



IN THIS ISSUE

**SUPPORTING OUR
YOUNG WOMEN TO
GET INTO TRADES**

YOUTH FEST 2024

**ROBE SURF
SCHOOL TRIP**

**HARROW GYM
YOUTH ACCESS**

FIT 2 DRIVE

Supporting our young women to get into trades

Wimmera Southern Mallee Local Learning Employment Network (WSMLLEN) held a fully funded opportunity to host 'SALT' (Supporting and Linking Trades Women) in Horsham at Federation University on Tuesday 5 March. SALT have been around since 2012 and have undertaken 561 workshops in other parts of Australia. They are currently in Southern Victoria heading to Tasmania. SALT is an evidence-based initiative to generate social change around women and non-binary individuals into trades. The immersion allows up to thirty participants to work in small groups one-on-one with a trade's person undertaking practical and meaningful work including tool use.

Five students from Kaniva College participated in the event, with three receiving travel support from Youth Services West Wimmera. Edenhope College also supported students to attend. Prior to the event, participants received safety instructions and valuable insights into the trades industry. They also had the chance to engage in a project.

The day was highly enjoyable, and the participants were grateful for the chance to acquire new skills, make connections, and step outside the classroom to experience real-world scenarios.

For more information on West Wimmera Youth Services:

 facebook.com/WestWimmeraYouthServices

 facebook.com/westwimmerashire

 instagram.com/westwimmera/

 westwimmera.vic.gov.au/Community/Youth-Services



Youth Fest

Formerly known as Victorian Youth Week, this initiative underwent a revamp in 2022, resulting in the emergence of the new and enhanced Youth Fest. This development, influenced by feedback gathered from previous grant recipients with a clear objective: to create an environment where youth focused and youth led events could flourish, irrespective of the challenges posed by the pandemic.

In 2024, Youth Fest makes a comeback as an inclusive event led by youth. To make sure the event connects with what young people are interested in, we will establish small committees. Support for this event's funding comes from the Victorian State Government's FReeZA program. Stay tuned for further updates on how you can contribute and participate in organising this event scheduled for September.

Robe Surf School Trip

On 24 January 2024, thirteen young individuals from West Wimmera Shire participated in a surfing session at Charlies Surf School in Robe. Most participants boarded the community bus at Kaniva and journeyed to Robe, while others were already in the vicinity with their families. During their excursion, the Kaniva group indulged in ice cream at the Robe Ice-Creamery and received an impromptu lesson on the hazards of driving on soft sand in an unsuitable vehicle.

The day proved delightful for everyone, with ideal weather conditions and a delightful group of young people who thoroughly enjoyed their surfing lesson. Another group of young people from Harrow recently embarked on a similar trip to Robe on April 3.



Harrow Youth Gym

In collaboration with Harrow Bush Nursing Centre and Harrow Neighbourhood House, Youth Services West Wimmera and Engage! is offering support to young people in the Harrow area.

The support includes facilitating access to skilled instructor Lauren Linto, who educates participants in developing healthy and active lifestyles to improve their mental and physical well-being.

This initiative arose directly from expressed desires of the area's youth and holds significant importance to them. The program is set to run for the entirety of the year.



Youth Services Officer

LEAH DAVIES

 LeahDavies@westwimmera.vic.gov.au

 **0458 033 441**

FIT to Drive

Established in 2002, Fit to Drive came about after seven young people tragically died in car accidents over 18 months in Frankston and Mornington Peninsula. This prompted community members like schools, parents, and students to join forces, realising the urgent need for a new way to teach road safety.

Every school in West Wimmera Shire had the opportunity to participate in the Fit to Drive program due to funding from Engage! Victoria. Edenhope College had their Fit to Drive workshop on February 15. Kaniva College will hold their workshop on May 23rd.

Fit to Drive focuses on individuals in the group, tailoring the program to meet their needs, and encouraging their ideas and skills to create a safer road culture.

