



Welcome to this months E-Bulletin!

- Hume Whittlesea LLEN's regular E-Bulletin keeps you up to date with the LLEN's and related activities across the Cities of Hume and Whittlesea. Comments and feedback are always welcome.
- If you would like to become a HWLLEN member and/or would like to place information in our monthly E-Bulletin, please contact Hulya at the Hume Whittlesea LLEN Office.

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Whittlesea Youth Commitment (WYC) Spirit of Co-operation Re-signing Agreement & 10 Years Celebration

On Thursday, the 30th of October, stakeholders of the Whittlesea Youth Commitment (WYC) gathered at the Whittlesea Council Offices to celebrate 10 years and for existing and new signatories to reaffirm their commitment to working together to ensure real change for young people in the region.

Our guests speakers included the original Pathways Development Officers, Laila Fanebust and Ian Harrison whose contribution and initial work created the basis on which the Youth Commitment has grown and flourished. Stakeholders were engaged by the recounting of the Youth Commitments beginnings with many original stakeholders in the audience.

Steve Woodland, John Spierings and Trish van Lint who where original stakeholders and instrumental in developing the WYC also gave presentations.

The work of the Transition Brokers was highlighted by the DVD testimonials of past students who had been given

invaluable support and assistance with their future education and career pathways. Melanie Hanlan, The Transition Broker Supervisor, spoke of the impact Transition Brokers have had in this region in reducing retention rates and ensuring young people had clear pathways.

In celebrating 10 years the stakeholders of the Whittlesea Youth Commitment now look to the future, to continue their work in initiating and implementing a diverse range of events and programs to address the needs of young people in the region.





Whittlesea VCAL Cluster Group

The last VCAL Cluster Group meeting was held October 15. The purpose of this meeting was to start the process of developing an Induction Manual for teachers new to VCAL. The format of the manual was refined into sections and those present at the meeting volunteered to draft the content.

The meeting was also attended by John Chiltern, National Training Consultant, Traineeship Advisory Service Australia (TASA), Alan Dalton, Director, Dalburg Traineeship & Apprenticeship Services (DTAS), and Des Latham, Industry Consultant, Sarina Russo Apprenticeship Services, who provided a brief overview of their integrated school-based program.

For further information, please contact Kim Stadtmiller on 9925 7491 or by email kim.stadtmiller@rmit.edu.au

Employment Opportunities Fair

The Youth Employment Opportunities Fair will be held on Thursday, February 19th, 2009 from 11am – 3pm at the Plenty Ranges Arts & Convention Centre, Ferres Boulevard, South Morang.

This event will provide the opportunity for young people to access apprenticeships, traineeships, further study and employment in the local region.

Workshops will be conducted during the event to assist individuals with work readiness and will focus on employability skills, job application and resume writing. Information about Centrelink, Youth Allowance, job network agencies and apprenticeship and traineeship groups will also be available. In 2009, students from local secondary schools will also have the opportunity to explore the option of Australian School-based Apprenticeships (ASbA), and will be encouraged to seek relevant information for planning their own career pathway.

For further information, please contact Kim Stadtmiller by email kim.stadtmiller@rmit.edu.au or 9925 7491.

Whittlesea SRC Cluster Group

The Whittlesea SRC Cluster last met on Monday, November 24 at Kildonan Uniting Care. Stacey Dight, from Epping Secondary College and member of VicSRC Executive, chaired the meeting which was attended by students from Epping Secondary College and Marymede Catholic College.

Peter Sartori, City of Whittlesea Youth Services, provided an interactive training and development session with the group. Peter conducted a number of fun activities to highlight the importance of good communication and team building skills as a means of creating stronger relationships within SRCs. This was followed by a discussion on how the development of these skills could potentially produce more effective outcomes for SRCs working in the schools and as part of the Cluster.

James Tonson, VicSRC Project Officer, came along to observe and contribute to the meeting, and together with Stacey gave an update on the current issues being addressed by the VicSRC Executive.

We would like to congratulate and thank all the SRC representatives and supervising staff in the schools in the Whittlesea region for their commitment and achievements throughout the year. The Whittlesea SRC Cluster continues to be supported by the City of Whittlesea Youth Services, Kildonan Uniting Care, VicSRC and WYC/HWLLLEN, and we look forward to working together again in 2009 to help facilitate another productive year for SRCs in the region.





WYC Community Team

Discussions at the WYC Community Team meeting held October 23rd focussed on the new projects and initiatives highlighted at the Community Team Forum conducted in August. Tim Forster, Youth Resource Officer, Victoria Police, provided an update on one of the programs outlined at the forum: the 'Connectus' program.

Community Team members discussed how Connectus could be modified to link with existing community programs, and identified potential partners within the WYC Community Team. A sub-group has been formed and will meet to continue the planning and development of this model on Monday, December 15th from 10.00am at EDGE, Plenty Valley Shopping Centre, Mill Park.

The next WYC Community Team meeting will be held:

Date: December 11th, 2008
Time: 4.00 - 5.00pm
Venue: RMIT - Bundoora West Campus, Building 202, Level 3, Staff Lounge.

The meeting will be followed by a combined end of year celebration with the WYC Management Committee from 5.00 - 6.00pm.

WYC Community Team dates for 2009 are as follows:

February 12
May 7
July 30
September 10
October 29
December 3



All meetings will be held at RMIT University Bundoora West Campus, Building 202, Level 3, in the Staff Lounge from 4.00 - 5.30pm

For further information, please contact Kim Stadtmiller by email kim.stadtmiller@rmit.edu.au or 9925 7491.

HYC Xmas Drinks

Please come and join us for Xmas Drinks:

Date: Wednesday, 10th December 2008
Time: 2.30pm onwards
Venue: Hume Whittlesea LLEN office
Address: 54-58 Dimboola Rd, Broadmeadows

As a Thank You for your help and support of the Hume Youth Commitment we hope that you will be able to join us on that day.

Please mark this date in your diaries

BHA Education Foundation Sponsored by Martine Vallelonga

Scholarship details: The one year \$1,600 VETiS scholarships are to be made available to current BHA second year Hairdressing and Beauty Students only who wish to:

Continue **their** studies at Beauty & Hair Academy of Australia P/L in 2009

Recipients may include current students who have completed competently the first year of a VETiS vocational program.

Scholarship Funding : Two scholarships of \$1,600 each will be offered for studies undertaken in 2009. Funding is intended for – tuition fees only.

Please contact:

Martine Vallelonga
Beauty & Hair Academy of Australia P/L
Stables Shopping Centre
Shop 92/314 Childs Road
Mill Park Vic 3082
1300 733 917
www.beautyandhairacademy.com.au



HWLLEN **Review and Strategic Planning**

In a review of all LLEN's across Victoria, the HWLLEN has been refunded for the next 3 years. This has meant we have been in the midst of our strategic planning for the next 12 months and 3 year period.

Working closely with the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) the HWLLEN's focus will be on the following 4 goals for young people:

1. Reengagement – with a focus on our most vulnerable young people.
2. Retention
3. Transition
4. Engagement & Retention of Indigenous young people

The HWLLEN's focus is on young people aged 15 – 19 yrs and our key Strategy to deliver these goals is the ongoing and continued development of the Hume and Whittlesea Youth Commitments.

DEECD ON TRACK Survey Data **Northern Metropolitan Region (NMR) 2008**

The 2008 On Track data shows that young people in the northern region on average are doing OK compared to State averages. On Track data tracks young people who have completed school or left school early at the end of 2007.

The NMR had 4592 responses by young people to the survey. Key Data shows that the NMR had a better response rate than the State average for Year 12 completers but a greater number of Early School Leavers (ESL) could not be contacted.

NMR has done slightly better than the State average for both University and VET Cert IV take ups, but is below the state average for young people Looking for Work.

When comparing areas of disadvantage to successful year 12 transitions, NMR is doing better than regional Victoria but is behind the Western region. Given the West is significantly more disadvantaged, perhaps we have to look more closely at some of the work of the Western region and learn how

they are obtaining their outcomes.

Another area to note is that Early School Leavers at Yr 11 and Yr 12 level generally have worse outcomes than early school leavers at Yr 10 level.

For more detailed information about On Track please contact the HWLLEN.

Kangan Batman TAFE – VCAL Success

Kangan Batman TAFE is pleased to announce that 89 students successfully completed VCAL programs this year. This is an incredible achievement given the nature of VCAL requires 1,000 hours of study commitment plus work experience components.

Julie McClimont – VCAL Coordinator felt this achievement was very significant given that for many of the students English is their second language. Kangan Batman TAFE also had a large cohort of students who were refugees 12 months before commencing their course and many students were returning to study after extended absence from education.

Julie McClimont stated that “a large number of students involved in the Give it a Go VCAL, Triple Trade VCAL and Automotive VCAL also successfully went into apprenticeships at the end of their course. Kangan staff really enjoyed the VCAL graduation ceremony which took place Wednesday this week, where students were able to showcase their talents and celebrate with their family members and staff, their achievements for the year”.

Kangan Batman TAFE also had their English as a Second Language (ESL) VCAL students working in partnership with Broadmeadows Special School to complete a sandpit for senior students at the school. The sandpit was opened last month. Broadmeadows SDS assistant principal Megan Adams said “it resulted in firm friendships and greater understanding. Two TAFE students are now doing work experience at the school”. The project was a joint initiative with Kangan Batman TAFE ESL VCAL Students, Career Connections Local Community Partnerships and Broadmeadows SDS. The Holland Foundation donated \$1,000 toward the sandpit materials.



Industry Links Mentoring Program

In 2008, Roxburgh College piloted a new and innovative Industry Mentoring program, called Industry Links. The purpose of the program was to link industry mentors with Year 11 students to develop a mentoring relationship to enable students to better understand the various industry pathways available to them, recognise transferable skills developed in all industries and to provide an industry exposure to students so that their transition to further education and training was meaningful and appropriate to their needs.

Developed as a partnership under the Hume Youth Commitment, Industry Links was supported by Career Connections – Local Community Partnerships, the Hume Whittlesea Local Learning and Employment Network and Roxburgh College. Other community agencies have also expressed interest in becoming a part of the program in 2009.

Industry Links commenced in April and had most visits finished by September 2008. Students and mentors met with each other up to 4 times for the year. Students visit the mentor in their workplace twice per year and mentors visit with their student at school once during the year with the final visit being a celebration of achievements on the program.

This year's celebration is due to take place on December 2nd 2008 after students have completed their end of year exams.

What is mentoring and what does the mentor do?

Mentoring is the development of a relationship where experienced industry people help young people achieve their career goals. Industry Links helps the mentors to make a connection and then uses that connection to convey a positive message about the specific industry and appropriate pathways. The mentor is a significant adult who models, assists and advises the young person on career pathways, educational success and industry connection to improve the student's understanding of career opportunities.

In 2008 we had over 20 students show interest in the program, with 12 completing visits with their mentors. Over 20 mentors applied for the program, but we were only able to match up 12 mentors, so the goal of the program in 2009 is to get all of our mentors actively matched.

Mentors come from all different parts of the community. In 2008

we had mentors from the Vic Police, Fawkner Leisure Centre, Dallas Neighbourhood House, Kangan Batman TAFE – Building, Fashion, Hospitality, Media Relations, University of Melbourne – Department of Pathology, a Meadow Heights VET & Dianella Community Health, with a number of other community agencies represented but not matched.

Mentors and Students alike were very positive about their matches, with all matched mentors wanting to return to the program in 2009.

In 2009 it is hoped to expand the program to include young people from different community agencies as well as other interested schools. Roxburgh College will again be participating.

To be a mentor on the program we are looking for: Industry personnel who would like to be involved in the career development of young people. You need:-

- To have good listening skills
- To be able to relate to young people
- To be willing to share knowledge and life experiences
- To be a good match with students' interests.

What is the time commitment?

The program is based on 2 visits to your workplace and 2 visits to the college throughout the year. In addition, there will be phone and email contact in between each visit.

Industry Links will commence in April 2009 and finish in September 2009.

What are the benefits of being an industry mentor?

- Helping young people set goals and work towards achieving those goals.
- Playing an active leading role in young adults' career development and pathway.
- Recognition of your contribution and involvement in the program

To find out more information or become involved in the program in 2009 please contact:

Nicky Leitch HWLLEN Pathways Development Officer on 9309 7444 or nicky.l@hwllen.com.au or Neil Laws Careers Teacher Roxburgh College on 9930 8100 or laws.neil.n@edumail.vic.gov.au



Trade Training Centre in Schools Program development in Hume Whittlesea

Hume Whittlesea LLEN has been involved in the development of two partnerships that have formed to submit Expressions of Interest (EOIs) in the current round of the Federal Government's Trade Training Centres in Schools Program. This program provides a potential \$1,500,000 per school to develop facilities that give young people greater access to trade-based pathways in skill shortage areas. In the Northern Metropolitan Region of the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) schools have been encouraged to build on existing partnerships to submit joint local EOIs that provide pathways into trades in areas where these opportunities are not readily available.

Hume Whittlesea LLEN has been pleased to work with school/industry/community partnerships in both Sunbury and Southern Whittlesea that have seen EOIs from these areas submitted to DEECD's Northern Metropolitan Region last week. If these EOIs are successful they will be developed into detailed applications over the next six months.

For further details contact Bill Threlfall on 9309 8155 or bill.t@hwllen.com.au

Hume Whittlesea LLEN

Project Team

Bill Threlfall
Executive Officer
Ph: 9309 8155
bill.t@hwllen.com.au

Nicky Leitch
Pathways Development Officer
(Hume)
Ph: 9309 7444
nicky.l@hwllen.com.au

Lucy Thornton
Pathways Development Officer
(Whittlesea)
Ph: 9925 7569
lucy.thornton@rmit.edu.au

Hulya Kazanaksu
Administrative Officer
Ph: 9309 5500
hulya.k@hwllen.com.au

Kate Symons
Special Projects Officer
Ph: 9925 7569
kate.symons@rmit.edu.au

Kim Stadtmiller
Pathways Development Officer
(Whittlesea)
Ph: 9925 7491
kim.stadtmiller@rmit.edu.au