



2018 Victorian Learn Local Awards

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2018 Victorian Learn Local Awards

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Acting Chairperson of the Adult, Community and Further Education Board

On behalf of the Adult, Community and Further Education Board, it is my pleasure to welcome you all to the 2018 Victorian Learn Local Awards.

As we all know, there are more than 420,000 Victorians with low literacy and numeracy skills who are eager to further their education and gain employment. The Learn Local network is uniquely placed to help them. Learn Local providers are community-owned and managed, and, in smaller communities, offer access to learning opportunities that might not otherwise be available.

With funding from the board, the Learn Local network is a vital part of increasing the educational participation of adults across the State, which, ultimately, improves the social cohesion of our communities, and boosts the human and social capital of Victoria.

The dedication shown by Learn Local providers to their communities is clearly demonstrated in the results from the network. A 2017 review revealed that 64 per cent of Learn Local learners who transition from Learn Local training to an accredited program attain a qualification. Furthermore, the Learn Local network's completion rate is 30 per cent higher than the average Victorian education and training rate.

Behind these numbers are the remarkable learners, practitioners and Learn Local providers who work hard every day to develop skills and start Victorians down the path to employment and further education. These awards are an opportunity for the Adult, Community and Further Education Board to celebrate the energy, innovation and creativity of these individuals and organisations.

Congratulations to you all for your commitment to your own learning journey or for helping others to achieve their goals and dreams. Your achievements help build a healthy, dynamic and productive Victoria.

Thank you all for your support of the Learn Local network.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dr Wilson', written in a cursive style.

Dr Ron Wilson

Acting Chairperson, Adult, Community and Further Education Board



Minister for Training and Skills

I'm delighted to welcome you to the Learn Local Awards sharing the inspirational stories and celebrating the achievements of the individuals and organisations that make up Victoria's Learn Local sector.

This year's finalists include learners that have harnessed the power of adult community education to turn their lives around by gaining skills and getting jobs, as well as dedicated teachers with outstanding track records helping their students to succeed.

While the Andrews Labor Government continues to focus on job creation, there are a significant number of Victorians who through no fault of their own do not have the literacy, numeracy or employability skills required to secure jobs in our fastest growing industries.

Adult community education makes such a positive difference in the lives of many Victorians who face significant barriers to accessing accredited training and securing employment, giving them the skills and confidence they need to improve their lives.

A 2017 Deloitte Access Economics study found 29 per cent of Victorians who complete pre-accredited training go onto commence an accredited training course, with 64 per cent of these learners going on to achieve a qualification such as a Certificate, Diploma or Advanced Diploma.

That's why we remain committed to pre-accredited training and foundation skills training, and are supporting our Learn Local sector to further develop their adult community education programs.

We also want our almost 300 community-based Learn Local Organisations to have a more defined role in the state's overall Vocational Education and Training system by improving links to the broader education system and job outcomes.

Earlier this month we launched The Future Opportunities for Adult Learners in Victoria Discussion Paper, which looked at how we can best help people in our communities who have low literacy and numeracy levels and lack vocational skills.

I thank everyone who responded to the Paper and contributed their ideas on how Learn Locals and other providers can help address these issues by building on the strengths of our Vocational Education and Training system.

We're proud to be building on an adult community education sector that is accessible for all Victorians no matter where they live, and ensuring Learn Local providers have the resources and expertise to deliver courses that transform peoples' lives by helping them to secure jobs.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Gayle Tierney'.

The Honourable Gayle Tierney MP
Minister for Training and Skills

Learn Local providers are the cornerstone of adult education in the community. They join people with their communities and provide a forum for the sharing of information, experience and knowledge. They work with local councils, support services and job agencies, and create an environment that is welcoming to all.

This Award recognises the capacity of Learn Local programs to engage learners and create pathways to further education, training or employment. The finalists are pre-accredited or foundation programs being celebrated for the pathways they have created for learners.

The winning Learn Local program demonstrates the creation of these pathways for individuals to engage successfully with learning and employment (paid or unpaid roles) as a result of their participation in the program. It shows the calibre of programs that the Learn Local network delivers and its expertise in supporting learners to engage or re-engage with learning.



Enterprising Communities Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre

A commercial kitchen located in the Ballarat South Community Hub, and operated by Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre, is now a bustling culinary centre housing the social enterprise, Our Kitchen. It's creating healthy, sustainable food while helping the long-term unemployed, migrants and refugees build job confidence and skills.

Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre took a new approach; 'learning by doing'. Our Kitchen doesn't just cover formal learning components such as food preparation and safety, and barista training, it teaches literacy, numeracy, customer service, and employability skills.

The need is great. According to labour market data, 20 per cent of the local population are under or unemployed but this program is changing lives. A recent participant, who'd dropped out of education and spent years caring for her father, had lost all self-confidence. After a referral to the Enterprising Communities program, she displayed a talent for pastry and went onto a Certificate 111 in Patisserie, which she loves.



VICTORIAN LEARN LOCAL PRE-ACCREDITED PATHWAY PROGRAM AWARD FINALISTS

Prepare for Work – Service Stars

Kensington Neighbourhood House

And they're off and running, be it for the Spring Racing Carnival at Flemington Racecourse or the opening of AFL season at the MCG, the Prepare For Work – Service Stars program helps some of our most vulnerable citizens gain paid employment within the hospitality industry.

Service Stars is a two-week, 60-hour pre-accredited course with a direct pathway to employment. The courses are timed to link with major events so learners can put their new skills into practice while earning award rate wages.

Providing everything's gone well, participants can decide to stay on the employers' books. A Sudanese mother of eight children had never been to school. Undertaking the Service Stars course gave her an introduction to hospitality and the confidence and skill to apply for a permanent position.

Of the 32 learners participating in the training, 25 are now employed and most of the others have undertaken further study.

Success for Study

Community College Gippsland

The question, 'What do you want to do with your life?' can be difficult to answer if you're ill-informed or experiencing life difficulties. In 2017, Community College Gippsland developed a program called Success for Study in response to increasing numbers of students withdrawing from courses. Exit interviews showed that they didn't previously understand the expectations of their chosen industry.

Success for Study is a short program that has a big impact. A special feature is that each potential student receives a tailored experience that provides information to help them make informed decisions. This includes study and training requirements and industry exposure with a minimum of two visits to local workplaces, where students can see first-hand what the job entails.

Not only do they gain the confidence to choose the right accredited course, they get to make connections in the community that could lead to a practical placement or employment.

The impact of Learn Local practitioners is often much greater than their role as teacher, trainer or administrator. To so many of their learners they become a mentor, an inspiration or a friend. Aside from the knowledge and skills Learn Local practitioners impart to learners, it is the guidance and affirmation they give that resonates long after classes end.

The Victorian Learn Local Practitioner Award recognises a practitioner who demonstrates a commitment to the Learn Local network and an ability to engage people in learning. The practitioner has strategies and techniques in place that enable them to provide or support quality training to meet different learner needs and establish pathways for them to further education or employment.

This year's Award recipient is a role model for her colleagues and exemplifies the dedication of a Learn Local practitioner and the outstanding contribution they make to support learners in achieving outcomes.



VICTORIAN LEARN LOCAL PRACTITIONER AWARD FINALIST

Robyn Spandonide

Loddon Campaspe Multicultural Services

Empathetic, inclusive and kind, with a great sense of humour is how colleagues describe Robyn Spandonide, English Program Coordinator at Loddon Campaspe Multicultural Services. The majority of people attending her classes are women from refugee backgrounds who haven't been educated or employed in their country of origin, let alone Australia.

Robyn is passionate about helping them achieve excellent outcomes and developing confidence. In a safe, nurturing and, at times, amusing environment – Robyn even sometimes acts out her lessons in mime.

The Starting Work in Australia program supports the development of conversational English and provides a sound understanding of employment obligations and rights.

Building relationships and connections are at the core of the programs Robyn develops. There are lots of excursions and guest speakers to familiarise students with different opportunities, and the majority of her students find work quickly with the assistance of JobActive consultants. In 2017, more than 70 per cent gained employment.

This award recognises the achievements of people aged between 25 and 65 years participating in ACFE Board funded pre-accredited programs at Learn Local providers across Victoria.

The Ro Allen Award celebrates a significant personal achievement made by a learner who has established pathways for themselves into further education, employment or volunteer roles as a result of their participation in an ACFE Board funded pre-accredited program.

The winning learner demonstrates a high level of engagement with their learning and is actively developing new skills and enhancing their knowledge.

For each of the finalists in this award category, the Learn Local experience has been significant and life changing, and shows what can be achieved by participating in a pre-accredited program.



David Hayes Kew Neighbourhood Learning Centre

David Hayes had been jobless for several years while caring for his sick partner. When he first came to the Kew Neighbourhood Learning Centre (KewNLC), social isolation had left him feeling somewhat 'stir crazy'. It was time for him to upskill and re-enter the workforce.

The positive impact of joining the classes was instantaneous; David transformed into a keen learner. To update his technology skills, he participated in the 2017 Workplace Technology course covering Microsoft Office applications, touch typing and social media. But he got so much more from the experience than technical skill. David flourished into a confident, proactive KewNLC team member, made new friends, built employment networks, grew his communication and problem-solving skills, and pursued further training opportunities.

Volunteering at KewNLC led David to part-time employment in a support position and in 2019, he'll enrol in the Certificate IV in Disability to qualify him for disability support work.



THE RO ALLEN AWARD – RECOGNISING PRE-ACCREDITED LEARNER EXCELLENCE FINALISTS

Patrizia Niceforo

Brite Institute

When a person's given the opportunity to shine, amazing transformations can happen. Patrizia Niceforo was introverted and suffered from anxiety when she commenced the pre-accredited course, Introduction to Catering at Brite Institute. This was her first opportunity to develop independence and discover her talents.

Designed for learners living with an intellectual disability, Introduction to Catering happens in a commercial hospitality environment. Patrizia not only gained food handling preparation skills, she acquired important employability and life skills including critical thinking, oral communication, numeracy, reading and planning.

As it turned out, Patrizia's a natural leader and team player who within weeks of commencing the course, was assisting others with more complex needs towards empowerment. In the classroom her personality shines and she's always up for a challenge. She's currently employed as a supported employee with Brite Services and is enrolled in a Certificate I Work Education, aiming for a teacher's aide role.

Pedro Luna

Preston Reservoir Adult Community Education

When Pedro arrived at Preston Reservoir Adult Community Education (PRACE) in 2016, he lacked confidence and direction as a result of long-term unemployment. Pedro came from Peru where he worked as an electrical engineer. On arrival in Australia he planned to continue his career in electronics but couldn't find employment in his field. He got a job installing cable TV, until the work dried up.

Enrolling in PRACE changed his life. He undertook several courses including Train the Trainer (iPads for Seniors) and Technology for Seniors. Pedro demonstrated impressive versatility and initiative in the classroom as a learner and became a senior volunteer for projects such as helping people in nursing homes develop iPad skills.

Pedro's now a PRACE ambassador with a reputation for being a 'go-to' person. He's currently enrolled in Certificate III in English as an Additional Language and aims to tutor people of all ages in mathematics and digital literacy

A new category introduced this year, this award recognises the achievements of learners, aged between 18 and 24 years, participating in ACFE Board funded pre-accredited programs at Learn Local providers across Victoria.

The Victorian Learn Local Young Pre-accredited Learner Award is awarded to a learner who has established pathways for themselves into further education, employment or volunteer roles as a result of their participation in the pre-accredited program. The winning learner demonstrates a high level of engagement with their learning and is actively developing new skills and enhancing their knowledge.

For young pre-accredited learners, there is much to discover about the personal journey on which they have embarked, and each finalist exemplifies what can be achieved by participating in a pre-accredited program.



Aymee Schofield Noweyung Ltd

Aymee Schofield was unemployed and considering a career in nursing but she was unsure of herself and lacked confidence. Then, everything changed when she saw an ad in the local paper for the Kick Start your Career in the Health Sector course, an eight-week pre-accredited health program. Aymee jumped at the opportunity.

The whole experience gave Aymee a new lease on life. Through first-hand exposure to many areas in the hospital environment, including nursing, allied health, administration, food services and cleaning, Aymee was empowered to make that important decision.

She was enthusiastic and highly engaged with her studies and when it came to her traineeship interview, she spoke confidently about her knowledge and understanding of Central Gippsland Health services.

Aymee's traineeship in the Human Resource Department is well underway now, as is her Certificate IV in Business. In addition, she's made new friends and has strong ties with the community.



VICTORIAN LEARN LOCAL YOUNG PRE-ACCREDITED LEARNER AWARD FINALISTS

Julia Schroeder CAE

Art is a universal language that can be a path of development, a way to contact our inner voice. For Julia Schroeder, it's been part of her healing journey from cancer.

Julia is an exceedingly engaged and dedicated student who's made great strides in skill and confidence while participating in the 2017 SPLICE program, a pre-accredited creative industries program designed for young people who've experienced cancer.

Despite significant health challenges, she mastered a variety of creative techniques including drawing, painting and print making, and developed a portfolio for an exhibition where she sold several pieces.

Julia was drawn to art however she didn't realise it could be a career choice. Now her ultimate career goal is to become an art therapist to help young hospitalised people express themselves through art. She plans to complete the Certificate IV in Visual Arts at Centre for Adult Education, and then the Diploma of Visual Arts.

Peatamai Tommy Nikau Zoe Support Australia

There's a lot of pressure involved in being a young mum and a student. When Peatamai Tommy Nikau came to Zoe Support in 2017, she was pregnant with her third child, but nevertheless filled with enthusiasm about stitching together a new life.

Zoe Support is an organisation that gives young pregnant women and mums access to education, life skills and advocacy. Peatamai joined the Bibs and Buntings sewing program where she made items for herself and her family. Learning to measure, estimate, manufacture, package, cost, and sell her goods at the market, gave her skills that led to employment. Additionally, Zoe students are required to provide community benefit through manufacturing baby goods for a social enterprise.

Not only is Peatamai dedicated to improving her sewing skills and developing her enterprise, she's an enthusiastic advocate for young mothers and Zoe Support programs, plus she's studying Certificate IV in Leadership and Management.

Learn Local Legends

One of the most remarkable aspects of this sector is the diversity of Learn Local providers. While all Learn Local providers are passionate about their commitment to adult learning, the eight Regional Councils of ACFE have each selected a provider within their area as an outstanding regional contributor to improving participation in training by one or more of ACFE Board's priority learner cohorts.

Learn Local Legends are considered to have appropriate growth in participation by one or more of the Board's priority learner cohorts in ACFE Board funded programs or projects; evidence of innovative approaches to engaging one or more of these priority learner cohorts; and collaboration and knowledge sharing with other Learn Local providers. These eight providers are this year's Learn Local Legends.

Bendigo Neighbourhood Hub

Nominated By Loddon Mallee
Regional Council of ACFE



To achieve successful outcomes for Greater Bendigo's unemployed, underemployed and culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities, Bendigo Neighbourhood Hub adapts and accommodates to community need.

Throughout the 2017-18 period, the hub significantly increased their pre-accredited training delivery through the creation of innovative partnerships with support services such as Bendigo Community Health. This provided the capacity to deliver courses into the broader community.

The hub also responds to community needs as they arise. A recently developed program, Click and Learn, was devised mainly for female Afghan, Sudanese and Karen students who were studying basic English at Bendigo TAFE. Many of them had no computer skills whatsoever. The hub partnered with the TAFE to deliver computer classes one afternoon a week.

A responsive approach to learning means that no-one's excluded due to eligibility criteria. Bendigo Neighbourhood Hub's great success lies in the confidence their students develop, which enables them to engage further in community and other programs.

Diversitat

Nominated By Barwon South Western
Regional Council of ACFE



Diversitat's services and business operations support their regional disadvantaged and multicultural communities. Recently they formed a partnership with the Department of Justice (DoJ) to create courses that re-engage young offenders in education and training.

So far, three pilot programs have yielded great results. For instance, the SEW-Skills for Empowerment for Women course was delivered in partnership with The Skills and Jobs Centre. Where attendance rates for DoJ community programs are normally 40 per cent, SEW attendance was at 69 per cent. Attendance was even higher with the hospitality program, which was at 79 per cent.

One hospitality student said the program changed her attitude to both serving her community corrections order and participating in education and training.

The wide variety of pre-accredited programs will be delivered in Geelong and Colac in 2018. They're specifically designed to support learners in identifying their skills and strengths, enhancing self-awareness and confidence, and developing employability skills, including communication and assertiveness.

Glen Park Community Centre Inc.

Nominated by Eastern Metropolitan
Regional Council of ACFE



As a Learn Local organisation, Glen Park Community Centre Inc. (GPCC) excels at offering adult and community education and training that reflects the needs of their community. Their big focus is on providing pathways to further education and employment to early school leavers, CALD communities, the unemployed, people with disability and mental illness, mothers returning to work, and domestic violence victims.

Their pre-accredited programs include tasters in carpentry, woodworking, hospitality, computers and literacy. GPCC operates a successful social enterprise, Café on the Park, which it uses as a platform for delivery of hospitality skills and pathways to work programs. The café also runs a very successful catering service across the region and a suspended coffee program.

GPCC has so many great community initiatives on site including a community pantry where people experiencing financial hardship can access essential food items and a men's shed providing community and woodworking skills.

Heyfield Community Resource Centre

Nominated by Gippsland Regional Council of ACFE



Heyfield Community Resource Centre (HCRC) has a reputation in Gippsland for being responsive to people's needs. When residents of the small rural community of Heyfield come to the centre with a worthwhile project, HCRC goes above and beyond to make it happen.

Over the past two years, the resource centre enhanced its capacity to reach more potential learners. So, in addition to successfully delivering pre-accredited courses in hospitality, tourism and horticulture to unemployed, underemployed and disabled adults, HCRC became one of nine sites across Gippsland to implement the Training Information Pathways Service, supporting people to enter training.

There's been an enthusiastic response to the recent establishment of a pre-accredited health training pathway in partnership with Sale Hospital. 'Kick Start Your Career in The Health Industry' gives students a good grounding in various health industry jobs. The course culminates in work experience at Sale Hospital with opportunities for employment on completion.

Nhill Neighbourhood House

Nominated by Grampians Regional Council of ACFE



A lovely combination of nature and nurture was achieved with the Nhill Neighbourhood House (NNH) Paw Po Flowers social enterprise where the Karen community, who came from the Myanmar-Thai border refugee camps, were given the opportunity to work and learn in a real working environment.

This successful social enterprise has been integrated into most of NNH's pre-accredited programs and through a partnership with West Wimmera Health Service, they supply floristry arrangements for sale at nine campuses.

The Job Ready pre-accredited course is aimed at CALD learners and women in a rural community seeking to return to work. Tailored training focuses on employability skills, including job readiness, and is geared to local employment opportunities in and around the town of Nhill. Out of 19 enrolments in the Paw Po program in 2017, eight gained full-time employment, one completed a Certificate III, and three are employed part-time within the social enterprise.

Preston Reservoir Adult Community Education

Nominated By North Western Metropolitan Regional Council of ACFE



Preston Reservoir Adult Community Education Inc's (PRACE) mission is to provide accessible education opportunities to help break the cycle of poverty and disadvantage.

To achieve this, PRACE has developed many avenues including several youth programs, it's registered as an independent school known as PRACE College, and it's a Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL) provider. One terrific program is VCAL specifically for single mums, which includes psychologist support. PRACE has also taken a lead role in the 2015 Growth Corridor Project.

PRACE has developed a national and international presence through its literacy resources and is regarded as a key English as a second language and adult literacy and numeracy provider for the Northern Metropolitan Region of Melbourne.

Another vital role PRACE plays is in supporting, and advocating on behalf of, those in need to ensure equitable access to resources and services that facilitate full participation in their community.

Springvale Learning and Activities Centre

Nominated By Southern Metropolitan Regional Council of ACFE



Springvale Learning and Activities Centre (SLAC) seeks to enable disadvantaged people in their community to break the cycle of poverty and reach their full potential through learning and skills development.

In 2017 they undertook a leadership role in a partnership project, South East Learn Local Pathways, to provide support to retrenched workers from the auto-supply chain industry. By providing effective services and facilitating community connections, their project 'Real Chance', designed for young people who are either homeless or at risk of homelessness, has been a great success. To date it's assisted more than 20 people to re-engage with their community, and either find employment, or continue onto further study.

SLAC is rocking it with their learners. They took on the running of an Op Shop as a learning springboard to employment and further education and in just 12 months, out of 36 volunteers, 22 achieved employment outcomes within 3 – 6 weeks.

Tatura Community House

Nominated By Hume Regional Council of ACFE



Giving social service to the community is Tatura Community House's mission. As such it plays an integral role in many community initiatives including educational and leisure programs, as well as information and referral services.

Many impactful adult education programs have been initiated such as the cloth bag production project where participants make shopping bags out of recycled cloth. These are being sold to assist Tatura to become plastic bag free. For the recently resettled Congolese and Sudanese communities, language, literacy and employability programs have been developed to facilitate workforce entry, and the Keys to Work vocational program provides employability skills and work placement in The Salvation Army.

Although Tatura Community House is a relatively small Learn Local provider, it's having a big impact on the community through strategic stakeholder relationships throughout Greater Shepparton. This includes other Learn Local providers, Neighbourhood Houses, Tatura Library, the African House, GoTAFE and the Salvation Army.

A new category introduced this year, this award recognises a collaboration between a Learn Local provider and other sectors that has resulted in improved pathways from pre-accredited training to accredited training.

The approach taken by both parties to the collaboration has resulted in them working together to achieve a shared goal and in some instances they may have changed the way they usually work to ensure the success of the collaboration. There will be achievements and training impacts that have been made as a result of the collaboration.

The winning collaboration demonstrates how Learn Local providers and other sectors can work together to improve pathway opportunities for learners.



VICTORIAN LEARN LOCAL COLLABORATION AWARD FINALISTS

Manningham Learns – a Strategic Alliance

Pines Learning, Park Orchards Community House and Learning Centre and Living and Learning @ Ajani

This is a success story about five neighbourhood houses in Manningham; Warrandyte, Park Orchards, Wonga Park, Pines Learning and Living, and Learning @ Ajani. As a networking cluster they struggled with cohesiveness. They knew that improved collaboration would create better outcomes for their operations and clients, but they didn't know how to achieve it.

Via government funding, they employed a facilitator to work towards a strategic alliance. It became clear that everyone had the same vision, which was to service the community well. They established the foundations of Manningham Learns and built trust and enthusiasm for the next phase of implementing an alliance.

Great strides were made in a short timeframe. Now, Manningham Learns is a strong entity providing diverse and affordable accredited and pre-accredited courses across five locations. The alliance inspired wider recognition and interest, and its involvement is sought to contribute to working groups, forums and expos.

Taster in Horticulture Partnership with Kew Cemetery

Kew Neighbourhood Learning Centre

An integrated, adaptive learning experience is highly effective for people with disabilities, so Burke and Beyond, a disability support organisation worked with Kew Neighbourhood Learning Centre to devise a program that didn't lead to any dead ends. How did they do this? They included Kew Cemetery in the collaboration.

The cemetery was a great fit because it provided a terrific variety of horticultural experiences, plus it shares the vision of inclusiveness.

Kew Cemetery enthusiastically incorporated the pre-accredited horticulture program into their grounds management landscape schedule. They allocated the Memorial Garden as a dedicated area for the class, and in addition, gave students access to all staff activities and facilities so they experienced routines, schedules and work culture.

Taster in Horticulture unites learners, educational institutions and employers, and runs classroom-based learning side by side with work-integrated learning. The collaborators intend to adapt this winning formula to other employment situations.

The ability to identify and respond to a particular education or training need within a community is a distinctive characteristic and strength of the Learn Local sector. This award category recognises the key role of Learn Local programs or projects in creating 'local solutions' through strong partnerships with other organisations, business and industry or the community to provide solutions to local training needs. The winning program or project demonstrates the use of different expertise, technology or program arrangements to create these local solutions.

Through their programs, each of the finalists has enabled learning for its participants and exemplified how the Learn Local network provides flexible, quality and tailored training that meets local needs.



Indigenous Social Enterprise The Basin Community House

At a Mullum Mullum Indigenous Gathering Place (MMIGP) catered event, you may not see hotdogs but you can enjoy emu and kangaroo sliders. During the past year, 60 previously disengaged learners participated in an indigenous social enterprise doing courses such as 'Cooking with the Mob'. It's an entry-level Learn Local pre-accredited program that includes career pathways to hospitality, particularly in relation to food vans.

Students are schooled in food preparation, indigenous foods and cooking techniques, customer service, and safe food handling procedures. Now, a skilled work force caters for events and festivals with a professional pop-up café, and a tremendous side order of pride. It's proved to be a terrific model for social enterprise. Learning within the cultural community builds confidence.

A successful collaboration between MMIGP and The Basin Community House continues to engage learners into further studies at Swinburne's Reconnect Program and enrolments are already exceeding expectations.



VICTORIAN LEARN LOCAL CREATING LOCAL SOLUTIONS AWARD FINALISTS

Kick-Start Your Career in Health

Noweyung Ltd

It's forecast that by 2020, the Gippsland region health sector will experience staffing increases of 18 per cent across all services. Couple this with current regional skill shortages and unemployment rates, and there's an opportunity for change. The Gippsland Regional Council project, Strengthening Pathways for Adult Learners in Gippsland, has this conundrum covered.

In a Gippsland first, Learn Local Noweyung Ltd partnered with Central Gippsland Health to develop an eight-week pre-accredited and customised health program giving unemployed/underemployed people first-hand experience of the health industry. The program pathways into accredited education and employment.

Results to date are outstanding. Students are skilled-up in areas including communication, literacy and financial literacy. Hospital staff volunteer their time to provide demonstrations and activities such as laughter yoga for stress management. Students are reporting that they got more out of it than they imagined. Out of 15 enrolled students, 14 went on to further studies or gained employment.

Local Industry – Local Workforce

Wyndham Community and Education Centre

Our Burmese communities, specifically the Karen and Karenni people, come to this country with valuable farming skills, a keenness to work and a good work ethic. Even so, their unemployment rates are high, despite the fact that local market gardeners need work-ready employees. This is a big disconnect.

In 2017, Wyndham Community and Education Centre (Wyndham CEC) and west@work commenced discussions with the local market garden industry to find a solution. It was clear that limited English skills and a lack of cultural awareness of the Australian workplace were significant barriers.

Subsequently, partnerships were created with local industry, and several tailored pre-accredited introductory horticulture and work ready courses were developed based on specific industry requirements, including induction and OH&S. Bilingual instructors assisted students, and informational documents were translated to facilitate effective communication between employers and employees. Of the 45 learners engaged in the three initial programs, 73 per cent gained employment.

2017 Victorian Learn Local Award Winners

The Ro Allen Award - Recognising Pre-accredited Learner Excellence

Christie Sinclair
Banksia Gardens Community Services

Outstanding Practitioner

Lachlan McKenzie
Jesuit Community College

Outstanding Pathways Program

Try a Trade
Diversitat

Excellence in Creating Local Solutions

Linking Learning to the Land
Paynesville Neighbourhood Centre

AMES Australia Diversity Innovation

Paw Po Products Community Enterprise
Nhill Learning Centre

Learn Local Volunteer Champions

Harry Ashton
Rushworth Community House

Joy Ferguson
Diamond Valley Learning Centre

Melinda Hamilton
Springvale Neighbourhood House

2017 Victorian Learn Local Legends

Banksia Gardens Community Services

Nominated by ACFE North Western Metropolitan Regional Council

Echuca Neighbourhood House

Nominated by ACFE Loddon Mallee Regional Council

Dandenong Neighbourhood House

Nominated by ACFE Southern Metropolitan Regional Council

Milpara Community House

Nominated by ACFE Gippsland Regional Council

Mountain District Learning Centre

Nominated by ACFE Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council

The Centre for Continuing Education

Nominated by ACFE Hume Regional Council

Wendouree Neighbourhood Centre

Nominated by ACFE Grampians Regional Council

Rosewall Neighbourhood Centre

Nominated by ACFE Barwon South Western Regional Council

**For the full list of previous Learn Local Award Winners
please visit:**

www.education.vic.gov.au/learnlocalawards

Acknowledgements

Master of Ceremonies

Tracey Curro

Tracey Curro is a former *60 Minutes* reporter, and a Queensland University of Technology Outstanding Alumnus with over 20 years experience as a journalist, producer and presenter. She has worked on all Australian commercial free to air television networks on nationally broadcast news, public affairs and magazine programmes. She travelled the world as a reporter for the popular science and technology series *Beyond 2000*, and then for *60 Minutes*, where she's best remembered for eliciting Pauline Hanson's famous 'please explain'.

Following a successful media career, Tracey joined SHK executive search, where she is now a Senior Partner specialising in corporate affairs and communications.



Tracey holds a Bachelor of Business – Communications from QUT. She is a Trustee of The Shrine of Remembrance, a Director of Ovarian Cancer Australia, and a member of the School Council of Lauriston Girls' School.

Entertainment

The Travellers, Artful Dodgers Studios, Jesuit Social Services

Tonight's entertainment is presented to you by Artful Dodgers Studios at Jesuit Social Services, an open access music and art centre for young people. The performance features Clement Wetniak and his bandmate Angelo Duot from musical duo The Travellers. Born in a refugee camp to South Sudanese parents, Clement and Angelo came to Australia as young boys and have played music together since they were children. The Travellers have recorded original material and appear at schools, community events and festivals across Melbourne under Artful Dodgers' *'Just Voices Speakers Program'*.

Artful Dodgers Studios is a flexible and welcoming creative studio space where young people living with difficult circumstances can create art and music under the mentorship of professional artists and musicians. Established in 1996, Artful Dodgers Studios is one of Victoria's longest running community cultural development programs and aims to increase young people's artistic and musical skills, self-esteem and connection to community.

www.jss.org.au

Table Centrepieces

Diamond Valley Learning Centre

The table floral centrepieces for this evening have been designed and created by students undertaking the Introduction to Floristry course at Diamond Valley Learning Centre (DVLC). The Floristry course is very popular at the Centre, with varied and beautiful arrangements made by students each week.

DVLC is a thriving hub in Greensborough where many people come to learn new skills, meet new people and complete courses that open exciting pathways for the future.

www.dvlc.org.au

Information



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