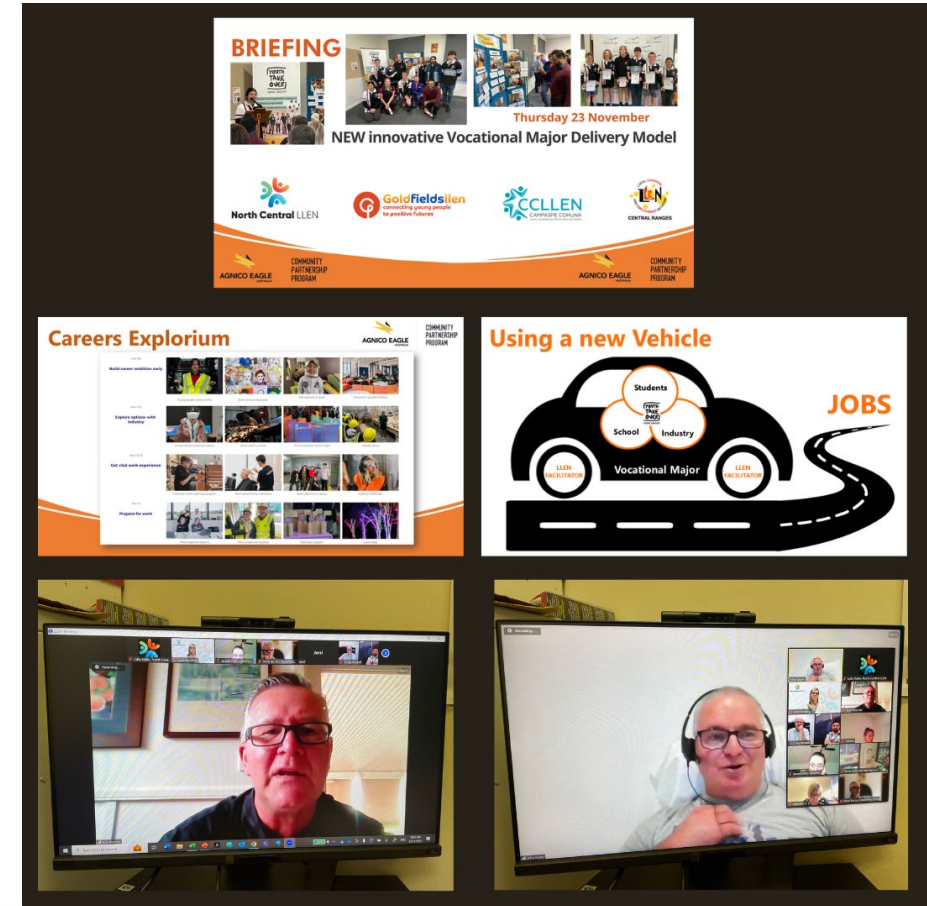

**RALLY AN ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE SQUAD**



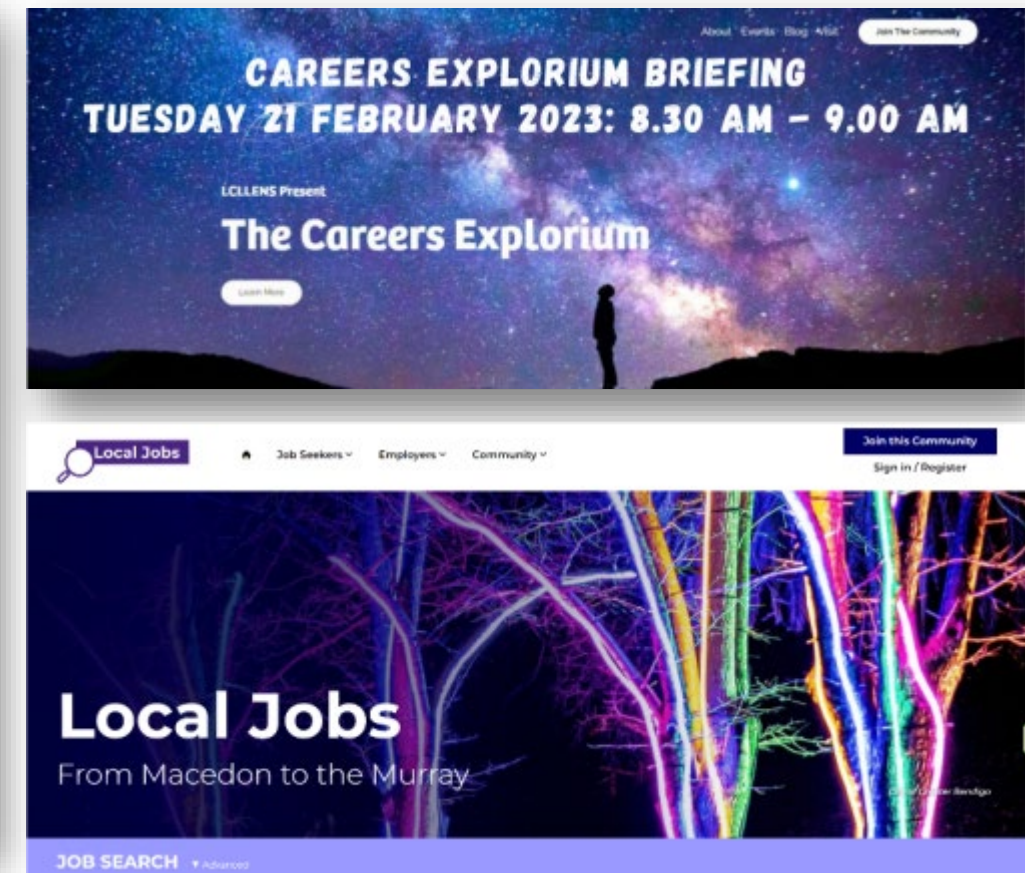
**YOUTH-IFY A COMMUNITY PLACE IN CASTLEMAINE**



# Showcasing Healthcare Heroes – VM Major Model







**Work continued on the roll-out of the Careers Explorium model featuring curated and evaluated programs/ activities that can be connected up to facilitate quality career support and journeys for our young people from Grades 5/6 through to Year 12.**



# A Dynamic Organisation



North Central LLEN

## New funding secured:

- Pathways to a Career in Agriculture in the 21st Century (\$191,000)
- YACVic Umbrella flood recovery grant (\$110,000)
- HeadStart (\$60,000)
- Vet Transport funding (\$15,000)

## New Staff

- Careers & Pathways Team Leader (Jacinta Sutton)
- School to Work Events Coordinator (Julie Bourke)
- Middle Years Facilitator (Tori Gentle)







### A big thank-you to our Funding Investors



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

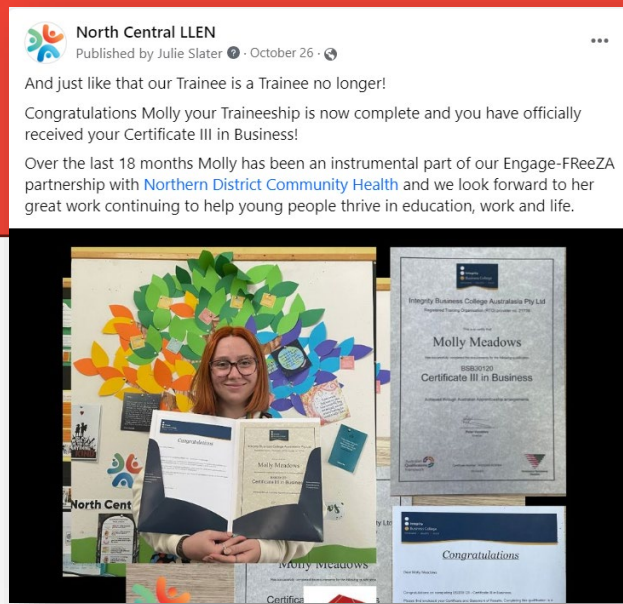


5 JUNE 2023 @ REX THEATRE 5.00 PM - 7.30 PM





# Communication & Advocacy



- Three newsletters to 385 recipients
- Facebook – 432 followers
- Instagram – 208 followers
- Website – 3,430 unique visitors



# Communication & Advocacy

**DONALD**  
Phone: 5497 1222  
Email:  
buloket@inet.net.au  
adun@buloketimes.com

## The Buloke Times

Est. 1875

**BIRCHIP**  
Phone: 5492 2735  
Fax: 5492 2863  
Email:  
birchipb@bigpond.com

Published Tuesdays and Fridays  
PP331336/0000 1

Friday, August 4, 2023

PRICE (inc. G.S.T.) \$2

For the Shire of Buloke, and the districts of Birchip, Charlton, Donald, St. Arnaud, Watchem and Wycheproof

### More Support for Children and Young People

The North Central Local Learning and Employment Network (NCLLEN) has recently welcomed three new staff members who have joined the team to help create opportunities for children and young people to thrive in education, work and life through partnerships that ensure they get the support they need when they need it.

Tori Gentle from Charlton, the newest staff member, commenced with NCLLEN earlier this month as a Project Officer (Middle Years). Her first project will be to work on the establishment of a new chapter of the Rural Youth Network across the Buloke, Loddon and Gannawarra Shires (BLG) in partnership with Northern District Community Health Service to build on the North Central Youth Advisory Council established to support young people post Covid.

After a few weeks in the role, Tori is excited about the opportunities to open doors for young people living in north central Victoria and is grateful to YACVic for funding the program as part of its Umbrella project, and Youthrive for its support in establishing a BLG chapter of its statewide Rural Youth Network.

#### New Skills

"The Rural Youth Network will be a great way to build up new skills, showcase

• Continued on page 2.

### Back to Donald 2024?

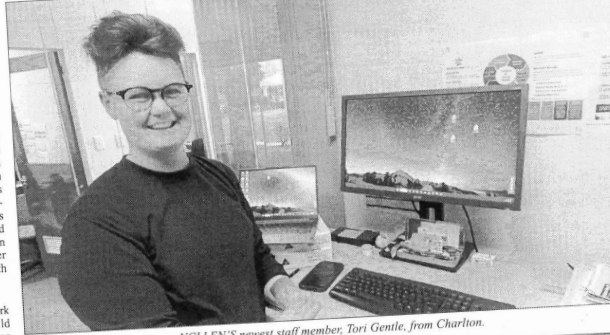
Traditionally, every 11 years, a "Back To" is organised for the greater community to renew acquaintanceships and share activities for young and old.

Donald 2000 wishes to engage the interest of the community in holding such an event and is looking for an enthusiastic group of locals to form a committee to organise a Back to Donald 2024.

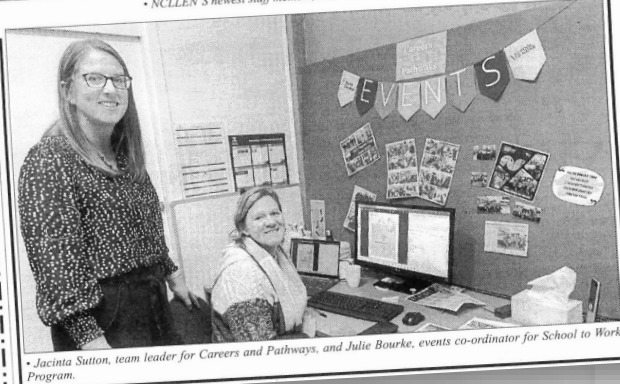
April 12 to 21 was when the last "Back To" was held, and what a magnificent nine days it was.

So, here's the challenge: get your friends, your family, or your club together and create a committee to launch the greatest "Back To" ever.

For further information, or to nominate your expression of interest, please contact any member of the Donald 2000 committee. Secretary Daryl Warren, 0427 194 422.



• NCLLEN's newest staff member, Tori Gentle, from Charlton.



• Jacinta Sutton, team leader for Careers and Pathways, and Julie Bourke, events co-ordinator for School to Work Program.

### Charlton Hosts VCE Student Careers Event

Around 80 students from North Central schools converged on Charlton Park last week to find out more about careers and pathways post-secondary school.

VCE students from Birchip P-12 School, Boort District School, Charlton College, Donald High School, East Loddon P-12 School, Wedderburn College and Wycheproof College attended the event, which was presented by the Tertiary Information Service (TIS) and supported by the North Central LLEN.

The event featured presentations about all facets of applying for a tertiary placement, followed by a chance to meet with representatives from Universities and key industries including agriculture, local government and mining. According to Careers and Pathways team leader, Jacinta Sutton, the day was a great opportunity for young people to explore potential careers and pathways.

"With more than a dozen Universities in attendance, young people were able to have one-on-one conversations about potential University courses and/or career pathways," said Jacinta.

"There was also an opportunity to speak to key local employers including Teys Australia (Charlton Feedlot), Fosterville Goldmine, O'Connors Farm Machinery and Buloke Shire Council about a broad range of career options."

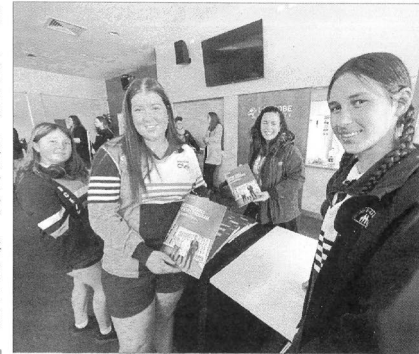
Assistant Principal and VCE Co-ordinator at Wycheproof P-12 College, Claire Ison, said that TIS in Charlton is a valuable experience for rural students in our area.

"It allows students to hear about different pathways post school and enables them to

speak to and collect information from a range of tertiary providers that hopefully will assist them in making decisions for life after school without having to travel to a larger centre," she said.

"The TIS Presentation and Careers Expo are a part of our School to Work program which supports access to work-based learning opportunities, so students can develop employability skills and make informed career choices."

A free barbecue lunch was prepared by the Lions Club of Charlton and most students headed back to school with a range of course guides, brochures, pens and other information from exhibitors, to help them make their future study choices.



• Erika Bicket (Donald High School), Tahli Roberts (Charlton College) and Bridie Reid (Birchip P-12 College) discussing options at the Latrobe University stand.



• Conrad Sudgen (Wedderburn College) talking with representatives from O'Connors Farm Machinery.



• VCE students from Boort District School at the TIS Presentation and Careers Expo.

### 'Wings Without Barriers' with Hayden McDonald



• Hayden McDonald in front of the historic Rex Theatre in Charlton.

During the school holidays, the Rex Theatre at Charlton hosted an inspiring community event with Hayden McDonald, winner of ABC Trillidz, a young person who is autistic and a pilot.

The event was part of Hayden's mission to fly solo around regional Australia to promote awareness of Autism and he flew into Charlton just hours earlier for the event.

"Wings Without Barriers" combines his passions for aviation and promoting real inclusion for people on the spectrum. Hayden wants to inspire young people and show them that no matter what challenges you face in life, you can break down those barriers.

Wendy Pollard from Wycheproof P-12 College was instrumental in securing the event and she proudly introduced Hayden to the audience.

The audience was treated to a viewing of one of Hayden's videos called "Why is it so IMPORTANT to have AUTISTIC People to have a VOICE?"

Hayden followed with a speaking presentation which had it all - it was powerful and inspiring and the audience could feel the passion in his words as he shared what it's like to be autistic, not promoting awareness, but rather acceptance of autism - seeing people for their ability not their disability.

Hayden was thrilled to have a major sponsor, Andrew Eddy from Genius Armoury, in the crowd.

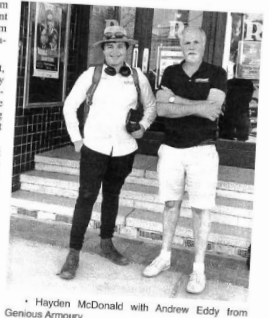
who had travelled from Melbourne for the event and Hayden invited him on stage for a presentation in appreciation.

To conclude the event, Hayden answered many questions from the enthralled crowd before intermission, allowing the gathering to meet Hayden.

To complement Hayden's story, a screening of Temple Grandin followed, a true story with a powerful autistic message.

Hayden's website "Wings Without Barriers" provides more information on both his challenges and successes, as well as links to the numerous videos he has produced.

Hayden's next stop on his journey was Tocumwal and if you would like to follow his journey, a map is provided on his site as well as links for



• Hayden McDonald with Andrew Eddy from Genius Armoury.

sponsoring his mission. The event was proudly presented by Wycheproof P-12 College, the Buloke

Engage! program, North Central LLEN, the Charlton Youth Group and the Rex Theatre.



• Julie Bourke (North Central LLEN), Wendy Pollard (Wycheproof P-12 College), Mary-Ann Salt (Buloke Engage!) and Hayden McDonald.

12 media releases distributed throughout the year



# Staff Development



Gender Equity 101 & Bystander Action Workshop





# Looking forward to 2024

## New programs

- Loddon Children's Health & Wellbeing Local Partner organisation
- HeadStart contract confirmed until mid-2026
- VET Transport coordination role for North West region
- School to Work Contract review

