



ANNUAL REPORT

YOUNG PEOPLE FARMING
THE FUTURE 2023-24

MURRAY MALLEE LLEN

✉ projects@mmlen.com

☎ P: (03) 5033 2017

🏠 73 Beveridge Street Swan Hill VIC 3585

🌐 www.mmlen.com.au



CONNECTING SCHOOLS, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNITY TO IMPROVE CAREER PATHWAYS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

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Young People Farming the Future (YFFF) Secondary Schools Agriculture Fund (SSAF)

PROJECT SUMMARY REPORT

The Local Government Areas the Murray Mallee Local Learning and Employment Network (MMLLEN) supports, and the neighbouring LGAs, are significant contributors to the national agricultural and horticultural GDP.

According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics the Swan Hill Rural City Council area alone generated Agricultural Production to the value of \$760,139,509 in 2020-21 (shown in full on page 8 of this report). In keeping with the scale of this production across these LGAs the agriculture / horticulture industry is also the main or major employer.

With Agriculture Victoria funding through the Secondary Schools Agriculture Fund the Murray Mallee Local Learning and Employment Network sought to shine a light on these incredible industries and career opportunities. The MMLLEN Young People Farming the Future (YFFF) initiative commenced in November 2022 and culminated in June 2024.

The Purpose of the Young People Farming the Future initiative was to:

- Research, co-design and implement a program designed to expose students to the diverse range of careers and career pathways within the Agriculture, Horticulture and related industries.
- Drive the development of VETIS programs which reflect the needs of local industries and which generate employment candidates with the required range of locally informed industry and employability skills.
- Develop a progression of Agriculture, Horticulture and related industries work exposure opportunities across all secondary year levels that becomes embedded long-term into the offerings for our local secondary students.

The first 3 months of delivery was dedicated to hearing comprehensively from local students and the agriculture / horticulture and agribusiness industries in a process of co-design and research and development customised information resources. In total 28 industry leaders and 140 students supported the co-design process, joining focus groups and participating in surveys.

This co-design process was central in informing the events and experiences delivery program and development of resources for the Young People Farming the Future initiative.

In terms of the YFFF events and experiences delivery, which spanned March 2023 - June 2024, more than 800 young people were engaged alongside an estimated 30+ teachers and school staff including more than 8 key schools.

Key events and experiences included the Young People Farming the Future Expo, Agri-tech Education and Innovation, Ag/Hort Industry Tours, support to attend the Western Victorian Careers Expo and Wiru Drone Solutions training workshops.

For example:

More than 350 students, school staff and community members attended the Young People Farming the Future Expo in August 2023. Schools from across the region including those in the MMLLEN catchment and bordering NSW communities shared in the insights of more than 30 exhibitors.

Central Queensland University (CQU) Australia's Agri-tech Education and Innovation team spent three days in Swan Hill and surrounding schools providing the Agri-Tech experience to more than 130 students including students at St Mary's Primary School Swan Hill, Swan Hill College and Tyrrell College Sea Lake.

Senior students from participating Swan Hill schools joined in Industry Tours across agriculture, horticulture and the broader agricultural sector including visits to The Truck Specialists, Emmett's, Swan Hill Truck Service, O'Connor's, Grizzly Engineering, SHARP Fruit, Entegra Signature Structures, Dodgshun Medlin and SuniTAFE Heavy Automotive Training Facility. More than 140 students participated in these visits.

Supporting these face-to-face activities a series of resources aimed at building student knowledge and exploring pathways into agriculture, horticulture and related industries sectors were custom created, ensuring relevance to the region. Professionally designed and printed these resources responded to a specific gap for high quality collateral. The 'At a Glance' resources (shown on pages 9-13) were central to this.

Over a span of almost 2 years the Young People Farming the Future initiative has increased exposure to, and understanding of, the breadth of careers across the agriculture, horticulture and agri-business sectors. The growth of these sectors across the region has the potential to create rewarding and lifelong careers for our young people.

RACHAEL WILLIAMS
PROJECT OFFICER



OVERVIEW OF YPPF

At the end of 2022, Murray Mallee LLEN was successful in our application to deliver our Young People Farming the Future (YPPF) project under the Secondary Schools Agriculture Fund (SSAF)!

The aim of the YPPF project is to implement a program designed to expose students to a diverse range of career pathways with the Agriculture / Horticulture / Agribusiness industries.

The SSAF forms part of the Labor Government's \$50 million investment in the Agricultural College Modernisation Program – helping more students pursue careers in agriculture and meet the growing demands of the growing farm, food and fibre sector.

Throughout the year of 2023, we facilitated a range of experiences and events with secondary school students to promote the Agriculture, Horticulture and Agribusiness career pathways.

The MMLEN team also created a range of resources to further highlight the significance of Agriculture, Horticulture and Agribusiness in our region.

The brochure below highlights the overview, purpose and four stages of the initiative for more details.

**This project was supported by the Secondary Schools Agriculture Fund, which was funded by Agriculture Victoria as part of the Victorian Government's four-year \$50 million Agricultural College Modernisation Program.*

Overview

The Victorian Government has committed \$50 million over four years to the Agriculture College Modernisation Program (ACMP) to help more Victorians to pursue exciting careers in Agriculture. Of this funding, \$5.5 million has been allocated to the **Secondary Schools Agriculture Fund (SSAF)**.

The **SSAF** will support Victorian secondary schools to deliver the agriculture skills of the future by supporting students to transition into modern careers in agriculture.

Murray Mallee Local Learning and Employment Network (MMLEN) successfully applied to the SSAF and received funding for our **Young People Farming the Future (YPPF)** initiative.



Young People Farming the Future (YPPF) Purpose

The objective of the **SSAF** is to increase the number of young people pursuing training and/or working in agriculture.

The **Young People Farming the Future (YPPF)** initiative will deliver an increasingly immersive model from Taste through to Train with the purpose of increasing awareness of both the breadth and diversity of local careers in agriculture/horticulture and related industries.

YPPF Stages

The four stages of the **Young People Farming the Future (YPPF)** initiative are:

Taste: Tasting events are delivered in school to provide resources and opportunities for the greatest possible number of students in Years 7-12.

- Tasting resources will include;
 - ▶ Agriculture Career Expo/s
 - ▶ Purpose designed promotional materials
 - ▶ Case studies
 - ▶ Local industry career pathways clearly mapped to education and training requirements

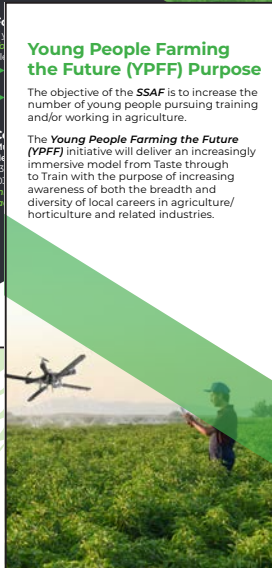
Try: Try events are delivered on-site at industry partner locations and are aimed at students in Years 7-10.

- These events offer exposure to the breadth of possible careers available within an industry. Try events will include;
 - ▶ Immersion Days (one day events for students interested in an Ag/Hort or associated career)

Try events will be industry specific, enabling students to opt-in to areas of interest, or explore all areas.

Test: Test activities aimed at Year 10 students are 8 day on-site Work Inspiration experiences carefully designed with industry partners to ensure high-quality learning and growth opportunities.

Train: Train programs/courses aimed at students in Years 9-12 will be developed and adapted based on advice from industry partners, education providers and student co-designers. The Train stage will work to ensure local training meets local needs with a balance between theory and practical/hands-on. Train will create linkages with local and regional education opportunities (SunTAFE SMART Farm, Longerenong College etc.)





COMMUNITY NETWORKING

AGRICULTURE VICTORIA'S YOUNG FARMERS ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

Our Project Officers Mikayla and Rachael were very fortunate to be invited to present at the **Agriculture Victoria Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions Young Farmers Advisory Council Meeting** alongside representatives from the Department of Education who spoke about the Secondary Schools Agriculture Fund (SSAF).

It was a fantastic opportunity to connect with the Young Farmers Advisory Council to ensure they are aware of the LLEN, what we do and gain understanding around the aim of our project and how they can assist us to increase knowledge of careers in Agriculture, Horticulture and related industries for both students and staff in local secondary schools.

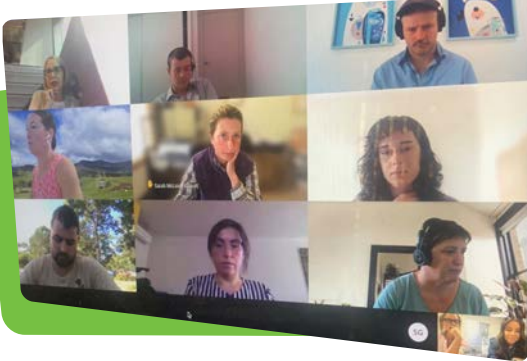


INTRODUCING OUR YOUNG PEOPLE FARMING THE FUTURE PROJECT OFFICERS

Rachael Williams (pictured right) joined the MMLLEN and our Projects Officer Mikayla Zanker (pictured middle) to manage the "Young People Farming the Future (YPPF)" initiative.

Rachael and Mikayla worked alongside young people, teachers, industry members and the broader community to research, co-design and implement a program designed to expose students to the diverse range of careers and career pathways within the Agriculture, Horticulture and related industries.

Rachael and Mikayla met with Nathan Keighran from the Swan Hill Rural City Council to discuss collaboration opportunities with their Agriculture Advisory Committee and how we could work together with local industry to increase awareness of the breadth and diversity of local careers in the Ag/Hort and related industries in our region.



MEETING INDUSTRY SUPPORTER GOOD GROVE GARDENS

The Murray Mallee LLEN team had a visit from local Horticulturalist, Natalie Von Wirtz-Matthews from Good Grove Gardens to discuss how she could be involved in our Young People Farming the Future initiative.

It was fantastic to hear about Nat's career pathway into the Horticulture industry and how she is running a successful small business in our community.





COMMUNITY NETWORKING

BCG YOUNG FARMERS EVENT

Birchip Cropping Group (BCG) Igniting Resilience Young Farmers Event

Our Projects/Communications Officer Mikayla had the fantastic opportunity to represent the Murray Mallee LLEN at the Birchip Cropping Group (BCG) Igniting Resilience event that was held at the Lower Murray Inn earlier in the year.

Mikayla heard from keynote speaker Warren Davies (The Unbreakable Farmer) who spoke about resilience, persistence and determination; she also had the opportunity to hear from a panel of local farmers including Will Simpson (Berrivillock), Jarrod Kemp (Nullawil) and Simone Murdoch (Kooloonong) who shared how they navigate the expected and unexpected challenges of farming and life.

BCG interviewed attendees for an article including our Projects Officer Mikayla to gain understanding around some highlights from the night.

"It was great to see a female represented on the farmer panel. I gained great insight not only into what challenges she faced working in what can sometimes feel like a male dominated industry but also how she is making great strides on her farm. It was empowering to hear Simone and her husband, Alistair, ensure they are placing focus on the health and wellbeing of their family and employees."



"All the guest speakers were fantastic. It was great to hear how each navigated life's challenges which created connection and validation that while we may all have different experiences, ultimately, we are all in the same boat." — Mikayla Zanker

Read the full BCG blog post at bcg.org.au/resilience-ignited-at-bcg-event/

It was also wonderful to meet some local Agriculture/Horticulture and Agri-business role models in regards to our Young People Farming the Future initiative as part of the Senior Secondary Schools Agriculture Fund and we look forward to working closely with these industry supporters to further promote the industry and expose secondary students to the breadth of Agriculture/Horticulture career opportunities locally.





SCHOOL INDUSTRY ENGAGEMENT

Murray Mallee LLEN's School Industry Engagement Manager Rod Prockter assisted in facilitating a huge range of industry tours for the secondary schools in our region over the last year!

Industry Tours are an opportunity for students to visit a variety of local businesses to gain knowledge of the industry, what goods/services they provide, an overview of career opportunities including their pathways and to understand those employability skills when entering the workforce.

Rod organised multiple Agriculture, Horticulture and Agribusiness related industry tours for local secondary school students at various schools including Swan Hill College, St Mary MacKillop College, Swan Hill College FLO Campus, Swan Hill College Clontarf Academy, Kerang Technical High School, Swan Hill Specialist School and Manangatang P-12 College.



Students visited a range of industry supporters including The Truck Specialists, Emmetts, Swan Hill Truck Service, O'Connors, Grizzly Engineering, SHARP Fruit, Entegra Signature Structures, Dodgshun Medlin and SuniTAFE Heavy Automotive Training Facility.

Overall, the industry tours have been very successful with positive feedback coming from students, schools and industry employers about the benefits of school to work activities such as this and how it promotes growth in our future local workforce!



BEEF CATTLE “AT A GLANCE” CAREERS ACCORDING TO EDUCATION & SKILLS

The range of careers across the Beef Cattle industry is incredibly diverse. Entry point careers include roles in stock handling and carcass processing. With increasing experience, skills and training roles can include:

EDUCATION & TRAINING

1 Year 10, Senior Secondary Certificate of Education, Certificate I or II
Apprenticeships may be offered at this level

2 Certificate III, Certificate IV or at least three years relevant experience
Apprenticeships or traineeships may be offered at this level

3 Diploma or Advanced Diploma (undertaken through TAFE or RTOs)
Some universities offer studies at this level

4 Bachelor Degree or higher qualification (often undertaken at a university)

LEVEL 1

- Farm Hand / On-farm Contractors (e.g. cutting hay)
- Animal Movements and Handling
- On-Sider / Cattle Movements and Dispatch
- Sowing / Cowling Pastures
- Pest and Weed Controller / Irrigation Technician
- Accounts Clerk / Sales Assistant
- Stock and Station Agent
- Milking / Milking Feeds
- Entry-level Meat Processing Roles
- Sales Importing and Exporting

LEVEL 2

- Farm Hand / Manager
- Mid-level Meat Processing Roles
- Engineering / Tradeperson / Boiler Maker
- Agribusiness Administrator
- Agricultural Technical Officer / Laboratory Worker
- Logistics / Transport Clerk
- Web Designer / Developer / IT Technician
- Conservation Worker
- Environmental Officer
- Grain / Seeds Services Manager

LEVEL 3

- Agricultural Scientist
- Accountant
- Farm / Agribusiness Manager / Farm Advisor
- Breeder Manager
- Breeding Consultant / Meat Inspector
- Electrical / Mechanical / Civil & Structural Engineer
- IT / Network Support Technician
- Surveyor
- Warehouse / Supply Chain / Logistics Manager

LEVEL 4

- Agriculture Researcher
- Animal Production Specialist
- Meat Scientist
- Animal Breeding Geneticist
- Agronomist
- Biotechnologist
- Environmental Consultant
- Agricultural / Environmental Engineer
- Field Officer (MSA, NIS)
- Commodity Trader / Financial Planner
- Hydrogeologist / Microbiologist / Toxicologist
- Biological Scientist / Chemical Engineer
- Mechanical / Electrical / Software Engineer
- Value-add and Marketing

TRAINING PROVIDERS*

LEVEL 1

- Your local school
- Registered Training Organisations (RTOs), e.g. Murray Mallee Training Company
- SunTAFE

LEVEL 2

- Registered Training Organisations (RTOs), e.g. Murray Mallee Training Company

LEVEL 3

- SunTAFE
- Longerenong College

LEVEL 3

- SunTAFE

LEVEL 4

- Longerenong College
- Charles Sturt University (Wagga Wagga & online)
- La Trobe University (Albury-Wodonga & Melbourne - Bundabara)
- University Melbourne (Dookie Campus)



RESOURCES

“AT A GLANCE” CAREER RESOURCES

CROPPING “AT A GLANCE” CAREERS ACCORDING TO EDUCATION & SKILLS

The range of careers across the Cropping industry is incredibly diverse. Entry point careers include roles in machinery operation (such as for preparation to sow or through harvest). With increasing experience, skills and training roles can include:

EDUCATION & TRAINING

1 Year 10, Senior Secondary Certificate of Education, Certificate I or II
Apprenticeships may be offered at this level

2 Certificate III, Certificate IV or at least three years relevant experience
Apprenticeships or traineeships may be offered at this level

3 Diploma or Advanced Diploma (undertaken through TAFE or RTOs)
Some universities offer studies at this level

4 Bachelor Degree or higher qualification (often undertaken at a university)

LEVEL 1

- Farm hand
- Sowing / Seeding & Harvesting Roles
- Mobile Plant Operator
- Harvest Contractor
- Seed & Weed Controller
- Irrigation Technician
- Accounts Clerk
- Sales Assistant
- Stock & Station Agent
- Grain Handler / Inspector
- Grain Sampler / AMS Worker

LEVEL 2

- Farm Hand or Manager
- Engineering Tradesperson
- Agribusiness Administrator
- Roller Maker
- Agricultural Technical Officer
- Logistics / Transport Clerk
- Web Designer / Developer / IT Technician
- Conservation Worker
- Environmental Officer
- Grain Services Manager

LEVEL 3

- Agricultural Scientist
- Accountant
- Farm / Agri-business Manager
- Electrical Engineer / Mechanical Engineer
- Civil and Structural Engineer
- IT / Network Support Technician
- Surveyor
- Geographic Information
- Supply Chain Manager
- Warehouse Manager / Logistics Manager

LEVEL 4

- Agricultural Researcher
- Agronomist
- Biotechnologist
- Environmental Consultant
- Agricultural Engineer
- Environmental Engineer
- Commodity Trader / Financial Planner
- Biological Scientist / Chemical Engineer
- Mechanical Engineer / Electrical Engineer
- Software Engineer
- Value-add and Marketing

TRAINING PROVIDERS*

- LEVEL 1**
- Your local school
 - Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) e.g. Murray Mallee Training Company
 - SuniTAFE
- LEVEL 2**
- Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) e.g. Murray Mallee Training Company
 - SuniTAFE
 - Longerenong College
- LEVEL 3**
- SuniTAFE
 - Longerenong College
- LEVEL 4**
- Charles Sturt University (Wagga Wagga & online)
 - La Trobe University (Albury-Wodonga & Melbourne - Bundabara)
 - University Melbourne (Dookie Campus)



DAIRY CATTLE “AT A GLANCE”

CAREERS ACCORDING TO EDUCATION & SKILLS

The range of careers across the Dairy industry is incredibly diverse. Entry point careers include roles in stock handling, milking and milk processing. With increasing experience, skills and training roles can include:

EDUCATION & TRAINING

1

Year 10, Senior Secondary Certificate of Education, Certificate I or II
Apprenticeships may be offered at this level

2

Certificate III, Certificate IV or at least three years relevant experience
Apprenticeships or traineeships may be offered at this level

3

Diploma or Advanced Diploma (undertaken through TAFE or RTOs)
Some universities offer studies at this level

4

Bachelor Degree or higher qualification (often undertaken at a university)

LEVEL 1

- Farm Hand / On-farm Contractors (e.g. cutting hay)
- Animal Movement and Handling
- Calf Rearing (e.g. feeding and overall health etc.)
- Sowing / Cowing Pastures
- Pest and Weed Controller / Irrigation Technician
- Accounts Clerk / Sales Assistant
- Stock & Station Agent
- Milking / Milking Feeds
- Entry level Milk Processing Roles / Milk Harvesting
- Sales Importing and Exporting

LEVEL 2

- Farm Hand / Manager
- Animal Husbandry
- Mid-level Milk Processing Roles
- Feed Management and Purchasing
- Engineering / Tradesperson / Boiler Maker
- Agribusiness Administrator
- Agricultural Technical Officer / Laboratory Worker
- Logistics / Transport Clerk
- Web Designer / Developer / IT Technician
- Conservation Worker
- Environmental Officer
- Grain Plevil Services Manager

LEVEL 3

- Agricultural Scientist
- Accountant
- Farm / Agribusiness Manager / Farm Advisor
- Veterinary Assistant
- Breeding Consultants
- Electrical / Mechanical / Civil / Structural Engineer
- IT / Network Support Technician
- Supervisor
- Warehouse / Supply Chain / Logistics Manager

LEVEL 4

- Agricultural Researcher
- Animal Production Specialist / Breeding Geneticist
- Veterinarian
- Agronomist
- Biotechnologist
- Environmental Consultant
- Agricultural / Environmental Engineer
- Field Officer (NSA, NCS)
- Commodity Trader / Financial Planner
- Hydrogeologist / Microbiologist / Toxicologist
- Agricultural / Mechanical / Electrical Engineer
- Biological Scientist / Chemical Engineer
- Value-add and Marketing

TRAINING PROVIDERS*

LEVEL 1

- Your local school
- Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) e.g. Murray Mallee Training Company
- SunTAFE

LEVEL 2

- Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) e.g. Murray Mallee Training Company
- SunTAFE

LEVEL 3

- Longerenong College
- SunTAFE
- Longerenong College

LEVEL 4

- Charles Sturt University (Wagga Wagga & online)
- La Trobe University (Albury-Wodonga & Melbourne - Bundicarra)
- University Melbourne (Dookie Campus)



RESOURCES

“AT A GLANCE” CAREER RESOURCES

HORTICULTURE “AT A GLANCE”

CAREERS ACCORDING TO EDUCATION & SKILLS

The range of careers across the Horticultural industry is incredibly diverse and is based on the specific horticultural industry and product (e.g. wine grapes) and area of interest / skillset (e.g. wine making).

Entry point careers include High Volume roles in picking, pruning, plant training etc. But with increasing experience, skills and training roles can include:

EDUCATION & TRAINING

1

Year 10, Senior Secondary Certificate of Education, Certificate I or II
Apprenticeships may be offered at this level

2

Certificate III, Certificate IV or at least three years relevant experience
Apprenticeships or traineeships may be offered at this level

3

Diploma or Advanced Diploma (undertaken through TAFE or RTOs)
Some universities offer studies at this level

4

Bachelor Degree or higher qualification (often undertaken at a university)

LEVEL 1

- Planting / Pruning
- Harvesting Roles
- Mobile Plant Operator
- Root and Vessel Controller
- Nursery Assistant / Retail Worker / Sales Assistant
- Forestry Worker
- Gardener / Groundskeeper
- Irrigation Technician
- Landscaping Gardener / Assistant
- Parks Officer
- Florist
- Accounts Clerk
- Stock & Station Agent

LEVEL 2

- Farm Hand / Manager
- Horticultural / Engineering Tradesperson
- Ag/Business Administrator
- Arborist / Tree Surgeon
- Sucker Maker
- Agricultural Technical Officer
- Logistics / Transport Clerk
- Web Designer / Developer / IT Technician
- Conservation Worker
- Environmental Officer

LEVEL 3

- Horticultural / Viticulturalist
- Horticulture Manager / Business Manager
- Agricultural Scientist
- Accountant
- Consulting Arborist
- Electrical / Mechanical / Civil / Structural Engineer
- IT / Network Support Technician
- Parks & Garden Manager

LEVEL 4

- Wine Maker
- Agriculture Researcher
- Agronomist
- Biotechnologist
- Environmental Consultant / Engineer
- Farm Manager
- Commodity Trader / Financial Planner
- Agricultural / Mechanical / Electrical Engineer
- Biological Scientist
- Software Engineer
- Surveyor
- Value-add and Marketing

TRAINING PROVIDERS*

LEVEL 1

- Your local school
- Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) e.g. Murray Mallee Training Company
- SunTAFE

LEVEL 2

- Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) e.g. Murray Mallee Training Company

LEVEL 3

- SunTAFE
- Longerenong College

LEVEL 4

- Charles Sturt University (Wagga Wagga & online)
- La Trobe University (Albury-Wodonga & Melbourne - Bundoora)
- University Melbourne (Dookie Campus)



RESOURCES

“AT A GLANCE” CAREER RESOURCES

SHEEP MEAT AND WOOL “AT A GLANCE”

CAREERS ACCORDING TO EDUCATION & SKILLS

The range of careers across the sheep meat and wool industry is incredibly diverse. Entry point careers include roles in stock handling and carcass processing. With increasing experience, skills and training roles can include:

EDUCATION & TRAINING

1

Year 10, Senior Secondary Certificate of Education, Certificate I or II
Apprenticeships may be offered at this level

2

Certificate III, Certificate IV or at least three years relevant experience
Apprenticeships or traineeships may be offered at this level

3

Diploma or Advanced Diploma (undertaken through TAFE or RTOs)
Some universities offer studies at this level

4

Bachelor Degree or higher qualification (often undertaken at a university)

LEVEL 1

- Farm Hand / On-farm Contractors (e.g. cutting hay)
- Animal Movement and Handling
- Sowing / Cropping Stations
- Meat and Wool Controller / Irrigation Technician
- Accounts Clerk / Sales Assistant
- Stock & Station Agent
- Mixing / Milling Feeds
- Wool Handling (Roundabout, Presser / Wool Valuer)
- Entry-level Meat and Wool Processing Roles
- Shearing Plans and Equipment Sales and Service
- Sales Importing and Exporting

LEVEL 2

- Farm Hand / Farm Manager
- Shearer / Wool Classifier / Wool Valuer / Agent
- Mid-level Meat and Wool Processing Roles
- Wool Carcass Design
- Engineering Trade/Dispenser / Boiler Maker
- Agribusiness Administrator
- Agricultural Technical Officer / Laboratory worker
- Logistics / Transport Clerk
- Meat Designer / Developer / IT Technician
- Conservation Worker
- Environmental Officer
- Crain (Bess) Services Manager

LEVEL 3

- Agricultural Scientist
- Accountant
- Agribusiness / Feedlot Manager / Farm Advisor
- Electrical / Mechanical / Civil & Structural Engineer
- Breeding Consultant / Meat Inspector
- IT / Hardware Support Technicians
- Warehouse / Logistics / Supply Chain Manager

LEVEL 4

- Agricultural Researcher
- Animal Production Specialist
- Animal Breeding Geneticist
- Agro-nomist
- Biotechnologist
- Environmental Consultant
- Agricultural / Environmental Engineer
- Field Officer (NSA, NUS)
- Commodity Trader / Financial Planner
- Agribusiness / Mechanical / Electrical Engineer
- Biological Scientist / Chemical Engineer
- Hydrogeological / Microbiologist / Toxicologist
- Value-add and Marketing

TRAINING PROVIDERS*

LEVEL 1

- Your local school
- Registered Training Organisations (RTOs), e.g. Murray Mallee Training Company
- SunTAFE

LEVEL 2

- Registered Training Organisations (RTOs), e.g. Murray Mallee Training Company

LEVEL 3

- SunTAFE
- Longerenong College

LEVEL 4

- SunTAFE
- Longerenong College
- Charles Sturt University (Wagga Wagga & online)
- La Trobe University (Albury-Wodonga & Melbourne - Bundabara)
- University Melbourne (Dookie Campus)





MURRAY MALLEE AGRICULTURE HORTICULTURE CAREERS EXPO



As part of Murray Mallee LLEN's Young People Farming the Future Initiative and to coincide with National Skills Week, we facilitated our Murray Mallee Agriculture/Horticulture Careers Expo on the 23rd of August 2023 at The Grain Shed.

The aim of the event was to provide young people in our region with information about career pathways, job options and services that could assist them in Ag/ Hort/Agribusiness industries.

The Careers Expo was a huge success with over 350+ young people, community members, industry and local students from Swan Hill College, Tyrrell College Sea Lake, Manangatang P-12 College,



Swan Hill Specialist School, Tooleybuc Central School, Balranald Central School, St Mary MacKillop College and St Mary's Primary School in attendance.

Attendees were exposed to potential employers and information about career pathways, job options, study pathways, work experience, apprenticeships and traineeship opportunities that can assist them as they explore the breadth of amazing careers available across the Agriculture, Horticulture and the agribusiness sector.

We were fortunate to have around 30 fantastic exhibitors on the day including:

- ▶ Andrew Peace Wines
- ▶ SuniTAFE Skills & Jobs Centre
- ▶ SuniTAFE SMART Farm
- ▶ Select Harvests
- ▶ Emmetts
- ▶ Longerenong College
- ▶ O'Connors
- ▶ Swan Hill Chemicals
- ▶ GrainCorp
- ▶ ANZ Bank





"Agriculture is such a diverse industry and there are so many great opportunities. It's a wonderful network to be involved in so I'd encourage everyone to get involved!" – Birchip Cropping Group

"I love working in the Agribusiness industry because it's very challenging but also very rewarding and ag people, clients and colleagues, are amazing people to work with." – Rural Bank

"My favourite thing about the dairy industry is that I get to work outside and no day is the same as the day before." – Bethunes Lane Dairy

"I'm really passionate about the opportunities within the Agriculture industry with the various pathways and the ability to train the future of farming." – Longerenong Collee

We would like to once again thank all the schools, students and community for taking the time to come along and find out about all things Agriculture and Horticulture in our region and a huge thank you to exhibitors for providing a greater understanding of career pathway opportunities to our regional youth!



Murray Mallee Agriculture / Horticulture Careers Expo

STUDENT RESPONSES

- ▶ Chislett Family Farms & Nursery
- ▶ Australian Farming Services
- ▶ goFARM
- ▶ Grizzly Engineering
- ▶ CQUniversity Australia
- ▶ Agri-tech Education and Innovation
- ▶ Wiru Drone Solutions
- ▶ Rural Bank
- ▶ Pearsons Group
- ▶ Lower Murray Water
- ▶ Melbourne Polytechnic
- ▶ Minerals Council of Australia
- ▶ VHM Limited
- ▶ Murray Mallee Training Company
- ▶ Birchip Cropping Group
- ▶ Bethune Lane Dairy
- ▶ Dodgshun Medlin
- ▶ Workforce Partners Australia
- ▶ Murray Mallee LLEN - VIC VICE

We interviewed students on the day to gain an understanding of what they enjoyed most about the Careers Expo and how the Career Expo has helped them with their career pathway.

Check out the video by scanning the QR Code in the image above or go to our YouTube Channel!

Murray Mallee LLEN's Projects/Communications Officer Mikayla interviewed all the exhibitors from the day to find out what their favourite thing about working in the Agriculture/Horticulture industry is;





CQUNIVERSITY AGRI-TECH EDUCATION WORKSHOPS



As part of Murray Mallee LLEN's Young People Farming the Future Initiative and to coincide with National Skills Week, we organised CQUniversity to facilitate a range of Agri-tech Education experiences for our local students.

CQUniversity Australia Agri-tech Education and Innovation visited local schools including St Mary's Primary School Swan Hill, Swan Hill College and Tyrrell College Sea Lake to showcase the scientific and digital skills required in the agricultural industry and to attract the next generation to work in the food and fibre production sector.

Students had the opportunity to test sweetness in fruit by using all their senses to decipher which fruit they would believe to be the sweetest, based on appearance and flavour - this also teaches them about determining if a crop is ready to be harvested and eaten.

They also had a chance to try out coding technology that is used within the Agriculture industry now which encouraged students to explore their potential in a dynamic, STEM driven industry.





Student Testimonial

**CQUniversity
Agri-tech Education
Workshops**

Scan the QR code on the student testimonial to hear what were some of the highlights from the workshop.

We would like to thank the crew from CQUniversity Australia Agri-Tech Education for bringing local Agriculture to the classroom and inspiring our students to build on their capacity in STEM, digital technologies, agribusiness, manufacturing and food and fibre!





DRONE WORKSHOPS



As part of our Young People Farming the Future initiative, we invited Chris from Wiru Drone Solutions to facilitate some drone workshops for some of our local secondary school students.

The sessions saw the senior students from Swan Hill Clontarf Academy and Swan Hill College FLO Program participate in the workshop learning all about CASA Know Your Drone Rules, airspace and safe flying practices, the basics of flying and the various career pathways available in the drone industry.

Scan the QR code on Wiru Drone Solutions video to check out some of the highlights from the workshop.





They had the opportunity to try out the drones and also see how the bigger drones operate which was very cool! It was great seeing the students having so much fun while learning about the possibilities of becoming a commercial drone operator.

"I'm grateful for the opportunity to work with such enthusiastic students and look forward to seeing where their drone skills take them in the future!" – Chris, Wiru Drone Solutions

The MMLLEN would like to give a huge shout out and thank you to Chris for travelling to Swan Hill and facilitating these awesome workshops for our young people! We would also like to thank The Grain Shed for allowing us the space for these sessions.





WESTERN VICTORIAN

CAREERS EXPO



Our Executive Officer Deb and Projects Officer Mikayla had the opportunity to attend the Western Victorian Careers Expo at Longerenong College on behalf of the Murray Mallee LLEN along with a bus load of Swan Hill College and Swan Hill College FLO students!

The Western Victorian Careers Expo is Victoria's largest careers expo and gives attendees the opportunity to talk to a wide range of career, industry and course advisors.

The aim of the careers expo is:

- To provide regional students and jobseekers with a broad range of vocational and course information, as well as career pathways advice in a 'one-stop shop' event in their local area
- To make available a broad spectrum of careers/ jobs role models, especially for those in isolated and remote communities of Western Victoria
- To offer current advice regarding qualifications, training and prerequisites, business prospects and vocational opportunities to students, careers-changers, jobseekers and parents

Murray Mallee LLEN, with assistance from our local industry supporter BusBiz, supported the Swan Hill College with transport funding to ensure the students had the opportunity to attend this fantastic career exposing expo!

We would also like to acknowledge and congratulate the Wimmera and Southern Mallee Careers Association (WASM) which includes representatives from; Wimmera Southern Mallee LLEN, Department of Education, Victoria, Federation University Australia, Skillinvest, Wimmera Events Centre (WEC), Wimmera Development Association (WDA) and the Tertiary Information Service (TIS) for the organisation and facilitation of this event.



INDUSTRY CONSULTATION

STUDENT FEEDBACK



The Young People Farming the Future Initiative Industry Survey and Student Feedback Form Draw Winners

Our Projects/Communications Officer Mikayla presented some certificates and Swan Hill Gift Cards to the winners from our Young People Farming the Future Industry Survey draw as well as our Agriculture/Horticulture Careers Expo Student Feedback Form draw!

Congratulations to Lucas O'Reilly and Chelsea Tucker from St Mary's Primary School Swan Hill along with Emma Morpeth from SHARP Fruit!

As part of our local initiative, Young People Farming the Future, we conducted an industry survey to help us better understand local ag/hort industry's skills and workforce needs so we can inspire and support career pathways for young people!

Thank you to all the wonderful industry supporters that participated in the survey and a huge thank you to the massive amount of feedback we received from students across our region — ***your feedback is greatly appreciated!***



PIEFA'S DIGITAL LEARNING KIT

National Ag Week 2023!

Celebrating STEM, Innovation and Technology in Food and Fibre Production.

DOWNLOAD PIEFA'S
PRIMARY AND SECONDARY,
CURRICULUM-ALIGNED
DIGITAL LEARNING KIT NOW!



Primary Industries Education Foundation Australia (PIEFA) created a sensational Digital Learning Kit that will get primary and secondary students engaged in food and fibre content. With a focus on STEM, innovation and technology, the lessons in the PDF download are curriculum-aligned and cover various subject areas.

Listen to the short and sharp video interviews with people working in a range of primary industries, as they talk about the technology they've introduced to be more sustainable, efficient and cost-effective. Videos are complemented with student worksheets.

DOWNLOAD: primezone.edu.au/national-ag-day/

COMING SOON!

BCG FARM TOUR "PADDOCK TO PLATE"



The Murray Mallee LLEN have been working closely with Birchip Cropping Group (BCG) to offer the BCG Farm Tour "Paddock To Plate" experience to local hospitality students!

BCG Buloke Farm Tours is for anyone keen to step through the farm gate, sit down with a Mallee farmer and learn more about what it takes to produce food and fibre.

With wide open spaces, diverse landscapes and resilient, vibrant communities, visitors will leave with a sense of the uniqueness of the region, life as a Mallee farmer and the desire to linger longer.

Birchip is a rural service town with a population of approximately 700 people. It sits at the southern end of the Mallee in Western Victoria, just over 300 km from Melbourne. Our distance from larger regional centres is our strength. We are a resilient, self-reliant and vibrant community with plenty going on.

The development and subsequent growth of the Birchip Cropping Group (BCG), over 30 years, is a great example of this. The organisation is now a leader in farmer-driven, agronomic research and a major employer in town. It represents the interests of farmers who not only produce large volumes of grain to feed the world but also manage several intensive livestock industries and are at the forefront of driving local and innovative research.



The tour consists of students' meeting at Birchip Cropping Group for an introduction to the organisation and an overview of farming in the region. They will then be taken on a personal tour with a BCG staff member, Kelly Angel or Louisa Ferrier, to a property to meet a Mallee farmer and see local farming systems in action.

The 3 hour tour concludes with a 'Paddock to Plate' lunch in a farm setting. Using locally produced products, participants will enjoy a meal based on a menu developed by renown restaurateur, and BCG Board member, Stefano de Pieri.

This will be a fantastic opportunity for our local hospitality students to gain understanding of the food and fibre industry and how important Agriculture / Horticulture is for our Hospitality industry and the food we cook and eat every day. We also hope to continue to assist in the organisation of this industry tour for our local secondary students' in future years to come.



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COMING SOON!

YPFF AG CHAMPION PODCAST



As part of our Young People Farming the Future initiative and to further promote the breadth of Agriculture, Horticulture and Agri-business related career opportunities, the Murray Mallee LLEN team is working to create an 'Ag Champion Podcast' which is **coming soon!**

The podcast will consist of brief interviews with local 'Ag Champions' within our region where we will embark on a journey of discovery with industry professionals, exploring their unique experiences, challenges, and triumphs in navigating the agricultural landscape.

Tune in as we cultivate conversations that illuminate the diverse pathways that lead to success in the field of agriculture and uncover the stories behind the individuals shaping the future of agriculture, horticulture and agribusiness!

The final series will be available to listen to on our website as well as our Murray Mallee LLEN YouTube Channel.

COMING SOON!

INDUSTRY SUPPORTER CAREER VIDEOS

As part of our Young People Farming the Future initiative, the Murray Mallee LLEN has been working closely with Mitchell Barkman from Mitchell Barkman Videography and the Australian Farming Services team to develop a career-related video to educate young people and increase awareness of both the breadth and diversity of local careers in horticulture!

Our Executive Officer Deb Quin and our Projects Officer Mikayla Zanker visited the Australian Farming Services new Processing Plant to interview the Site Manager about his role in the process of the building.

Our team also visited a range of AFS' almond farms to interview various staff about their role within the organisation and why Australian Farming Services' is an employer of choice amongst the industry.

A highlight from the day was interviewing a young female who was currently completing a gap year at AFS after just graduating Year 12. We also spoke to staff members with a range of pathways including University, TAFE, SBATs and more!

We look forward to seeing this resources come together to further promote the vast range of careers available locally within the Horticulture industry.

The final video will be available to view on our website as well as our Murray Mallee LLEN YouTube Channel.



MURRAY MALLEE LOCAL LEARNING AND EMPLOYMENT NETWORK

73 BEVERIDGE STREET PO BOX 527
SWAN HILL VICTORIA 3585
PHONE: (03) 5033 2017
www.mmlen.com.au