

# 2022 ANNUAL REPORT





## OUR VISION

Supporting young people to succeed.



## OUR CORE OBJECTIVE

To improve participation, engagement, attainment and transition outcomes for young people 10-19 years of age



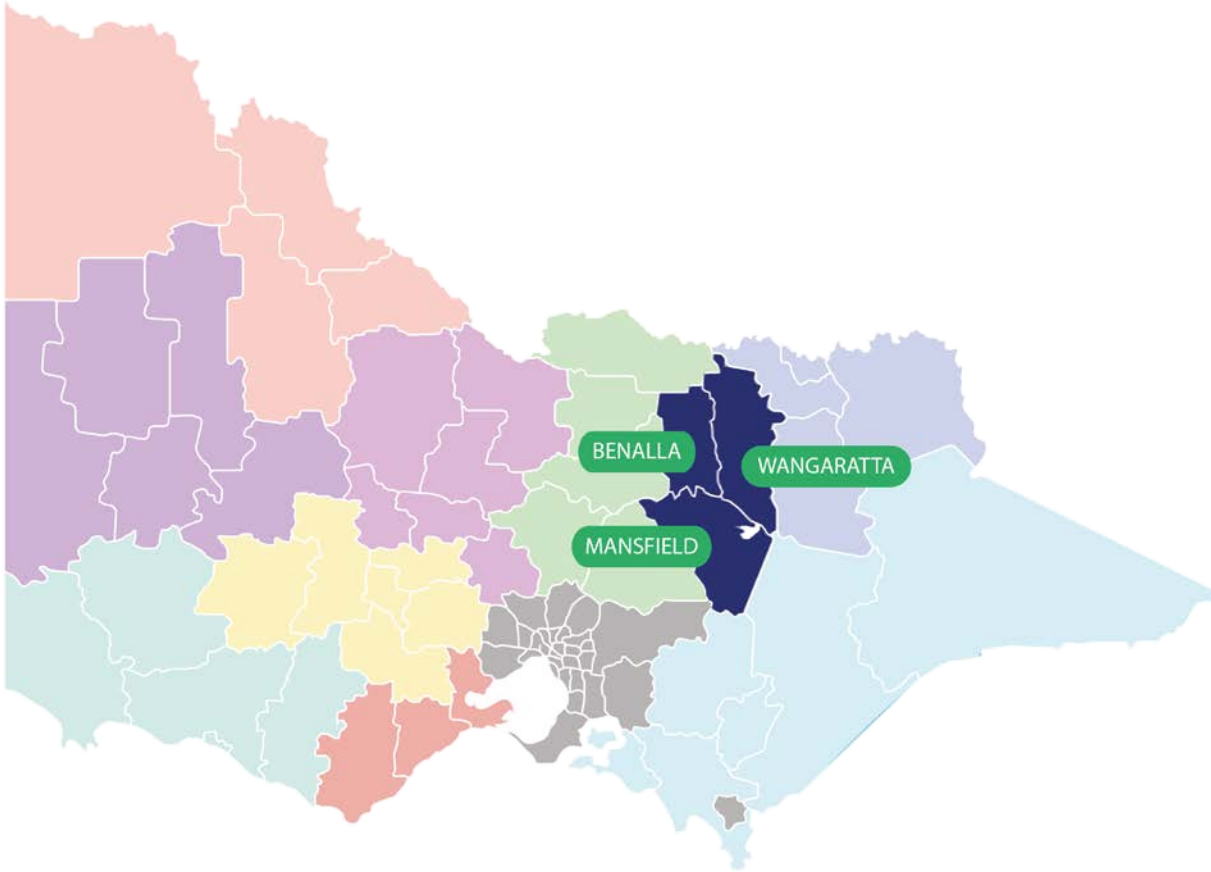
## COMMUNITIES OF FOCUS

NE Tracks LLEN works across the Local Government areas of Wangaratta, Benalla and Mansfield.

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# OUR LLEN WORKS IN THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS OF WANGARATTA, BENALLA & MANSFIELD



# NE TRACKS STAFF

- 2022 -



**DANNY O'DONOGHUE**  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER



**SHANE CRISPIN**  
STRUCTURED WORKPLACE  
LEARNING COORDINATOR



**ANNE SHAW**  
WANGARATTA PARTNERSHIPS  
COORDINATOR



**AMANDA ALDOUS**  
WANGARATTA DIGITAL HUB  
COORDINATOR

# CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

As I complete my seventh year on NE TRACKS LLEN Board and my fourth as Chair. I am extremely honoured to present the 2022 Annual Report.

We, like many organisations undertook lots of challenges during the year as this was the last year of the department contract but also the local area was coming out of the pandemic at varying stages of engagement and requiring differing support.

I would like to express my gratitude to all our members and stakeholders for your support over the past twelve months. We have been lucky enough to be offered a new School to Work contract to continue our services to local schools, businesses, and other stakeholders for another 3 years which started Jan 2023.

We also offer our thanks to Danny O'Donoghue, our Executive Officer who has provided our organisation with outstanding leadership and collaboration skills for over 20 years with the NE TRACKS Board and as Executive Officer for the past 8 years. At the end of 2022 we saw Danny retire to enjoy his time gardening, reading and his favourite pastime being spent with his grandkids. Danny has been a constant with LLEN networks and stakeholders and I am very appreciative of the support he has provide me in my time as Chair.

My thanks also to incoming CEO Tim Oliver who has come into a new role with staff changes and new contracts but when we recruited Tim we knew his skills would see NE TRACKS LLEN maintain and grow in our communities.

To my fellow Board Members, I would like to thank you all for the hard work you have done over the past 12 months to ensure NE TRACKS maintains momentum and delivers for the youth of our growing and ever changing communities. We look forward to continued growth in terms of the Board's skills and diversity into the future. Special thanks to our Deputy Chair Sally Matheson and Treasurer Dennis O'Callaghan for your ongoing support.

The 2022 Annual Report shows some outstanding initiatives that Danny and the staff have either led or contributed to throughout 2022. I look forward to seeing the development of new partnerships and strengthening of current ones driven by our new staff in 2023 and long into the future.

Ben Watts  
*Chairperson*



**BEN WATTS**  
Chairperson



# EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

What a fantastic time to join NE Tracks LLEN as the new CEO! With a new 3 year School to Work contract from January 2023 and staff renewal afoot as we farewelled Shane Crispin (October 2022), Danny O'Donoghue (retired December 2022) and Anne Shaw (retiring March 2023).

Danny, Shane and Anne leave the organisation in great shape with new team members starting in March 2023 – Program Coordinators Annette Borradale (Benalla & Mansfield) & Mel Elliott (Wangaratta). Jo Craig is also set to return to the administration role after a period of extended leave through 2022.

A year of consolidation is planned, allowing for focus on delivering placement opportunities for work experience, supported workplace learning and school based apprenticeships in Mansfield, Benalla & Wangaratta.

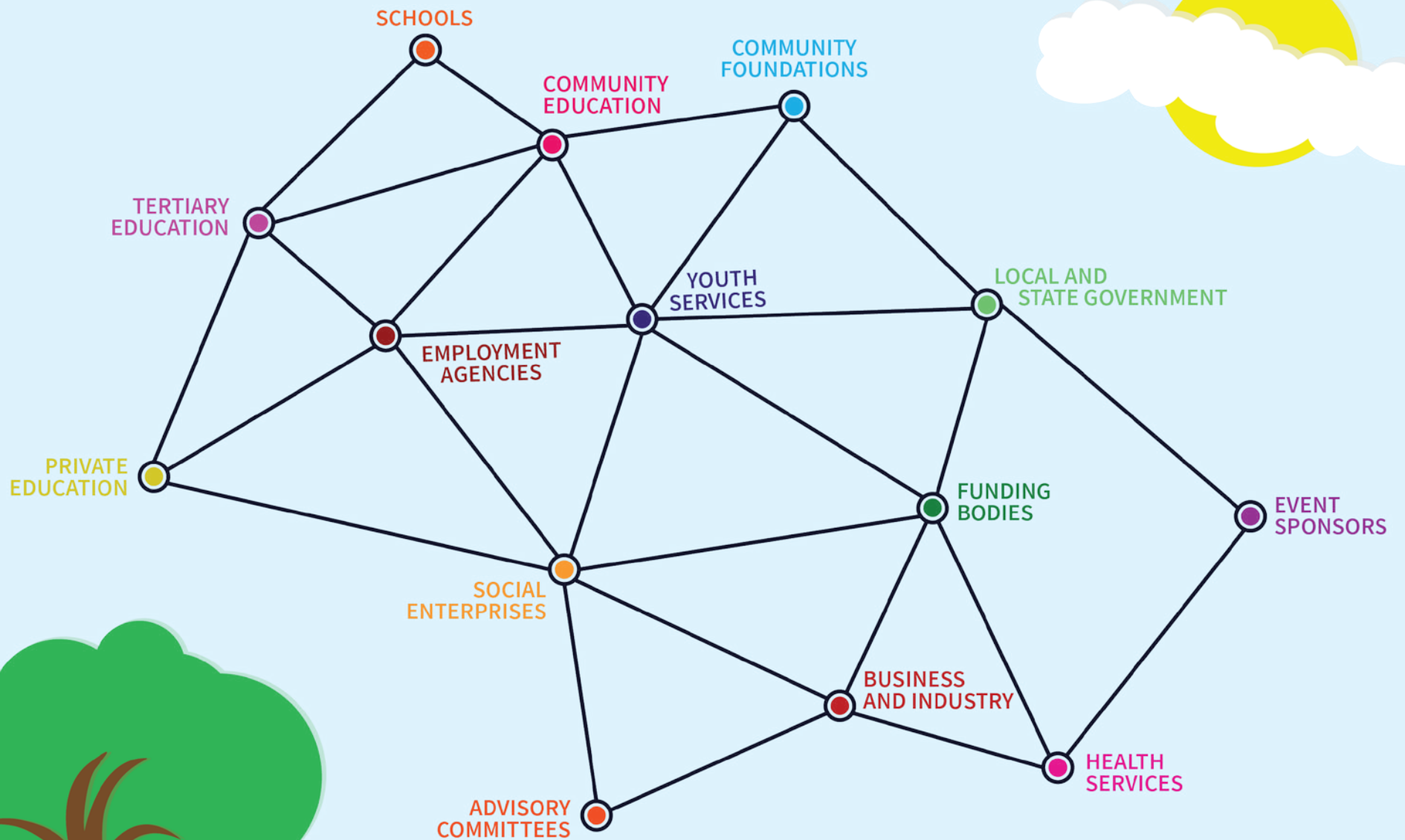
Our major events will be back in 2023:

- Food & Fibre Careers Day (26 May 2023)
- NE Health Careers Forum (02 August 2023)
- Hands on Trade Careers Expo (10 August 2023)
- The Culinary Challenge and a few more.

Tim Oliver  
CEO



**TIM OLIVER**  
Chief Executive Officer



# OUR NETWORK & PARTNERS



# OUR ACTIVITIES



## FOOD AND FIBRE CAREERS DAY



The annual Food and Fibre Careers Day held at the University of Melbourne's Dookie campus is highly regarded by students, teachers and parents as a showcase of the multiple career and pathway options in 21st century agriculture, and it is now an established event on the regional careers calendar.

The 2022 Food and Fibre Careers Day, held on 27 May, was attended by 380 Year 9 to 12 students from North East and Goulburn Valley schools, the largest ever attendance.

A diverse range of interactive, hands-on workshops featuring careers in agriculture, environment, regional industries and science were delivered by academics, industry representatives and rural leaders.

Workshop options included: genetics, sheep and wool, hydroponics, veterinary technology, climate challenges, transport, tractors and technology, Internet of Things (IOT) and farm automation, dairy, robotics, agribusiness careers panel, equine, beef industry, indigenous foods, agtech in horticulture, agtech innovation, bees, environmental science, geo spatial science, water industry and viticulture.

The keenly contested Young Farmers Challenge was held during the lunch break with school teams competing in a

series of farm based challenges. Cathedral College from Wangaratta took home the 2022 perpetual trophy. Warwick Long from ABC Radio attended the event and recorded a number of interviews with students and presenters for a live broadcast on the ABC Country Hour.

The Food and Fibre Careers Day is planned and delivered by an established partnership of 15 local organisations, including representatives from 3 LLENs, local councils, TAFE's, universities, Agriculture Victoria, careers networks, industry and community.

The Food and Fibre Planning Group were awarded as semi-finalists in the 2021 Victorian Community Achievement Awards – Community Education section.

For more information, visit:  
[www.foodandfibrecareers.com.au](http://www.foodandfibrecareers.com.au).



# OUR ACTIVITIES CONT.



## DTAC WANGARATTA: GIRLS IN ENGINEERING & SPACECRAFT EXPLORATION CHALLENGE



NE TRACKS LLEN is a founding member and coordinator of the Digital Technology Advisory Committee (DTAC Wangaratta). Members include teachers, and industry and community representatives. The aim of DTAC is to increase the capacity of digital literacy and STEM knowledge, skills and career opportunities in the Wangaratta region.

In 2022, DTAC initiated two new projects:

### **Girls in Engineering**

A 6 week after school program for Year 10 and 11 students provided a real world experience of engineering, and equipped students with skills in problem solving, teamwork, programming and robotics. Students built and programmed a VEX Workcell Kit, met face to face with female role models from the local engineering sector, and participated in virtual Q & A sessions with national and international guest presenters. Partnerships included: Ford Australia, VEX Robotics International, Connex Group, KBR Engineering Company. A second Girls in Engineering event is planned and the students from the initial event have volunteered to mentor the next cohort of students.

### **SpaceCRAFT Exploration Challenge**

DTAC sponsored 15 students from across the North East region to participate in this 6 day school holiday global event – 160 students from across the world were part of the program. Space Teams International delivered a collaborative space system virtual program. The trainee

astronauts conducted a human space exploration mission that included building their own spacecraft, travelling across the vast expanses of space and creating their own off-world habitat. Each day they were set a challenge, each one building on the knowledge and skills learnt in the previous day's challenge. Guest speakers, including NASA astronauts, scientists and engineers were available to directly answer questions from students. Topics included planetary science, spacecraft systems, orbital mechanics and robotic exploration.





# NE HEALTH CAREERS FORUM

After a two year absence the NE Health Careers Forum came back to life in 2022 at the Regional Study Centre in Wangaratta. The day was attended by 120 secondary students from 10 North East secondary schools. Students were able to choose from over 28 different health career workshops including general nursing, mental health, general practice, midwifery, social work, allied health, nutrition, aged care, physiotherapy, research & clinical trials, simulation lab.

A highlight for students was a demonstration of simulated scenario involving a patient who had a bike accident, highlighting to young people the full breadth of the careers available and how teams work together to care for patients along their medical journey.

Medical students presented a Q&A panel session focussing on their health learning pathways. Students also had the opportunity to speak to health sector exhibitors during the day.

The organisers: Charles Sturt University, NE Tracks LLEN, Gateway Health and Northeast Health Wangaratta were pleased that 45 health career professionals, including several medical students, generously donated their time to support this event. Sponsorship for bus travel and event catering was provided by the Rural City of Wangaratta.



## MURRAY RIVER CULINARY CHALLENGE: ASPIRING CHEFS GO HEAD TO HEAD

On the border of the Murray River, regional students have channelled their inner MasterChef as they compete in the annual Murray River Culinary Challenge.

The Murray River Culinary Challenge is an industry-standard cooking competition for secondary school students enrolled in a Vocational Education and Training (VET) Hospitality Training Package. The Challenge spans five regions and involves more than 180 students attending 23 schools.

At the school level, students compete individually to vie for a spot in the Regional Final. The two top scoring students from each school are paired and compete as a team in the Regional Final, the top scoring team then progressing to the Grand Final. Menus in each level of the competition become progressively more difficult and are designed for students to be able to demonstrate skills learnt during their hospitality training.

The competition is judged by top industry representatives from the region who donate their time and expertise and is sponsored by Cobram Estate Olive Oil and Murray River Salt.

# OUR ACTIVITIES CONT.



WANGARATTA  
DIGITAL  
HUB

## WANGARATTA DIGITAL HUB



The Wangaratta Digital Hub was first established in 2019 to build digital inclusion and foster digital innovation in our rural communities. The Digital Hub project, auspiced by NE TRACKS LLEN, was funded by the Victorian State Government for three years.

During the 3 years, the Wangaratta Digital Hub was recognised for:

- providing a place to access affordable advice, skills, community networks and support with the use of digital technologies
- offering a range of programs for students, community, business and the digital workforce
- increasing digital inclusion, particularly during Covid 19
- establishing strong local partnerships to increase digital inclusion.

Programs specifically designed and delivered for young people include:

- **Robotics Club** - students from local Wangaratta & rural schools build their own robots
- **Battlebots Comps** – in conjunction with GOTAFE Innovation Hub
- **Tech Ready** – GOTAFE students accessed tech industry site visits
- **Coding Club** – primary students working with local coding developers and Junior Engineers Australia
- **Digital Resources Library for schools** – free class sets available for loan to local primary and secondary schools
- **Girl in STEM Girl Power workshops** - Grade 5 to Year 11 students networking event with local STEM mentors

- **Robot Kids** – in conjunction with Wangaratta Toy Library
- **Community sessions** showcasing robotic activities
- **OzGrav Astrophysics** Schools Workshop
- **Wangaratta Library School Holiday Digital Programs** using Digital Resources Library devices
- **Girls in Engineering** workshops

Projects delivered by the Wangaratta Digital Hub included:

- **iManage My Health** - delivered in partnership with North East Health Wangaratta to support people with chronic disease to understand and successfully manage digital self monitoring devices
- **Creative Animated Workforce Training Resource** delivered in partnership with Merriwa Industries and Somebody's Daughter Theatre Company. Young people living with disabilities learnt animation skills and created digital resources used for training employees of all abilities.

The 3 year funding cycle ended in 2022. As a result of the success of the Wangaratta Digital Hub and the widely recognised need for continued digital upskilling across the community, NE TRACKS LLEN and the Rural City of Wangaratta advocated for further funding to ensure the continuation of the Digital Hub. The application for funding was successful and from January 2023 the Rural City of Wangaratta will take on the operation of the Wangaratta Digital Hub and continue to offer accessible and affordable digital technology services and opportunities for digital inclusion and innovation to a broad group of community and business users.

# HANDS ON TRADE CAREERS EXPO



Another successful Hands on Trade Careers Expo was conducted on May 5, 2022. NE TRACKS LLEN received grants from The Funding Network's "Pitch Up" and Winton Solar Farm Community Grants Program enabling us to expand and enhance the activities available to students on the day.

- 1,320 Students attended
- 78 Students from Specialist Schools
- 90 Home Schooling Network students
- 75 Indigenous Students participated
- 38 Schools involved
- 36 Student Event Placements
- Event hospitality training for 24 Students
- 58 Exhibitors engaged young people
- 40 Different Trades on display
- 230 guests attended Business Networking Lunch
- Women In Trades Lunch Panel
- 8 Employers hosted Event Placements
- Emergency Service & Social Enterprise & Women In Trades Hubs participated
- Free transport provided for 950 students
- Covid & All Abilities infrastructure provided



## FEATURED PARTNER & PROJECT



### SOCIAL ENTERPRISE SCHOOLS - A PARTNERSHIP

NE TRACKS LLEN's strategic business model has for some time been based on developing partnerships with organisations and/or people external to schools who can contribute to raising the generic skills and aspirations of young people as they progress through the education system.

The Social Enterprise Schools program is a practical, student led experience that develops citizenship and enterprise capabilities.

It empowers young people by equipping them with skills and knowledge to drive their own futures in the world of work. Through the process of establishing their own enterprise, students develop the mindset and behaviours they will need beyond the school gate.

2022 saw the long term partnership with the Australian Centre for Rural Enterprise (ACRE) who have developed and deliver the Social Enterprise Schools program raised to new heights as more and more schools and hence students embraced the concept of the Social Enterprise Schools program. I wish ACRE every success in the future.

[www.acre.org.au](http://www.acre.org.au)



**Danny O'Donoghue**  
Former NE TRACKS LLEN EO



# OUR ACTIVITIES CONT.

## ZONTA WANGARATTA STUDENT CAREER BREAKFAST



The 16th International Women's Day Career Breakfast was held on Thursday 10th March at the Gateway Quality Inn, Wangaratta. All secondary schools in the Wangaratta LGA were invited, with around 70 female students in attendance. They were accompanied by teachers, mentors, other guests and ZONTA members.

Three guest speakers addressed the group;

- **Zoe Ievenieks**  
*HR Advisor for Uniting Care (Victoria and Tasmania)*
- **Detective Senior Constable Eliza McMonigle**  
*(Victoria Police)*
- **Dr Samantha Regora**  
*(Medical Doctor)*

Each gave a wonderful insight to their individual career paths. This event saw an increased number of students with an interest in the sciences and specifically health care. Everything from nursing, doctors, allied health and research.

NE Tracks LLEN sponsored the event and looks forward to a larger group of girls coming through next year. The ZONTA committee are also planning the Inaugural Boys Breakfast in 2023.

## NE TRACKS LLEN 2022 AWARD



## CONGRATULATIONS

*Alicia Rowe*

Alicia Rowe from Mansfield Secondary College was the proud recipient of the 2022 NE Tracks LLEN Award for the best School Based Trainee at Mansfield Secondary College.





# OUT & ABOUT



Pictured above: Animation Launch at Merriwa, Wangaratta



Pictured above: NE Health Careers Forum 2022



Pictured above: Hands on Trade Careers Expo 2022

## WORD FROM THE STREET!

“Great to see so many engaged young people.”  
(Exhibitor)

“Awesome day for kids to see what the future could hold for them.”  
(Careers Teacher)

“The support we received enabled so many more young people to see what they can be.”  
(Shane Crispin NE TRACKS LLEN)

“Thank you for allowing us to attend the Expo. I thought I would let you know that my daughter now has a pathway for moving forward with her career and a timeline for what she needs to do to get there.”  
(Parent)

“It was so cool to see all these opportunities.”  
(Student)

“It was really fun to go to something after years in isolation really is a once in a lifetime opportunity.”  
(Student)

“I would definitely employ these hospitality students.”  
(Hospitality Trainer/ Employer)

# BOARD OF MANAGEMENT



**BEN WATTS**  
CHAIRPERSON  
2019 - Present  
[MEMBER SINCE 2016]

THE PERSONNEL  
GROUP



**SALLY MATHESON**  
DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON  
2020 - Present  
[MEMBER SINCE 2018]

TOMORROW TODAY  
FOUNDATION



**DENIS O'CALLAGHAN**  
TREASURER  
2011 - Present  
[MEMBER SINCE 2002]

GORDON  
LEGAL



**LOUISE PEARCE**  
*Chairperson 2014-2019*  
[MEMBER SINCE 2011]

VICTORIAN  
SKILLS AUTHORITY



**BARBARA ALEXANDER**  
MEMBER FROM 2012 - 2013  
2016 - PRESENT

COMMUNITY MEMBER



**KERRY STRAUCH**  
JOINED 2020

THE CENTRE



**STEVE PICKERING**  
JOINED 2020

DEP. EDUCATION  
& TRAINING



**GAIL O'BRIEN**  
JOINED 2021

BENALLA  
RURAL CITY

# MEMBERS STATEMENT

## NE TRACKS LOCAL LEARNING AND EMPLOYMENT NETWORK INCORPORATED

ABN: 18 598 926 337

### COMMITTEE REPORT

Your Committee Members present this report on the association for the financial year ended 31st December 2022.

The names of each person who has been a committee member during the year are:

Benjamin Watts

**Chairperson** - Committee of Management,  
Administration Working Party

Sally Matheson  
Denis O'Callaghan

**Deputy Chairperson** - Committee of Management,  
**Treasurer** - Committee of Management,  
Administration Working Party

Louise Pearce  
Barbara Alexander  
Kerry Strauch  
Steve Pickering  
Gail O'Brien

(Resigned – December 2022)

#### PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

The principal activities of the association during the financial year were to develop and maintain community partnerships for the purpose of supporting young people with learning and employment opportunities.

#### OPERATING RESULT

The surplus/(deficit) for 2022 amounted to \$31,253



# AUDITED FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR 2022

The following Financial Report -Statement of Financial Position &  
Detailed Profit & Loss have been prepared by our

**AUDITORS:**

**Goulburn Murray Audit Services,**  
a Division of Stubbs Wallace,  
160 Welsford Street, Shepparton VIC 3630



## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As at 31st December 2022

	2022	2021
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	281,002	240,637
Receivables	45,289	398,501
Other Assets	0	249
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>326,291</b>	<b>639,387</b>
<b>Non Current Assets</b>		
Property, Plant & Equipment	0	2,519
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>326,291</b>	<b>641,906</b>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Trade & Other Payables	23,594	67,023
Grants in Advance	111,316	382,531
Provision for Employee Entitlements	6,664	11,675
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>141,574</b>	<b>461,229</b>
Provision for Employee Entitlements	0	26,963
<b>NON CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	0	26,963
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>141,574</b>	<b>488,192</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>184,717</b>	<b>153,714</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>		
Retained Earnings	153,463	107,987
Reserves	31,253	45,727
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>184,716</b>	<b>153,714</b>

## DETAILED PROFIT & LOSS

For the year ended 31 December 2022

	2022	2021
<b>INCOME</b>		
Department of Education & Training Funding	494,066	405,568
Interest Income	777	35
Other Income	50,967	251,617
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>545,810</b>	<b>657,220</b>
<b>LESS OPERATING EXPENSES</b>		
Legal, Accounting & Audit Fees	6,440	3,450
Promotion Expenses	1,900	3,347
Communication Expenses	7,339	7,193
Fees & Charges	6,555	4,596
Insurance	1,569	871
Depreciation	2,519	7,128
Consumables	17,886	15,199
Travel & Motor Vehicle Expenses	24,484	18,093
Project Expenses	102,187	70,335
Rent	22,155	23,288
Salaries & Wages	275,799	359,557
Superannuation	30,691	33,147
Other Employment Related Expenses	4,360	6,832
Staff Development	545	170
Sundry Expenses	29,626	60,764
Maintenance	14	156
Catering	5,680	1,525
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>539,749</b>	<b>615,652</b>
<b>Net Profit/Loss (-)</b>	<b>31,253</b>	<b>41,569</b>



[WWW.NETRACKSLLEN.ORG.AU](http://WWW.NETRACKSLLEN.ORG.AU)

### CONTACT DETAILS

**NE Tracks LLEN**

85 Nunn Street BENALLA 3672

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**Chief Executive Officer:** [ceo@netrackslLEN.org.au](mailto:ceo@netrackslLEN.org.au)