



ANNUAL REPORT 2024



www.netrackslen.org.au



TABLE OF CONTENTS

01	Our Vision, Goal & Focus
02	Our Catchment
03	Our Committee of Management
04	Meet our Team
05	Chairperson & CEO Report
6-7	LLEN by Numbers
08	Student Achievement Awards - Benalla & Mansfield
09	Student Achievement Awards - Wangaratta
10	Food and Fibre Careers Day
11	Hands on Trades Career Expo
12	Local Government Career Expo
13	Hands on Coffee
14	Zonta Student Breakfasts
15	NE Tracks LLEN in the News
16	NE Tracks LLEN in the News
17	Case Study - Ruby Holland & Wangaratta Pump Shop
18	Case Study - Hands on Coffee
19	Case Study - Interview 2 Impress
20	Case Study - Schneiders
21	Event Sponsors
22	Member Statement of Attainment 2024
23	Appendix 1 - Financial Reports 2024



Local Learning and Employment Networks (LLENs) are independent, not-for-profit organisations that support employers, local education and training providers, businesses, industry groups and community agencies to connect with schools.

NE Tracks LLEN is funded by the Department of Education and is one of 31 LLENs operating in Victoria.

OUR VISION

All youth in our communities are successfully engaged in education, training and employment.

OUR GOAL

To support secondary school students within our geographical boundaries by ensuring they have clear connections to the world of work and access to school to work activities that increase their awareness of local career pathways.

OUR FOCUS

Creating area based strategic and sustainable partnerships that improve education and transition outcomes and build career aspirations for young people in secondary school.



Department
of Education



OUR CATCHMENT



Schools in the NE Tracks LLEN Catchment

Benalla

Australian Christian College Hume
Principal – Sam Woods

Benalla Flexible Learning Centre
Acting Principal – Sharee Fisher

Benalla P-12 College
Principal – Kylie Cotter

EdSpace Education and Training Centre
Principal – Lise Ravn

FCJ College – Benalla
Principal – Shaun Mason

Mansfield

Mansfield Secondary College
Principal – Tim Hall

Wangaratta

Borinya Wangaratta Community Partnership
Principal – Eamonn Buckley

Cathedral College Wangaratta
Principal – Nick Jones

Galen Catholic College
Principal – Darta Hovey

Wangaratta District Specialist School
Principal – Alysha Jackson

Wangaratta High School
Principal – Dave Armstrong

OUR COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT



Ben Watts

Chairperson
2019 - present
VMCH
Member since 2016



Sally Matheson

Deputy Chairperson
2020 - present
Tomorrow Today
Foundation
Member since 2018



Denis O'Callaghan

Treasurer
2011 - present
Gordon Legal
Member since 2002



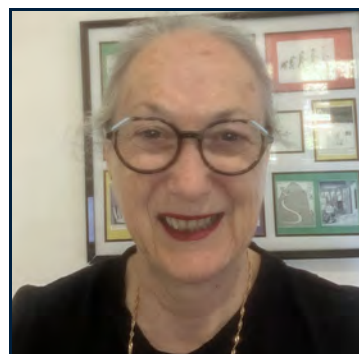
Steve Pickering

Member
2020 - present
Department of
Education



Louise Pearce

Member
2011 - present
Victoria Skills Authority



Kerry Strauch

Member
Aug 2024 - present
K.E.S & Associates



Gail O'Brien

Member
2021 - Resigned Dec 2024
Benalla Rural City
Councillor

OUR TEAM



Tim Oliver
CEO



Mel Elliott
PROGRAM
COORDINATOR



Annette Borradaile
PROGRAM
COORDINATOR



Chairperson & CEO Report



Ben Watts
CHAIRPERSON



Tim Oliver
CEO NE TRACKS LLEN

At the heart of NE Tracks LLEN activities is the implementation of the School to Work program for the Victorian Education Department. We aid senior secondary students from the Local Government Areas of Wangaratta, Benalla, and Mansfield to connect with local business and industry as they create pathways toward further education, training, and ultimately, careers.

Students receive support to interact with local employers, which included:

- Participation in major career events such as: Hands On Trades Career Expo at Winton Motor Raceway, Food & Fibre Careers Day at Melbourne University Campus Dookie, Local Government Career Expo for The Rural City of Wangaratta.
- Work-based learning opportunities through: Work Experience placements, Structured Workplace Learning, School-Based Apprenticeships and Traineeships.
- Capacity-building activities such as: Workplace visits, Networking opportunities, Guest speaker sessions, Workshops on employment rights and responsibilities, Resume reviews and Mock interviews.

In response to the demands of local hospitality businesses, a new initiative – HANDS on COFFEE was launched. This project enabled students from Wangaratta and Benalla to complete work experience placements and training at eight cafes, earning food handling certificates and becoming job-ready to fill positions during peak visitor seasons and around school commitments.

This year, the VET Delivered in Secondary Schools (VDSS) program saw a notable increase in student enrolments, aligning students with education and training to enhance the pool of work-ready recruits for local business and industry. NE Tracks LLEN coordinated transport solutions through the state government funded Transport Fund which saw students from across the region transported to and from VDSS courses delivered at both GOTAFE campuses in Wangaratta.

Significant strides were also made in 2024 toward the establishment of an Ovens Murray VET Cluster. NE Tracks LLEN collaborated with NELLEN and regional Education Department staff, preparing for implementation in early 2025.

The success of our program delivery relies on the support and engagement with local business and industry owners and managers, providing opportunities for students to learn more about the jobs, careers and training pathways available as they plan their move from school to work.

It's up to all of us to make sure students know about the work and training opportunities that exist in our region. By opening our doors and sharing what goes on in each and every industry sector and business, large and small, we will attract and grow the local workforce necessary for our community to prosper.

THE LLEN BY NUMBERS

SCHOOL TO WORK PLACEMENTS



244
**Work
Experience**



Year 9-10 Students attend a workplace (usually 5 days duration) to observe and participate in entry-level tasks that don't require extensive or specialist skills or training



10
**Structured
Workplace
Learning**



Year 10+ Students attend a workplace for on-the-job training to master a set of skills and competencies. SBAT's*
Year 10+ Students engage at work in on-the-job training as part of an accredited VET course over one or more years while completing their studies at school



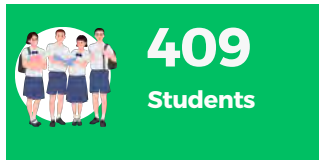
10
**School Based
Apprenticeships
& Traineeships
(SBAT'S)**



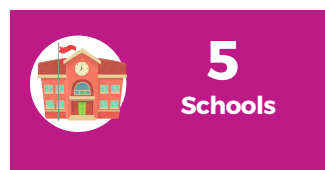
A school-based apprenticeship or traineeship (SBAT) gives a student paid on-the-job training while they complete secondary school.

THE LLEN BY NUMBERS

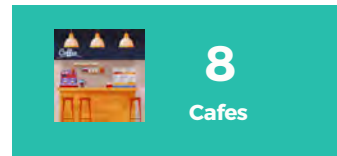
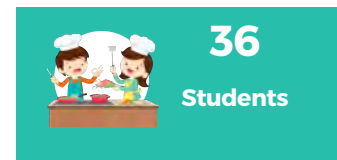
FOOD & FIBRE CAREERS DAY



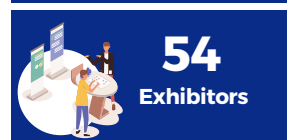
LOCAL GOVERNMENT CAREERS EXPO



HANDS ON COFFEE



HANDS ON TRADES CAREER EXPO



NE TRACKS LLEN STAFF COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS



BUILDING STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

*NE Tracks LLEN coordinates students from non-government schools & Headstart in government schools.



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS BENALLA & MANSFIELD

NE Tracks LLEN sponsored a Student Achievement Award at each of the secondary schools.
Congratulations to all of the award recipients for 2024!

Keely Williams

Benalla Flexible
Learning Centre



Asher Tobias

Benalla Flexible
Learning Centre



Kendra Hill

Benalla Flexible
Learning Centre



Natalia Parker

Benalla Flexible
Learning Centre



Alexander Davyd

Mansfield Secondary College



Mansfield Secondary College



Alirah Pollard

Benalla P-12

Rachel Richards

Australian Christian College Hume



Xavier Kerr

FCJ Benalla





STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS WANGARATTA

NE Tracks LLEN sponsored a Student Achievement Award at each of the secondary schools.
Congratulations to all of the award recipients for 2024!



Alice Vincent

Cathedral
College



Noah Sacco

Wangaratta High
School



Jaxson McClellan

Galen Catholic
College



Kaden Klupfel

Wangaratta District
Specialist School



Ruby Holland

Inspirational
Leadership Award
Borinya Wangaratta
Community
Partnership



Patty Dobbyn

Borinya Wangaratta
Community
Partnership



FOOD & FIBRE CAREERS DAY

The annual Food & Fibre Careers Day at the University of Melbourne Campus, Dookie was first held in 2014. Around 40 students attended the inaugural event.

In 2024, the event attracted over 400 students from Years 9 to 12, coming from as far afield as Wodonga, Beechworth, Shepparton, Cohuna, and of course all of the secondary schools in Benalla and Wangaratta attended.

Students selected any 4 workshops to attend from the 23 available throughout the day.

Workshops included Bees, Tractor Coding, Beef and Dairy, Plants in Space, Pigs, Viticulture, Horticulture to name a few.



foodandfibrescareers.com.au

GOLD SPONSOR

gotafe

RTO 3094

SILVER SPONSOR

KINROSS  FARMS

GREATER
SHEPPARTON



Rural City of
Wangaratta

BENALLA

RURAL CITY

**SCHOOL
TO WORK**



Charles Sturt
University



NE Tracks LLEN signature event is the annual Hands on Trades Career Expo (HOTCE). The Expo welcomes students from Year 9 – 12 from government, independent, catholic and specialist schools, to sample a wide variety of different trades and roles within business and industry, local, statewide and nationally.

This year, 54 Exhibitors provided a Hands On activity for students to experience. Local businesses also present opportunities for follow up visits where students are able to see more of what goes on as they learn even more about career options and pathways. Engagement is high as student's think about future career choices leading to retention of youth in our region and sustainability for local industry; large and small.



As part of HOTCE, the Business Networking Lunch brought together exhibitors, school leaders, government officials, community organisations, and potential new exhibitors. Our gold sponsor **GOTAFE** and guest speakers highlighted opportunities for local students, while hospitality students showcased their skills by catering the event. This lunch strengthened connections, celebrated community collaboration, and reinforced support for the region's future workforce.

The Hands on Trades Career Expo 2025 is gearing up to be our most exciting and expansive event yet!

With growing interest from new sponsors and plans in motion to welcome a growing list of new exhibitors, this year's event promises even more opportunities for students to explore Hands On activities as they plan their first career steps.



LOCAL GOVERNMENT CAREERS EXPO



The Rural City of Wangaratta (RCoW) successfully hosted their Local Government Careers Expo, supported by NE Tracks LLEN at Galen Catholic College.

This year's expo attracted over 200 students and featured 21 RCoW departments providing a Speed Dating activity which allowed groups of up to 8 students to engage with RCoW specialists, sharing insights into the roles and type of work performed in each department. Some specialists offered hands-on activities or showcased tools and equipment. GOTAFE shared information on further education and training courses available locally supporting entry into qualified roles.

The event was attended by the RCoW Mayor and CEO, joining council staff, students, and teachers for networking opportunities over a light lunch.

The next step for students is to identify areas of interest, participating in half to full-day visits to up to five different departments over the course of a month. They will then have the opportunity to select departments for week long of work experience placements to deepen their understanding of council operations.



HANDS On Coffee



NE Tracks LLEN kicked off its first-ever Hands on Coffee Program this year, giving local secondary students the chance to dive into the hospitality industry! Students gained hands-on experience in local cafés and earned their food handler's certificate—setting them up for future success.

- ✓ 36 students from 8 schools across Wangaratta and Benalla took part
- ✓ 8 amazing cafés hosted and mentored our students
- ✓ Some students landed casual jobs
- ✓ Others even scored a School-Based Traineeship!

With such a fantastic response, NE Tracks LLEN is excited to bring the program back in 2025!





ZONTA
CLUB OF
WANGARATTA INC



Zonta

STUDENT BREAKFASTS

NE Tracks LLEN was proud to support the Zonta Club of Wangaratta in 2024, providing both sponsorship and mentorship to students attending two inspiring events—the International Women's Day Career Breakfast for Girls and the Boys' Breakfast, themed 'Building Better Men.'

At the International Women's Day Career Breakfast, students explored diverse career pathways, gaining valuable insights from guest speakers and table mentors who shared their professional journeys. The room was alive with energy and enthusiasm.

The Building Better Men Boys' Breakfast offered a similarly enriching experience, fostering discussions on career pathways, leadership, and personal growth.

Feedback from both events was overwhelmingly positive, with students actively engaging in meaningful conversations about their futures.

NE Tracks LLEN is proud to continue its support of the Zonta Student Breakfast events in 2025, reinforcing its commitment to empowering young people in their career journeys.

NE TRACKS LLEN IN THE NEWS

2 BENALLA ENSIGN

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20, 2024



Opportunities: Hands on Trades Career Expo director Annette Borrardale from NE Tracks LLEN and Jodie Fleming, CEO of Tomorrow Today, which is sponsoring workplace visits for students from schools in Benalla to help them learn more about career options in the region.



Engaging: North East Tree Services had its cherry picker and climbing equipment for students to try at the NE LLEN Hands On Trades Career Expo in 2023.

Hands-on help for students

The team at NE Tracks LLEN is busy preparing for its annual Hands On Trades Career Expo at Winton Raceway on August 15.

Employers from across the north-east present a hands-on experience for students to try out.

Students will see a range of different businesses demonstrating activities that take place in their industry.

NE Tracks LLEN CEO Tim Oliver said this year's expo will be bigger than ever, with new and returning employers keen to engage with local students who are the workforce of the future.

"Last year, North East Tree Services sent some students up a gum tree in a harness while others cut timber with a chainsaw," Mr Oliver said.

"They climbed in and around heavy army vehicles, hanged tyres on the GOTAFE tesla, did some welding with relative steel."

"(Some) tried their hand at packaging with Merriwa Industries, operated the CFA



Interactive: Students had fun operating the CFA fire hose at the NE LLEN Hands On Trades Career Expo in 2023.

firehose, ran a 3D printer and put a robotic dog through its paces.

"Everywhere you looked, there was something interesting to try."

Following the expo, which will see more than 1000 secondary students attend, the LLEN arranges for visits to workplaces.

attend one or more of the exhibiting employers to learn even more about what goes on in businesses around the region.

After that, students can undertake work experience placements, with many gaining after-school and holiday part-time work.

Some are offered appren-

school as employers look to secure the best local talent coming through.

Employers in the north-east interested in showcasing their business at this year's EXPO should contact event director Annette Borrardale on 0473 677 463 or register via netracksllen.wixsite.com/handsontrades/



Opportunity to learn: The ADF had several vehicles at the NE LLEN Hands On Trades Career Expo in 2023.



High-tech: One of the highlights of the 2023 NE LLEN Hands On Trades Career Expo in 2023.





CASE STUDY

Ruby Holland & Wangaratta Pump Shop

Ruby Holland is an ambitious student from Borinya Wangaratta Community Partnership, currently in Year 11, aspiring to build a career in Business Office Administration. Ruby is hoping to secure a School Based Apprenticeship and Traineeship (SBAT) for 2025.

Leanne Holland, the Careers Advisor at Borinya Wangaratta Community Partnership, connected with Program Coordinator Mel Elliott from NE Tracks LLEN to seek help in finding an SBAT opportunity for Ruby.

After reaching out to several local employers, Mel successfully arranged a meet and greet with Brendan Smith from Wangaratta Pump Shop. During their meeting, Ruby and Mel discussed the possibility of Ruby undertaking work experience to determine if it would be a good match for both her and the employer.

Ruby began her two-week work experience from November 11th to 22nd, and on her final day, Brendan offered her a School Based Traineeship. Excitingly, Ruby has now officially signed up for her School Based Traineeship, set to begin in the first week of December, and both the student and employer are thrilled about this opportunity!

Case Study

NE Tracks LLEN – Hands On Coffee



The Mokoan Hub & Café are a part of the natural wonder that is the Winton Wetlands which is situated in the small community of Chesney Vale, North East Victoria.

From the 21st of August to the 20th of September the Mokoan Hub & Café hosted 5 students from 2 schools in Benalla.

One of the students who completed the Hands On Coffee program was Natalia Parker from Benalla Flexi School (Wodonga Secondary College – Benalla).

During the program that spanned 5 weeks, Natalia learned a range of skills including barista, front of house, back of house, cleaning, cooking, food preparation, customer service and opening / closing operations.

The program saw Natalia attend 4 Wednesday shifts at the café and in week 3 of the program she obtained her Do Food Safely certificate which gives her the accreditation to work hygienically and safely and with confidence in the food industry.

On week 4 and 5 Natalia was able to apply what she learned from completing the accreditation back at the café.

Natalia has done such an amazing job at the Mokoan Hub & Café that they have offered her a school based apprenticeship in commercial cookery to commence next year. The sign up for the SBAT will be in collaboration with Head Start.





Case Study: Interview 2 Impress

On the 10th of September 2024, 20 students from Benalla P-12 College Benalla attended Interview to Impress in Melbourne with legal firm Minter Ellison.

Interview to Impress is a ½ day program designed for Years 10-11 students to help them understand how to prepare and practice interview skills in a realistic interview scenario. It enables students to test and practice the theory they learn at school by working with a mentor who can provide direct and relevant feedback and advice based on their own job interview experiences.

The experience starts with introductions to the mentors and information about the host employer and the career pathways they provide.

Students then have a chance to ask the 7 mentors about their roles within the company and how they started in the industry. After this, the program facilitators talk about interviews and how to best present in an interview.

The students then get to practice their skills in a round robin style interview and have instant feedback from the person they were interviewed by. From there they can then do another 2 interviews with different mentors in the group to really harness their skills and feedback from the previous round.

One mentor was a past student from Benalla P-12 which the students loved learning about. Both students and mentors commented on the success of the day, and in 2025 Minter Ellison has requested to continue the relationship with Benalla P-12 and will be the host employer again.





CASE STUDY

Following the 2024 Hands On Trades Career Expo, NE Tracks LLEN organised industry tours with sponsors of the event. Schneiders was a bronze sponsor and also had an interactive and hands on display at the event.

On the 12th of November 2024 Students from Benalla P-12 attended an industry tour of Schneiders Electric Benalla. The Schneiders industry visit gave the students an opportunity to tour the facility and gain valuable insight into the various job and career pathways available.

The students were greeted by Operations Manager Florent, who welcomed the students to the facility by talking about the history of Schneiders and the opening and development of the Benalla facility.

After this introduction the students discussed work health and safety and were fitted out with safety vests, eye wear, ear protection and safety boot toe protectors.

Manufacturing supervisor Conrad along with Florent then took the students through the facility explaining the roles of each department and the career opportunity that come with each section.

The students were able to see the process in operation and had the opportunity to talk to current electrical apprentices and department leaders before concluding the tour in the board room to discuss the tour and ask more questions about employment opportunities with Schneiders.

Work experience opportunities were discussed and one of the students in the picture below is continuing with casual employment following the Industry Tour.

Annette Borradaile
Program Coordinator

THANK YOU TO OUR EVENT SPONSORS

NE Tracks LLEN thanks our sponsors for their support of our events in 2024. Without their help, we could not present large scale careers events that assist students in their transition from School to Work.



GOLD SPONSOR

gotafe

RTO 3094

**ROBINSON'S
TRUCK & COACH
— MAINTENANCE —**



THALES



Rural City of
Wangaratta



ADF >>> CAREERS

**Schneider
Electric**



WANGARATTA MAZDA

**SCHOOL
TO WORK**



MEMBER STATEMENT 2024

NE TRACKS LOCAL LEARNING AND EMPLOYMENT NETWORK INC.
ABN:18 598 926 337

COMMITTEE REPORT

Your Committee Members present this report on the association for the financial year ended 31 December 2024.

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

Benjamin Watts

Chairperson – Committee of Management, Administration Working Party

Sally Matheson

Deputy Chairperson – Committee of Management

Denis O’Callaghan

Treasurer– Committee of Management, Administration Working Party

Louise Pearce

Member – Committee of Management

Steve Pickering

Member – Committee of Management

Kerry Strauch (Commenced August 2024)

Member – Committee of Management

Gail O’Brien (Resigned December 2024)

Member – Committee of Management

Principle

The principle 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

Surplus (deficit) for 2024 amounted to \$14,344