

# 2023

## ANNUAL REPORT

WIMMERA  
SOUTHERN  
MALLEE  
LLEN





## **Acknowledgement of Country**

Wimmera Southern Mallee LLEN proudly acknowledges the Traditional Owners of Country throughout the region and their continuing connection to lands and waterways upon which we live, work and learn on. We pay our respects to their Elders, past and present.





## OUR MISSION

To create partnerships between industry, education and the community that develop positive futures for our young people.

## Acknowledgements

Horsham Sports & Community Club

Horsham Rural City Council

Hindmarsh Shire Council

Yarriambiak Shire Council

West Wimmera Shire Council

Longerenong College

The Smith Family

Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action

Wimmera Southern Mallee Schools

- *Wimmera Southern Mallee VET Cluster*
- *Wimmera Southern Mallee Careers Association*
- *Wimmera Southern West Virtual School*

## Supported by the Victorian Government

- *School to Work Program*
- *VET Transport Fund*
- *OnTrack Connect*
- *Secondary School Agricultural Fund*



Department of Education



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## OVERVIEW VISION & FOCUS

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### Our LLEN

Wimmera Southern Mallee LLEN (WSMLEEN) works with a placed-based approach, tailoring services, strategies and programs to the unique cultural, economic, rurality, geographical and social context of the Wimmera and Southern Mallee region. The intricate knowledge of the communities we serve empowers us to create impactful and locally relevant initiatives.

### Our Values

Creativity, Integrity, Collaboration, Equity, and Commitment.

## STRATEGIC PLAN

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### Process

The strategic plan for 2021 - 2025 was developed in a consultation process between the Wimmera Southern Mallee LLEN staff, Committee of Management, stakeholders and partners to clearly define the goals and objectives.

### Implementation

The Strategic Plan provides the framework for developing a work plan to ensure that the programs, activities and endeavours of Wimmera Southern Mallee LLEN address relevant issues that provide positive futures for young people in the Wimmera Southern Mallee region

# POSITIVE FUTURES

### Our Young People

*To improve the participation of young people and their families in education.*

*To increase the re-engagement of young people into programs leading to credentials.*

### Our Partners

*To increase our schools' engagement with stakeholders in their community to improve students' aspirations, education and transition outcomes.*

### Our WSMLEN

*To practice sound and responsible governance. To ensure that the work of the LLEN will be responsive to needs and informed by evidence. To ensure that the LLEN is financially sustainable. Provide a safe and inclusive workplace for WSMLEN employees.*

## Our Young People

- To ensure that young people remain engaged in education, training or employment
- To provide support and opportunities to ensure that young people achieve their full potential
- To improve literacy as a foundation for educational success.

- Build on the work already underway to develop and improve early intervention literacy projects
- Provide active coordination and support for student work placements, apprenticeships, traineeships and the provision of flexible learning options
- Support the delivery of the Department of Education plans (Murrang) for improving Koorie education outcomes
- Continue to provide opportunities for vulnerable young people to participate in community and sports activities
- Continue to facilitate effective advocacy for our community and its young people.

## Our Partners

- To build community capacity through community and industry partnerships with education.

- Work with partners to support young people to make positive life choices regarding education, employment, health and wellbeing
- Ensure the effectiveness of the Community Action Networks in strengthening relationships between schools and agencies working with young people and their families
- Further develop proactive industry engagement to support student work placements, work readiness and school industry activities
- Maintain and further develop the support and delivery of the MATES mentoring program and document and celebrate success
- Work with partners to actively support the community, the promotion and development of the Wimmera Southern Mallee region.

## Our WSMLLEN

- To remain a sustainable, innovative and responsive network, focused on key outcomes and achievements.

- Update and implement the communication/marketing plan to communicate the unique value and purpose of the LLEN to all partners and to the general community
- Maintain active monitoring of the governance structures and processes of the network, to include composition, succession planning, options to include a voice of youth within the governance structure, and governance processes and policies
- Maintain an up to date databank of locally derived data, case studies, research data and impact data to support informed decision making by the network and partner agencies
- Actively seek alternative revenue sources and funding models to support program development and delivery to ensure that the network is well- placed to make financially responsible decisions
- Work with and support the LLEN state network to advocate for, and secure ongoing government funding for LLENs
- Foster a healthy, inclusive and supportive workplace for employees.

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

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It is with much pleasure that I submit my President's Report. Once again, we can be very proud of all that has been achieved throughout 2023/24 and I thank most sincerely the wonderful group of dedicated staff, board members, schools, community groups throughout the Wimmera Mallee for their ongoing commitment to improving the lives and aspirations of young people. It has been a privilege to continue to support the LLEN and represent the organisation. This is my second year as president and as I look back at the past year, I am proud to say that so many of the innovative ideas and initiatives outlined in the work plan are flourishing.

The Committee of Management met regularly during 2023. We cannot fulfil the LLEN vision without the support of a dedicated committee and staff. One of the things I most admire about our committee is that each member respects what the other brings to the table. We don't always agree with one another, but discussions are always honest and productive. The committee representation across the Wimmera Southern Mallee area is vital to ensure we are meeting the needs of all young people in our district.

A sincere thank-you is extended to the Executive members. In particular I would like to thank Deb Nelson our treasurer and the members of the finance sub-committee – Karen Fuller and Gerard Raven. They have worked tirelessly to ensure we always have an up-to-date record of our financial position. Tonight's detailed report indicates that we continue to be in a strong financial position. Can I also thank the members of the HR sub-committee who were involved in the EO selection process. I would also like to thank Chris Sounness our Vice-President for being my 'back-up' when needed. It has been a privilege to be the leader of the WSMLEN during the last two years.

There are a number of people stepping down from the board and on behalf of the committee thank you for your contribution.

- Wendy Bywaters has been on the committee since 2008. During that time she has accepted a number of leadership roles including the position of President. Thank you for your dedicated service and absolute commitment to the goals of the LLEN.
- Rob Pyers has served a period of six years between 2007 and now in his capacity as a Principal. Within his new role with the Department of Education, I am sure of a continued partnership.

- Christine Brown will be completing her term on the committee and then taking up a position in Melbourne. Best wishes for your future career.

During 2023 we farewelled our long term Executive Officer Tim Shaw and appointed Vanessa O'Loughlin as our EO. Once again, thank you Tim for your wonderful contribution to our organisation and we hope that you are enjoying a happy and healthy retirement. Vanessa has taken on the role with enormous energy and initiated a number of new projects. Thank you Vanessa for accepting the position and hopefully you will have a long association with our organisation.

During the past year we have experienced a number of staffing changes. We now have six staff members including Vanessa with a time fraction equivalent of 3.6 EFT. We recently welcomed Sharon Warrick and Jaimie Clarkson to the team and thank the current staff David Crooks, Rudy Pannozo and Kerrie Nichols for their work. One of our long term staff members, Di Dent, departed in order to take another career opportunity. Thank you for your work particularly with the schools in the Wimmera Southern Mallee.

The Department of Education is currently undertaking a review of the LLEN statewide structure. At the time of writing, DE has not officially responded to the initial review submission. However, DE did indicate that the LLEN response to the review did not fully address the issues outlined in the scope of the review but was a good starting point for further discussion. In short there is an expectation that there will be changes as we move forward.

The LLEN continues to support and participate in a range of important youth focused activities. These included:

- The School to Work program includes support to secondary schools with industry connections, work placements and industry events. A workplan has been submitted and approved.
- The LLEN supports the Western Victorian Careers Expo in the form of project management. This work involves arranging exhibitors, sponsors, marketing, and event coordination.
- The LLEN coordinates a Secondary School Agriculture Fund 'Come and Try' Agriculture @ Longy. This program is designed to increase the awareness and aspirations of secondary school students in a broad range of agriculture careers.



- ARC Linkage is a program taking place over the next three years. The research will look at how and why young people aspire to and transition into agricultural pathways.
- In the past the LLEN has strongly supported the coordination of the VET Cluster. The duties include administration of the VET enrolments, withdrawals, maintaining an accurate data base, developing an annual course handbook and coordinating events.
- The VET Transport Fund – In recent years DE has provided funding for the cost of transport for those students attending VDDS. This funding has continued in 2024.
- The Let's Read Program has been an outstanding success story. It is an early year's literacy program in partnership with maternal child and health facilities. The program promotes reading and literacy development.
- Mates Mentoring is an in school youth mentoring program that connects community volunteers with young people. The LLEN continues to support existing programs and is actively promoting the program to new schools.

When I look at the WSLEN through the lens of 'place,' I am struck by our unique position to influence and support the aspirations of young people. For many years now I believe that we have successfully achieved our goals – supporting Wimmera Southern Mallee young people.

What I've learned in my time as president is that behind these remarkable outcomes are staff, schools and communities who embody the commitment to young people in the Wimmera Southern Mallee. That is why our LLEN keeps performing at such a high level. We have been able to address some of the most urgent challenges associated with aspirations and career opportunities.

Bet wishes everyone.



*President*

**Wimmera Southern Mallee LLEN**

## OUR COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

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### Committee Members:

Christine Brown (retiring May 2024)

Gerard Raven

Ben Tait

James Phillips (retiring May 2024)

Phillip Yew

Nick Mumford

Karen Fuller

Wendy Bywaters (retiring May 2024)

Anne Gawith

Rob Payers (retiring May 2024)

Brendan Ryan

**President**

Chris Sounness

**Vice President**

Joanna Day

**Secretary**

Debra Nelson

**Treasurer**

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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As we reflect on the achievements of 2023, I am honoured to have shared the profound impact and remarkable progress of our WSMLEEN throughout the year. Under the leadership of our outgoing Executive Officer, Tim Shaw, we have not only flourished but also solidified our position as a beacon of excellence in our community over the past 14 years. Tim's guidance, steadfast dedication, and commitment have been instrumental in shaping the trajectory and impact of Wimmera Southern Mallee LLEN, and we owe him a debt of gratitude for his exceptional service. Thankyou Tim for your resolve and mentorship.

Throughout 2023, our dedicated and talented staff —David Crooks, Di Dent, Rudy Panozzo, and Kerri Nichols - demonstrated unparalleled dedication, resilience, and passion in their respective roles. Their tireless efforts, innovative ideas, and collaborative spirit have been instrumental in driving forward our mission and achieving significant milestones. From spearheading transformative initiatives to providing exceptional support to our stakeholders, each member of our team has played a pivotal role.

I would also like to extend thanks to the regional schools, principals, and the community for their support as I transition into the executive role. Your encouragement, guidance, and trust have been invaluable, and I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to serve you in this capacity.

Furthermore, I am thrilled to highlight the resounding success of our School to Work Program, which has been a cornerstone of our efforts in creating aspirations, enabling exploration, and showcasing pathways for our youth. Through this program, we have empowered countless students to envision bright futures, explore diverse career opportunities, and embark on pathways toward fulfilling their dreams.

The impact of this initiative extends far beyond the classroom, as it nurtures the next generation of leaders, innovators, and changemakers who will shape the future of our community and beyond.

In addition, I am pleased to provide an update on the Department of Education's review of the statewide network. While the review process has presented its challenges, it has also illuminated significant opportunities for growth and enhancement. One of the key insights gleaned from this review is the critical importance of place-based support in our operations. This recognition underscores the value of tailoring our services to meet the unique needs and circumstances of the communities we serve. As we navigate through the review findings, we remain committed to leveraging these insights to further refine and strengthen our approach, ensuring that we continue to deliver impactful and responsive support to all our stakeholders.

As we embark on a new chapter, guided by our shared values of integrity, collaboration, and excellence, I am filled with optimism and enthusiasm for the journey ahead. Together, with the steadfast support of our stakeholders, the dedication of our exceptional team, and the enduring legacy of our outgoing Executive Officer, we are poised to build upon our achievements and make an even greater impact in the year to come.



Executive Officer

**Wimmera Southern Mallee LLEN**

**OUR WSMLLEN TEAM**

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*Vanessa O'Loughlin*  
**Executive Officer**  
(Commenced June 2024)



*Tim Shaw*  
**Executive Officer**  
(Retired Oct 2023)



*David Crooks*  
**Project Manager**  
School to Work Program



*Di Dent*  
**VET Cluster Coordinator**  
(Resigned Nov 2023)



*Jaimie Clarkson*  
**Project Manager**  
(Commenced Jan 2024)



*Rudy Panozzo*  
**Project Manager**  
School to Work Program



*Kerri Nichols*  
**Project Manager**  
MATES Mentoring



*Sharon Warrick*  
**Project Manager**  
(Commenced Jan 2024)

# OUR MEMBERS

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## Schools

Balmoral Community College  
Beulah Primary School  
Dimboola Memorial Secondary College  
Edenhope College  
Goroke P-12 College  
Holy Trinity Lutheran College  
Hopetoun P12 College  
Horsham College  
Horsham Primary School  
Horsham Special School  
Kaniva College  
Murtoa College Nhill College  
Nhill Lutheran School  
Rainbow P-12 College  
Rupanyup Primary School  
St. Brigid's College  
Warracknabeal Secondary College  
Warracknabeal Special Developmental School

## Registered Training Organisations

Federation University  
Longerenong Colleg  
Skillinvest

## Adult Community Education & Employment Organisations

Centre for Participation  
Gateway BEET  
Kaniva LINK Neighbourhood House  
Murtoa and District Neighbourhood House  
Nhill Neighbourhood House Learning Centre Inc.  
Rainbow Learning Group & Neighbourhood House  
Warracknabeal Neighbourhood House & Learning Cent  
Horsham Neighbourhood House  
Community Axis

## Local Government

Hindmarsh Shire Council  
Horsham Rural City Council  
West Wimmera Shire Council  
Yarriambiack Shire Council

## First Nations Organisations

Barengi Gadjin Land Council  
Goolum Goolum Aboriginal Cooperative  
Local Aboriginal Education Consultative Group

## Community Agencies, Organisations & Businesses

Art Is Festival  
Country Education Partnership  
Department of Education  
Grampians Community Health  
GWM Water  
Hopetoun Courier  
Horsham Police  
Horsham Real Estate  
Horsham Regional Art Gallery  
Morrow Motorgroup  
Regional Development Victoria  
SalvoConnect Western, Horsham  
Uniting Wimmera  
Warracknabeal Herald  
West Vic Business  
Wimmera Business Centre  
Wimmera Mail-Times  
Wimmera Southern Mallee Development  
Wimmera Regional Sports Assembly

## Individual Community Members

John Ackland	Kylie Smith
Kim Boulton	Mandi Stewart
Steve Braybrook	Mark Zimmermann
Wendy Bywaters	Charlie Helyar
Russell Christie	John Millington
Joanna Day	Anne Gawith
Hugh Delahunty	Rob Gersch
Kim Drummond	Alethea Gulvin
Dianna Richards	Neil Kind
Murray Robinson	Campbell Pallot
Brendan Ryan	Gary Pilgrim
Iain Sedgman	Sue Radford

# OUR REGION

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The Wimmera Southern Mallee LLEN services four shires covering a total area of more than 28,000 square kilometres with a population exceeding 36,500. The Wimmera Southern Mallee region is the traditional lands of the Wotjobaluk, Jaadwa, Jadawadjali, Wergaia and Jupagalk peoples.

Opportunities in renewable energy, tourism, logistics and agriculture are expanding, along with those in supporting services. Employers are looking for more workers in sectors from banking, finance, legal, retail, through to machinery sales and servicing, health care, education, agronomics, and grains research and development.

According to the 2021 Census, there is just under 7000 young people in pre, primary, secondary and tertiary education in the region. The Wimmera Southern Mallee LLEN has unique strengths, responsibilities, and role to play in preparing and shaping our young people for future opportunities.

# PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

## SCHOOL TO WORK INITIATIVES



*Drone photo taken from the Landcare & Conservation Industry Program in partnership with Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action*

In 2023, the Student Work Placement program (SWL) exceeded expectations by facilitating placements for 108 students throughout the year. These placements were drawn from 8 participating secondary schools within our region. Looking ahead, we aspire to further extend our reach to include every school in the upcoming year, particularly focusing on enhancing support for our more remote school partners.

We are proud to report that we have cultivated robust partnerships with industries identified as experiencing skills shortages within our region. Notably, our collaborations with the Health and Early Childhood Education and Care sectors have been instrumental in providing valuable opportunities for students.

WSMLLEN is dedicated to facilitating meaningful connections between students and their chosen industries. Through tailored experiences and guidance, we aim to equip students with the necessary skills and insights to pursue rewarding careers beyond their academic endeavors.



*Students from St. Brigid's College participate in Stawell Gold Mining tour and discussion. Photo courtesy of the Minerals Council of Australia*

*VDDS program links to valuable work placement to build on a students training and skill.*



WSMLLEN maintains active engagement with businesses in the Trades and Agriculture sectors, advocating for the integration of SWL opportunities as a means for businesses to invest in and cultivate their future workforce. By encouraging businesses to "Grow their Own" talent, we contribute to the sustainable development of our regional economy.

As we reflect on the amount and quality of accomplishments in 2023, our team remains steadfast in our commitment to fostering educational excellence and empowering students to pursue fulfilling career pathways. Through continued collaboration and innovation, we look forward to even greater achievements in the years to come.

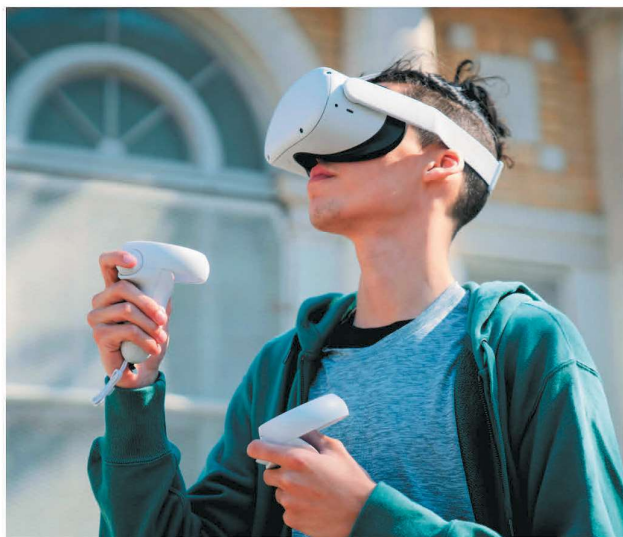


**SCHOOL  
TO WORK**

**VICTORIA** State Government  
Department of Education

### Impact Initiatives for Youth @Alternate Programs

WSMLLEN organised three impactful events to support some of the regions more vulnerable learners. The Schools Environmental Project involved planting over 3,000 trees along McKenzie Creek, providing hands-on environmental knowledge. During the 'My 1st Job Excursion', students visited local businesses like KFC and McDonalds, gaining practical skills and career advice. They learned about stock management, using coffee machines, and how to apply for entry-level positions online. Additionally, the Vic Vice virtual reality careers session offered students a 360-degree insight into various industries and career paths. These initiatives reflect WSMLLEN's commitment to empowering disadvantaged youth, equipping them with skills and resources for successful futures



*VIC Vice is a Statewide Program that will see secondary school students have access to industry immersions using virtual reality technology. WSMLLEN piloted the program in 2023 with students from Horsham College's Alternate Programs. Stock photo for example.*



### Dimboola College Indigenous Careers Excursion: Building Bridges to Brighter Futures

WSMLLEN orchestrated a transformative excursion for Dimboola College students, fostering connections with Indigenous organisations and illuminating career pathways for Indigenous youth. Direct engagement with employers provided firsthand insights into job opportunities, work experience, and Student Work Placements (SWL). Visits to Dalki Gadjin Native Nursery and Goolum Goolum offered immersive experiences and discussions on various career fields like Health, Family Support, and Environmental Management. The excursion also emphasized cultural stewardship with Barengi Gadjin Land Council, showcasing careers in land management and environmental conservation. Through activities like water testing and bushwalks led by Wimmera Catchment Management Authority, students gained practical insights while forging connections with Indigenous culture and environmental awareness. This excursion exemplifies WSMLLEN's commitment to nurturing potential and fostering inclusive pathways to success for Indigenous youth.

### Health Focus Excursions Support Exploration

WSMLLEN facilitated two health-focused career events with Grampians Health and West Wimmera Health Service. Students from Kaniva, Nhill, Murtoa, Warracknabeal, and Horsham participated in site tours, career discussions with professionals, and hands-on activities. They explored various healthcare roles, including trades, administration, and support staff. Activities included dressing in theatre gowns, using medical equipment, and receiving basic first aid training, enriching students' career insights and practical skills.

## CASE STUDY

### COME & TRY AGRICULTURE @LONGY

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*"I am so pleased that the idea of welcoming high school students to Longerenong College through a camp, was embraced by the Wimmera Southern Mallee LLEN, and the supporting schools and teachers and coordinators and Principals. This College is such a benefit to the area and the Agriculture industry, my goal is to open the doors to everyone, so that each person can find their own personal pathway into Agriculture. There are jobs for everyone, and each person's individual talents and skill sets can be applied to some area of agriculture; from science, math, programming, sales, communications, labour, mechanics, welding, animals, business, engineering, etc. We are here so that students can find their own passion, and see a future for themselves in further education"*

*Avril Hogan, General Manager, Longerenong College*



#### **Introduction:**

Wimmera Southern Mallee LLEN, serving as the lead agency, orchestrates a transformative program at Longerenong College that provides students with an immersive experience in tertiary agricultural studies. This case study highlights the significant impact of the program on students' perceptions, career pathways, and the evolving culture in applied learning agricultural institutes.

#### **Experiencing Campus Life:**

The program at Longerenong College offers students a firsthand examination of life on campus, encompassing living in dormitories, dining experiences, farm exploration, and engaging with knowledgeable lecturers. This experiential approach demystifies tertiary agricultural studies, offering valuable insights that extend beyond the classroom. The passion exhibited by the college staff, discussions on cutting-edge technology, and its impact on agriculture resonate with students, providing a tangible connection to the industry.

#### **Unveiling Diverse Pathways:**

The program exposes students to various facets of agricultural studies, extending beyond the conventional tractor-centric focus. Visits to local farming-related industries broaden horizons, introducing students to fields such as agronomy, plant breeding, logistics, export marketing, business development, alternative foods, processing, technologies and research. This exposure encourages students to explore diverse career options, fostering a mindset beyond traditional farming roles.



### School-Based Apprenticeships:

Three students have now committed to school-based apprenticeships, utilising Longerenong College as their educational base in 2024. This outcome underscores the program's success in steering students toward practical applications of their agricultural education and bridging the gap between academic learning and on-the-ground experience.

### Flexibility and Industry Connection:

Longerenong College's flexibility in program delivery, particularly around critical cropping, and harvest times, resonates with students who understand the agricultural sector's seasonal demands. Connecting students with an ex-student's success story, paired with a lecturer's perspective, effectively demonstrates the relevance and applicability of the education provided. The placed-based facilitation of this is a key driver of success.

### Changing Culture:

A notable shift in Longerenong College's culture was observed by participating teachers, transitioning from a male-dominated, traditional image to a diverse cohort. This change dispels outdated stereotypes, addressing parental concerns and challenging preconceived notions about applied learning agricultural colleges. The evolving culture reflects a commitment to educational excellence and a departure from past perceptions.

### Emphasising Skills over Tradition:

The program emphasises that modern farming success goes beyond the conventional narrative of hard work and long hours. Students are recognising the importance of continuous educational growth, acquiring skills in marketing, technology usage, innovative thinking, and adaptability. This shift challenges the notion that farm-bound individuals require less investment in education, emphasising the need for a dynamic skill set in the evolving agricultural landscape.

### Conclusion:

The 'Come & Try Agriculture' program, coordinated by Wimmera Southern Mallee LLEN, stands as a testament to the transformative power of immersive experiences in shaping students' perspectives on agricultural education. By exposing students to diverse pathways, fostering industry connections, and changing institutional perceptions, the partnership is contributing to a new generation of agricultural professionals equipped with the skills and mindset required for success in the modern farming landscape.

*Photos courtesy of Nhill College*



# VOCATIONAL EDUCATION & TRAINING DELIVERED IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS



Wimmera Southern Mallee LLEN coordinates the Wimmera Southern Mallee (WSM) VET cluster on behalf of the regional schools. The VET Cluster operates thanks to the regional Principal's, School Cluster Coordinators, the Department of Education, and participating Registered Training Organisations.

In 2023, students from 18 secondary schools, across eight shires (covering 40,000 km<sup>2</sup>) travelled to Horsham, each Wednesday to undertake one of sixteen vocational courses offered through Horsham College, Federation University and Skillinvest.

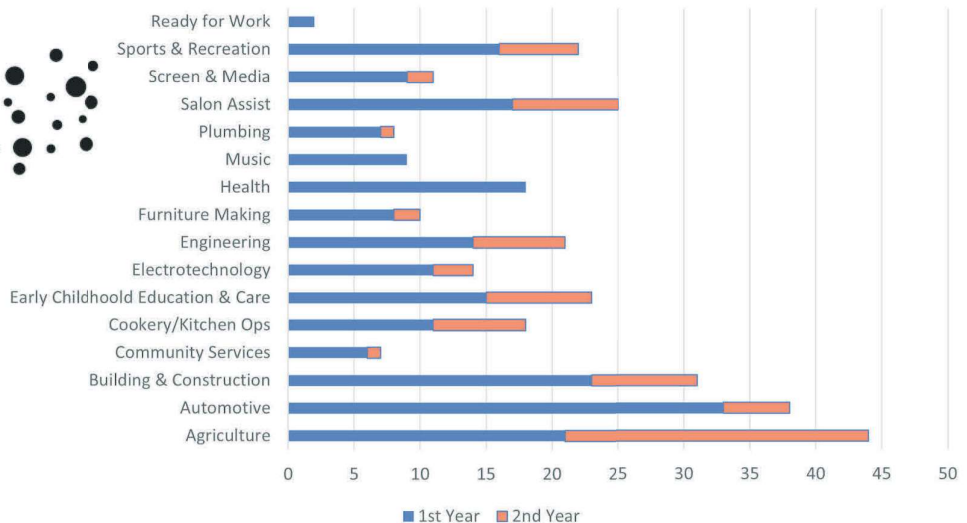
The VDDS (Vocational Education and Training Delivered in Secondary Schools) experienced remarkable success in 2023. We extend our gratitude to our dedicated local educators and the Department of Education for their invaluable efforts which greatly contributed to the seamless integration of VDDS into the new vocational major, VCE. This program witnessed a notable surge of 30% in applications, reflecting its increasing popularity and effectiveness.

As at census, the enrollment figures remained steady with a total of 301 students enrolled, a small increase from 2022 data. Preliminary reports for 2024 indicate a promising trend of continued enrollment growth, not only within our cluster region but also extending to South West Victoria.

The ongoing success of VDDS underscores the vital role in our local communities. By empowering young individuals to pursue their aspirations and providing them with essential skills, we are nurturing the future leaders of our workforce. We remain committed to fostering a supportive environment that enables our students to thrive and contribute meaningfully to society.



Enrolment Data by VDDS Program



## VET Transport Fund

The Department of Education once again committed to funding VDDS transport arrangements for 2023 to support students living and/or learning in rural and regional settings to access vocational education and training as part of their secondary schooling.

Through this initiative, the statewide LLEN network received funding to oversee transport options at the local level. This strategic allocation of resources promotes equity within the program, effectively eliminating financial barriers such as bus fares for our most rural students and their families. This support not only facilitates access to educational opportunities but also underscores our dedication to inclusivity and equal access to education for all students, regardless of their geographical location.



*Students arriving to their VDDS program from across the region thanks to the VET Transport Fund*

## Spotlight on Early Education & Care

WSMLLEN facilitated discussions with Federation University to introduce the partial Certificate III in Early Childhood Education & Care into the VDSS program from 2022. The strategic move aimed to provide students with a pathway into the early childhood education sector, aligning with the broader goals of enhancing the region's workforce capabilities.

In 2023, students faced challenges securing work placements in ECEC settings. Early Year Providers had an influx of placement requests as work continued in workforce attraction. Work placement was required against a number of units in the delivery model. WSMLLEN collaborated with the By Five Network, Federation University, and local childcare centers to address this issue.

WSMLLEN worked closely with childcare centers in the region to find flexible timeframes for student placements, considering the constraints faced by these centers. Through proactive collaboration, WSMLLEN ensured a balance between educational needs and workforce realities.

Despite challenges, WSMLLEN successfully navigated workforce shortages, enabling 23 students to complete the Certificate III in ECEC and gain valuable real-world experience. Utilising the Department of Education's School-to-Work portal, the work placement opportunities were coordinated and managed effectively across the year.

WSMLLEN's proactive approach and collaborative efforts has enriched learning experiences for students and contributed to the growth of the early childhood education workforce in the Wimmera Southern Mallee Region. Early Childhood Education & Care continues to be a popular choice for students with the 2024 program fully subscribed.



# WESTERN VICTORIAN CAREERS EXPO



The Western Victorian Careers Expo was another triumphant success. Spearheaded by David Crooks, WSMLEN Project Coordinator, in collaboration with the Wimmera and Southern Mallee Careers Association, the event aimed to offer regional students and jobseekers a comprehensive platform for vocational guidance and career advice.

The expo, serving as a 'one-stop shop' for career-related information, garnered significant support, boasting over 80 exhibitors and attracting 2000 students from 25 schools. Attendees had access to a plethora of resources, including informational booths from 80 exhibitors, seminars, hands-on trade demonstrations, and the apprenticeship 'drop-in center.' Additionally, tertiary and vocational information sessions were available, with representatives from more than 20 universities and colleges offering insights into further education opportunities, course selections, and student accommodation details.

Since its inception in 1986, the Western Victorian Careers Expo has remained a cornerstone event in the region. WSMLEN remains steadfast in its commitment to collaborating with local schools and businesses to ensure the continued success of this pivotal regional event, which plays a crucial role in guiding the future career paths of our community's youth.

The event would not be such a success without the generosity and support of sponsors and neighbouring LLENs.





## mates

MATES continues to be a relied upon program with schools, with 7 active programs across the Wimmera Southern Mallee, and a further 5 programs in other parts of rural and regional Victoria. There are a further 3 programs in the planning stages.

*'MATES Mentoring has been a great program for our school. Last year (2023) we had a student with very low attendance and a negative outlook on school. Thanks to his lovely mentor, this student's attendance and overall positivity towards school improved. He especially loved cooking and doing activities that resulted in having something to take home such as crafts or baked goods. This student would get so excited about his sessions that he would watch the clock and count down the minutes until his MATE arrived!'* - Leah Kaluza, Warracknabeal PS



## LET'S READ

WSMILEN extends literacy support through Lets Read across four local government areas (HRCC, West Wimmera, Yarriambiack, and Hindmarsh). At milestone child health appointments (4, 12, 18 months, and 3.5 years), parents and children receive color-coded bags containing age-appropriate books, reading tips, and information promoting local libraries. This initiative fosters a culture of reading and enhances literacy skills among children in our region. The program is delivered in partnership with The Smith Family, Child & Maternal Health Services, and Goolum Goolum.

Let's Read was supported in 2023 by the generosity of Horsham Sports & Community Club, Horsham Rural City Council, Yarriambiack and Hindmarsh Shires.

1,350 were delivered to families across the region in 2023.



## STUDENT SUPPORT FUND

WSMILEN'S Committee of Management once again established the Student Support Fund in 2023 using retained earnings to provide critical financial support to students in the Wimmera Southern Mallee.

*'A sincere thank you to Wimmera Southern Mallee LLEN for their support and generosity. Many families are currently feeling cost of living pressures, and any assistance, no matter how small, is much appreciated and beneficial to our families.'* - Lyn Fisher, Nhill Lutheran School.

**WIMMERA SOUTHERN MALLEE  
LOCAL LEARNING AND EMPLOYMENT NETWORK INC.  
FINANCIAL REPORT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

**WIMMERA SOUTHERN MALLEE LOCAL LEARNING AND EMPLOYMENT NETWORK INC.**  
**COMPILATION REPORT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

We have compiled the accompanying special purpose financial statements of Wimmera Southern Mallee Local Learning and Employment Network Inc, which comprises the Statement of Financial Position as at 31 December 2023, the Statement of Profit and Loss, Statement of Changes in Equity and Statement of Cash Flows for the year then ended, a Summary of Significant Accounting Policies and other explanatory notes. These have been prepared in accordance with the financial reporting framework described in Note 1 to the financial statements.

*The Responsibility of the Committee of Management*

The Committee of Management of Wimmera Southern Mallee Local Learning and Employment Network Inc is solely responsible for the information contained in the special purpose financial statements and the reliability, accuracy and completeness of the information

*Our Responsibility*

On the basis of information provided by the Committee of Management we have compiled the accompanying special purpose financial statements in accordance with financial reporting framework described in Note 1 to the financial statements and APES 315: Compilation of Financial Information.

We have applied our expertise in accounting and financial reporting to compile these financial statements in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards. We have complied with the relevant ethical requirements of APES 110: Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants

The special purpose financial statements were compiled exclusively for the benefit of the committee of management. We do not accept responsibility to any other person for the contents of the special purpose financial statements.

**Name of Firm:** WATTS PRICE ACCOUNTANTS

**Name of Partner:** Gabi Feijah

**Address:** 44 Wilson Street  
HORSHAM VIC 3400

**Date:** 26 March 2024

**WIMMERA SOUTHERN MALLEE LOCAL LEARNING AND EMPLOYMENT NETWORK INC.**

**STATEMENT OF PROFIT AND LOSS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

	NOTE	2023	2022
		\$	\$
Revenue	2	750,652	504,522
Advertising and promotion expense		-	1,734
Depreciation and amortisation expense		25,351	18,747
Employee expenses		311,518	295,724
Employee provisions expense		(40,711)	2,272
Interest of Right of Use liabilities		3,244	1,006
Motor Vehicle expenses		9,850	8,663
Other expenses		78,920	72,238
Project expenses		184,966	109,463
Rental expense		-	8,008
<b>Net current year surplus / (deficit)</b>		<u>177,514</u>	<u>(13,333)</u>
<b>Other comprehensive income</b>		-	-
<b>Total comprehensive income/(loss) for the year</b>		<u>177,514</u>	<u>(13,333)</u>
Net current year surplus/(deficit) attributable to members of the entity		<u>177,514</u>	<u>(13,333)</u>
Total comprehensive income/(loss) attributable to members of the entity		<u>177,514</u>	<u>(13,333)</u>



**WIMMERA SOUTHERN MALLEE LOCAL LEARNING AND EMPLOYMENT NETWORK INC.**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**

**AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023**

	NOTE	2023	2022
		\$	\$
<b>ASSETS</b>			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash on hand	4	765,868	830,376
Accounts receivable and other debtors	5	152,122	172,791
Prepayments	6	6,251	11,573
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		<u>924,241</u>	<u>1,014,739</u>
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, Plant and Equipment	7	48,861	47,250
Right of Use Assets	8	21,112	32,458
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		<u>69,973</u>	<u>79,708</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>994,214</u>	<u>1,094,447</u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Accounts payable and other payables	9	36,719	21,109
Current tax liabilities		9,271	36,510
Income received in advance		83,564	299,142
Provisions	10	3,644	39,300
Right of Use Liabilities	11	12,468	10,773
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>145,666</u>	<u>406,834</u>
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Provisions	10	-	5,054
Right of Use Liabilities	11	10,608	22,133
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>10,608</u>	<u>27,187</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES		<u>156,274</u>	<u>434,021</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>837,939</u>	<u>660,426</u>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Retained surplus		788,105	612,654
Capital Acquisition Reserve		49,835	47,772
TOTAL EQUITY		<u>837,940</u>	<u>660,426</u>

WIMMERA SOUTHERN MALLEE LOCAL LEARNING AND EMPLOYMENT NETWORK INC.

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	NOTE	Capital Acquisition Reserve	Retained Surplus	Total Equity
		\$	\$	\$
<b>Balance at 1 January 2022</b>		31,058	642,701	673,759
Comprehensive Income			(13,333)	(13,333)
Net Surplus/(Deficit) for the year			(13,333)	(13,333)
Total Comprehensive Income attributable to the members of the entity 2022		-	(13,333)	(13,333)
Transfers in/out of reserves for the period				
Capital Acquisition accretion to reserve		16,714	(16,714)	-
Capital Acquisitions		-	-	-
Capital Proceeds		-	-	-
Total Transfers in/out of reserves for the period		16,714	(16,714)	-
<b>Balance at 31 December 2022</b>		<b>47,772</b>	<b>612,654</b>	<b>660,426</b>

WIMMERA SOUTHERN MALLEE LOCAL LEARNING AND EMPLOYMENT NETWORK INC.

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	NOTE	Capital Acquisition Reserve	Retained Surplus	Total Equity
		\$	\$	\$
<b>Balance at 1 January 2023</b>		47,772	612,654	660,426
Comprehensive Income		-	177,514	177,514
Net Surplus/(Deficit) for the year		-	177,514	177,514
Total Comprehensive Income attributable to the members of the entity 2023				
Transfers in/out of reserves for the period				
Capital acquisition accretion to reserve		16,712	(16,712)	-
Capital Acquisitions		(14,649)	14,649	-
Capital Proceeds		-	-	-
Total Transfers in/out of reserves for the period		2,063	(2,063)	-
<b>Balance at 31 December 2023</b>		49,835	788,105	837,940

**WIMMERA SOUTHERN MALLEE LOCAL LEARNING AND EMPLOYMENT NETWORK INC.**

**STATEMENT OF CASHFLOWS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

	NOTE	2023	2022
		\$	\$
CASHFLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Grants (state) operating received		474,977	629,267
Non Government Funded Projects funds received		62,995	82,544
Interest received		17,771	3,351
Payments to suppliers and employees		<u>(591,456)</u>	<u>(503,906)</u>
Net cash provided by operating activities	12	<u>(35,713)</u>	<u>211,256</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment		-	-
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(14,649)	-
Establishment/Addition to Right of Use Assets		<u>(1,073)</u>	<u>(35,409)</u>
Net cash used in investing activities		<u>(15,722)</u>	<u>(35,409)</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Establishment of Right of Use Liability		-	35,409
Reduction of Right of Use Liability principal		<u>(13,072)</u>	<u>(3,510)</u>
Net cash used in financing activities		<u>(13,072)</u>	<u>31,899</u>
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held		(64,507)	207,746
Cash on hand at beginning of financial year		<u>830,376</u>	<u>622,630</u>
Cash on hand at end of financial year	4	<u>765,869</u>	<u>830,376</u>

**WIMMERA SOUTHERN MALLEE LOCAL LEARNING AND EMPLOYMENT NETWORK INC.**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

**Note 1: Statement of Significant Accounting Policies**

**Basis of Preparation**

These special purpose financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Australian Charities and Not-For-Profits Commission Act (Cth) 2012 and Australian Accounting Standards and interpretations of the Australian Accounting Standards Board. The association is a not-for-profit entity for financial reporting purposes under Australian Accounting Standards. Material accounting policies adopted in the preparation of these financial statements are presented below and have been consistently applied unless stated otherwise.

The financial statements, except for the cash flow information, have been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historical costs, modified, where applicable, by the measurement at fair value of selected non-current assets, financial assets and financial liabilities. The amounts presented in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest dollar.

**(a) Income Tax**

The Association is exempt from Income Tax.

**(b) Property, Plant & Equipment**

**Plant and Equipment**

Plant and equipment are measured on the cost basis and are therefore carried at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. In the event the carrying amount of plant and equipment is greater than the estimated recoverable amount, the carrying amount is written down immediately to the estimated recoverable amount and impairment losses are recognised either in profit or loss or as a revaluation decrease if the impairment losses relate to a revalued asset. A formal assessment of recoverable amount is made when impairment indicators are present (refer to Note 1(c) for details of impairment).

The cost of fixed assets constructed by the association includes the cost of materials, direct labour, borrowing costs and an appropriate proportion of fixed and variable overheads.

Subsequent costs are included in the asset's carrying amount or recognised as a separate asset, as appropriate, only when it is probable that future economic benefits associated with the item will flow to the association and the cost of the item can be measured reliably. All other repairs and maintenance are recognised as expenses in profit and loss during the financial period in which they are incurred.

**Depreciation**

The depreciable amount of all fixed assets, including buildings and capitalised lease assets, is depreciated on a diminishing value basis over the asset's useful life commencing from the time the asset is available for use. Leasehold improvements are depreciated over the unexpired period of the lease or the estimated useful lives of the improvements.

**WIMMERA SOUTHERN MALLEE LOCAL LEARNING AND EMPLOYMENT NETWORK INC.**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

The depreciation rates used for each class of depreciable assets are:

<b>Class of Fixed Asset</b>	<b>Depreciation Rate</b>
Motor Vehicles	25% DV
Business Equipment	20% - 33% DV
Furniture & Fixtures	25% DV

The assets' residual values and useful lives are reviewed and adjusted, if appropriate, at the end of each reporting period.

Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing net proceeds with the carrying amount. These gains and losses are recognised in profit or loss when the item is derecognised. When revalued assets are sold, amounts included in the revaluation surplus relating to that asset are transferred to retained surplus.

**(c) Impairment of Assets**

At the end of each reporting period, the association assess whether there is any indication that an asset may be impaired. The assessment will consider both external and internal sources of information. If such an indication exists, an impairment test is carried out on the asset by comparing the recoverable amount of that asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less costs to sell and its value-in-use, to the asset's carrying amount. Any excess of the asset's carrying amount over its recoverable amount is immediately recognised in profit and loss.

Where the future economic benefits of the asset are not primarily dependent upon the asset's ability to generate net cash inflows and when the entity would, if deprived of the asset, replace its remaining future economic benefits, value in use is determined as the depreciated replacement cost of an asset.

Where it is not possible to estimate the recoverable amount of an individual asset, the association estimates the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs.

Where an impairment loss on a revalued asset is identified, this is recognised against the revaluation surplus in respect of the same class of asset to the extent that the impairment loss does not exceed the amount in the revaluation surplus for that class of Asset.

**(d) Employee Provisions**

**Short-term employee benefits**

Provision is made for the association's obligation for short-term employee benefits. Short-term employee benefits are benefits (other than termination benefits) that are expected to be settled wholly before 12 months after the end of the annual reporting period in which the employees render the related service, including wages, salaries. Short-term employee benefits are measured at the (undiscounted) amounts expected to be paid when the obligation is settled.

The association's obligation for short-term employee benefits such as wages, salaries are recognised as a part of current trade and other payables in the statement of financial position.

**WIMMERA SOUTHERN MALLEE LOCAL LEARNING AND EMPLOYMENT NETWORK INC.**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

**Other long-term employee benefits**

Provision is made for employees' annual leave entitlements not expected to be settled wholly before 12 months after the end of the annual reporting period in which the employees render the related service. Other long-term employee benefits are measured at the present value (undiscounted) amounts owed to employees.

The association's obligations for long-term employee benefits are presented as non-current provisions in its statement of financial position, except where the association does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least 12 months after the reporting date, in which case the obligations are presented as current provisions.

**(e) Cash on hand**

Cash on hand includes cash on hand, deposits held at-call with banks, other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of twelve months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities in the statement of financial position.

**(f) Accounts Receivable and Other Debtors**

Accounts receivable and other debtors include amounts due from members as well as amounts receivable from customers for goods sold in the ordinary course of business. Receivables expected to be collected within 12 months of the end of the reporting period are classified as current assets. All other receivables are classified as non-current assets.

Accounts receivable are initially recognised at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less any provision for impairment. Refer to Note 1(c) for further discussion on the determination of impairment losses.

**(g) Revenue and other income**

Non-reciprocal grant revenue is recognised in profit or loss when the association obtains control of the grant and it is probable that the economic benefits gained from the grant will flow to the association and the amount of the grant can be measured reliably.

If conditions are attached to the grant which must be satisfied before it is eligible to receive the contribution, the recognition of the grant as revenue will be deferred until those conditions are satisfied.

When grant revenue is received whereby the association incurs an obligation to deliver economic value directly back to the contributor, this is considered a reciprocal transaction and the grant revenue is recognised in the statement of financial position as a liability until the service has been delivered to the contributor, otherwise the grant is recognised as income on receipt.

The association receives non-reciprocal contributions of assets from the government and other parties for zero or a nominal value. These assets are recognised at fair value on the date of acquisition in the statement of financial position, with a corresponding amount of income recognised in the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income.

**WIMMERA SOUTHERN MALLEE LOCAL LEARNING AND EMPLOYMENT NETWORK INC.**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

Donations and bequests are recognised as revenue when received

Interest revenue is recognised using the effective interest method, which for floating rate financial assets is the rate inherent in the instrument. Dividend revenue is recognised when the right to receive a dividend has been established.

Revenue from the rendering of a service is recognised upon the delivery of the service to the customer.

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax.

**(h) Goods and Services Tax (GST)**

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO).

Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of the amount of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included with other receivables or payables in the statement of financial position.

Cash flows are presented on a net basis. The GST components of cash flows arising from investing or financing activities which are recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO are presented as operating cash flows included in receipts from customers or payments to suppliers.

**(i) Accounts Payable and Other Payables**

Accounts payable and other payables represent the liability outstanding at the end of the reporting period for goods and services received by the association during the reporting period that remain unpaid. The balance is recognised as a current liability with the amounts normally paid within 30 days of recognition of the liability.

**(j) Provisions**

Provisions are recognised when the association has a legal or constructive obligation, as a result of past events, for which it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will result and that outflow can be reliably measured. Provisions recognised represent the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation at the end of the reporting period.

**(k) Leases**

At inception of a contract the association assesses if the contract contains or is a lease. If there is a lease present, a right of use asset and a corresponding lease liability is recognised by the association where the association is a lessee. However, all contracts that are classified as short-term leases (lease with remaining lease term of 12 months or less) and leases of low value assets are recognised as an operating expense on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease.



**WIMMERA SOUTHERN MALLEE LOCAL LEARNING AND EMPLOYMENT NETWORK INC.**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

Initially the lease liabilities measured at the present value of the lease payments still to be paid at commencement date. The lease payments are discounted at the interest rate implicit in the lease. If this rate cannot be readily determined, the association uses the incremental borrowing rate.

Lease payments are included in the measurement of the lease liability are as follows:

- Variable lease payments that depend on an index or rate, initially measured using the index or rate at the commencement date;
- The amount expected to be payable by the lessee under residual value guarantees;
- The exercise price of purchase options, if the lessee is reasonably certain to exercise the option;
- These payments under extension options if lessee is reasonably certain to exercise on the options; and
- Payment of penalties for terminating lease, if the lease term reflects the exercise of an option to terminate the lease.

The right of use assets comprise the initial measurement of the corresponding lease liability as mentioned above, any lease payments made at or before the commencement date, as well as any initial direct costs. The subsequent measurement of the right of use assets is at cost less accumulated depreciation and impairment losses.

Right of Use assets are depreciated over the lease term or useful life of the underlying asset which ever is the shortest. Where a lessee transfers ownership of the underlying asset or the cost of the right of use asset reflects that the association anticipates to exercise a purchase option, the specific asset is depreciated over the useful life of the underlying asset.

**(I) Going Concern**

These accounts are prepared on a going concern basis. At present, Government funding for the Wimmera Southern Mallee Local Learning and Employment Network has been secured until 31 December 2025.

**WIMMERA SOUTHERN MALLEE LOCAL LEARNING AND EMPLOYMENT NETWORK INC.**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	\$	\$
<b>Note 2: Revenue and Other Income</b>		
Government funding	675,769	417,844
Non-Government funded projects	47,641	71,213
Interest income	17,621	4,684
Sundry income	9,620	10,780
Total Revenue	<u>750,652</u>	<u>504,522</u>
<b>Note 3: Auditors' Fees</b>		
<b>Remuneration of the auditor of the association for:</b>		
- auditing or reviewing the financial report	4,250	4,150
	<u>4,250</u>	<u>4,150</u>
<b>Note 4: Cash on Hand</b>		
Cash at bank - unrestricted	392,676	340,025
Short-term investments - bank deposits	373,191	490,350
	<u>765,868</u>	<u>830,376</u>
Reconciliation of cash		
Cash on hand at the end of the financial year as shown in the statement of cash flows is reconciled to items in the statement of financial position as follows:		
Cash on hand	765,868	830,376
	<u>765,868</u>	<u>830,376</u>
<b>Note 5: Accounts Receivable and Other Debtors</b>		
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Trade and sundry debtors	149,785	170,305
Accrued income	2,337	2,487
Total current accounts receivables and other debtors	<u>152,122</u>	<u>172,791</u>
No impairment of accounts receivable and other debtors was required at 31 December 2023.		
<b>Note 6: Other Current Assets</b>		
Prepayments	6,251	11,573
	<u>6,251</u>	<u>11,573</u>

**WIMMERA SOUTHERN MALLEE LOCAL LEARNING AND EMPLOYMENT NETWORK INC.**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
<b>Note 7: Property, Plant and Equipment</b>		
Motor Vehicles & Plant & Equipment at cost	105,287	107,984
Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(64,717)</u>	<u>(60,734)</u>
	<u>40,570</u>	<u>47,250</u>

<b>Movement in carrying amounts</b>	<b>Business Equipment</b>	<b>Furniture &amp; Fittings</b>	<b>Motor Vehicles</b>	<b>Total</b>
Balance at 1 January 2022	2,636	714	59,696	63,046
Balance adjustment				-
Additions				-
Carrying amounts of Disposals				-
Depreciation expense	<u>(693)</u>	<u>(179)</u>	<u>(14,924)</u>	<u>(15,796)</u>
Carrying amount at 31 December 2022	<u>1,943</u>	<u>535</u>	<u>44,772</u>	<u>47,250</u>
Balance adjustment				-
Additions	6,113	8,536		14,649
Carrying amounts of Disposals	<u>(106)</u>			<u>(106)</u>
Depreciation expense	<u>(960)</u>	<u>(780)</u>	<u>(11,192)</u>	<u>(12,932)</u>
Carrying amount at 31 December 2023	<u>6,990</u>	<u>8,291</u>	<u>33,580</u>	<u>48,861</u>

**Note 8: Right of Use Assets**

The association's lease portfolio includes a building lease only. The lease term is 3 years

Leased Building	36,482	35,409
Accumulated depreciation	<u>(15,369)</u>	<u>(2,951)</u>
Total Right of Use Assets	<u>21,112</u>	<u>32,458</u>

**Movement in carrying amounts**

**Leased Buildings**

Opening Balance	32,458	-
Additions	1,073	35,409
Depreciation expense	<u>(12,418)</u>	<u>(2,951)</u>
Net carrying amount	<u>21,112</u>	<u>32,458</u>

**WIMMERA SOUTHERN MALLEE LOCAL LEARNING AND EMPLOYMENT NETWORK INC.**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
<b>Note 9: Accounts Payable and Other Payables</b>		
CURRENT		
Unsecured liabilities:		
Trade creditors	20,490	3,169
Credit Cards	1,059	1,517
PAYG Withholding payable	3,532	4,448
Superannuation payable	7,388	6,573
Accrued wages	4,042	5,331
Accrued expenses	209	73
	<u>36,720</u>	<u>21,110</u>

**Note 10: Employee Provisions**

CURRENT		
Provision for Annual Leave	3,644	14,025
Provision for LSL	-	25,275
	<u>3,644</u>	<u>39,300</u>
NON-CURRENT		
Provision for LSL	-	5,054
	<u>-</u>	<u>5,054</u>

**Analysis of Employee Provisions - Annual Leave Entitlements**

Opening balance at 1 January 2023	14,025
Increase in provisions	20,255
Amounts used	<u>(30,636)</u>
Balance at 31 December 2023	<u>3,644</u>

**Employee Provisions - Annual Leave Entitlements**

The provision for employee benefits represents amounts accrued for annual leave.

The association doesn't expect the full amount of annual leave to be settled wholly within the next 12 months. However, the amount must be classified as a current liability because the association does not have an unconditional right to defer the settlement of the amount in the event employees wish to use their leave entitlements.

**Analysis of Employee Provisions - Long Service Leave Entitlements**

Opening balance at 1 January 2023	30,330
Increase/(Decrease) in provisions	(3,618)
Amounts used	<u>(26,712)</u>
Balance at 31 December 2023	<u>-</u>

**WIMMERA SOUTHERN MALLEE LOCAL LEARNING AND EMPLOYMENT NETWORK INC.**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
<b>Employee Provisions - LSL Entitlements</b>		
The provision for employee benefits represents amounts accrued for Long Service Leave (LSL).		
<b>Note 11: Right of Use Liabilities</b>		
CURRENT		
Right of Use Liability	12,468	10,773
NON-CURRENT		
Right of Use Liability	10,608	22,133
<b>Note 12: Cash Flow Information</b>		
<b>Reconciliation of cash flow from operating activities with net current year surplus</b>		
Current year surplus	177,514	(13,333)
Cash flows excluded from current year surplus		
Non-cash flows in current year surplus:		
- depreciation expense	25,351	18,747
- interest Right of Use Liability	3,244	1,006
- net loss / (Profit) on disposal of motor vehicles, plant and equipment	106	-
Changes in assets and liabilities:		
- (increase)/decrease in accounts receivable and other debtors	20,669	203,990
- (increase)/decrease in prepayments	5,321	(8,460)
- increase/(decrease) in accounts payable and other payables	14,794	41
- increase/(decrease) in current tax liabilities	(27,239)	49
- increase/(decrease) in superannuation	815	294
- increase/(decrease) in employee provisions	(40,711)	2,272
- increase/(decrease) income in advance	(215,578)	6,651
	<u>(35,713)</u>	<u>211,256</u>

**Note 13: Association Details**

The principal place of business of the Association is:

Mallee Building  
Federation University (Horsham Campus)  
289 Baillie Street  
Horsham VIC 3400

**WIMMERA SOUTHERN MALLEE LOCAL LEARNING AND EMPLOYMENT NETWORK INC.  
STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

In accordance with a resolution of the committee of Wimmera Southern Mallee Local Learning and Employment Network Inc., the members of the committee declare that the financial statements as set out:

- present a true and fair view of the financial position of Wimmera Southern Mallee Local Learning and Employment Network Inc. As at 31 December 2023 and its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including Australian Accounting Interpretations) of the Australian Accounting Standards Board, requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act (Cth) 2012; and
- at the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Wimmera Southern Mallee Local Learning and Employment Network Inc. will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

The statement is signed for and on behalf of the committee by:

Chair:	 _____	Brendan Ryan Chair's Name
Treasurer:	 _____	Debra Nelson Treasurer's Name
Dated this <u>24<sup>th</sup></u> Day of <u>APRIL</u> 2024		

**WIMMERA SOUTHERN MALLEE LOCAL LEARNING AND EMPLOYMENT NETWORK INC.  
INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

To the members of Wimmera Southern Mallee Local Learning & Employment Network Inc,

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, in relation to the review for the year ended 31 December 2023, there have been:

- (i) no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth) in relation to the review; and
  
- (ii) no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the review.



Gabi Freijah  
Director, CPA  
Watts Price Accountants



Laurie Liston  
Senior Accountant, CPA  
Watts Price Accountants

**WIMMERA SOUTHERN MALLEE LOCAL LEARNING AND EMPLOYMENT NETWORK INC.**

**STATEMENT OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

	NOTE	2023	2022
		\$	\$
REVENUE			
Operating Activities:			
- Government Grant Income		675,769	417,844
- Non-Government funded projects		47,641	71,213
Non-Operating Activities			
- interest		17,621	4,684
- other funding		9,620	10,780
		<u>750,652</u>	<u>504,522</u>
EXPENDITURE			
Audit		4,250	4,150
Bank charges		282	270
Bad Debts		660	-
Contractors		13,430	12,623
Donations		500	500
Entertainment & Gifts		361	720
Equipment expenses		52	36
Depreciation expense:			
- Motor vehicles		11,192	14,924
- Office equipment		1,740	872
- Right of use assets		12,418	2,951
Insurances		920	848
Interest expenses - Right of Use Liabilities		3,244	1,006
Loss / (Profit) on sale of assets		106	-
Marketing/advertising		-	1,734
Meeting expenses		2,025	5,026
Motor vehicle expenses:			
- fuel		4,014	4,099
- insurances and registrations		3,179	2,919
- repairs and maintenance		2,657	1,645
Office expenses		2,146	1,992
Project expenses		184,966	109,463
Provision for staff leave expense		(40,711)	2,272
Rental expense		-	8,008
Seminars/professional development		-	2,418



**WIMMERA SOUTHERN MALLEE LOCAL LEARNING AND EMPLOYMENT NETWORK INC.**  
**STATEMENT OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

	NOTE	2023	2022
		\$	\$
EXPENDITURE			
Sponsorship		10,030	5,577
Staff related costs		15,396	3,261
Sundry expenses		693	-
Subscriptions		8,720	5,565
Superannuation		31,404	29,048
Telephone/internet		2,368	2,395
Travel expenses		974	1,069
Wages		291,448	289,462
Workcover		4,673	3,001
		<u>573,138</u>	<u>517,855</u>
Current year surplus / (deficit)		<u>177,514</u>	<u>(13,333)</u>



WIMMERA  
SOUTHERN  
MALLEE  
LLEN

mates  
Mentoring Program  
Linking Industry and Education  
SWL

WIMMERA  
SOUTHERN  
MALLEE  
Linking Industry and Education  
Phone (03) 5381 0122

# Agenda

- 4.00pm: **Arrival / Networking**
- 4:15pm: **Guest Speaker: Josh Jones**
- 5:00pm: **Ordinary Business**  
*Minutes of the previous meeting*  
*Receive annual report*  
*Receive financial report & statements*  
*Election of Committee of Management*  
*Membership fee review*
- 5:30pm: **Special Resolution**  
*Changes to Rules of Association:*  
*Details attached to Member Invitation*

We kindly request that in the event you're unable to attend, please consider appointing a proxy to represent your organisation's interest. A proxy nomination form is attached.

**Wimmera Southern Mallee LLEN**

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Federation University  
289 Baillie Street  
Horsham Vic 3400

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