

Developing leaders for vibrant and sustainable communities.



OUR VISION

A regional leadership program developing **Leaders** for **Vibrant** and **Sustainable Communities**.

OUR MISSION

An annual program which aims to develop the skills, knowledge, confidence and networks of participants to prepare and support them in active community and industry leadership roles.

MAJOR PARTNERS







SUPPORTING PARTNERS

The Hugh Williamson Foundation





























HUGE Congrats!

Northern Mallee Leaders 2017



Contents

Message from the Minister for Regional Development	2
Chair's Report	3
Executive Officer's Report	4
Program Manager's Report	5
Participants Report	6
Program Reports	7
Participant Profiles	21

NML Committee of

Management

Rebecca Wells (Chair)
Jenny Grigg (Executive Officer)
Jenny Garrone
Laurence Burt
lan Ballantyne
Mark Jenkins
Jackie Heaysman
Trevor Carter
Aleesha Davis

Photograph

Rod Robinson Shiva Neiker

Program Design
Visual Strategy Design

Proudly printed by Jamesprint



Message from the Minister for Regional Development

The Andrews Labor Government is pleased to support Victoria's Regional Community Leadership Programs to develop the leaders that will make a positive difference to their communities.

Now in its seventh year, the Northern Mallee Leaders Program is continuing to develop leaders that will seek and lead change within and across their local rural and regional communities. I was delighted to see that so many program graduates nominated and succeed in the 2016 council elections. That 35 people were elected across twenty nine of forty-eight rural or regional city councils demonstrates a very practical outcome of Regional Community Leadership Programs.

I am confident that program graduates' deep knowledge of their regions will equip them well to face the social, economic and administrative challenges they will encounter. Of course, many graduates contribute to their community or workplace in so many other ways and we also celebrate their achievements in community leadership.

The development of regional community and business leaders is vital to the success of regional Victoria. Through its leadership programs, short courses, networking and alumni opportunities, the Northern Mallee Leaders Program fosters the development of a vibrant network of community and business leaders in North Western Victoria.

The Northern Mallee Leaders Program benefits individual participants by providing them with skills, knowledge and self-confidence to actively engage in local and wider communities. The program also benefits local communities more broadly by improving their capacity to recognise, prioritise and drive regional change.

I congratulate you all for committing the time, energy and enthusiasm to better understand your region, your own capabilities and what you might contribute to rural and regional Victoria in the future.

Congratulations Northern Mallee Leaders, I look forward to hearing how your leadership journey progresses.

Jaala Pulford

Minister for Regional Development



Chair's Report

I'm delighted to be able to provide this report for the 2017 Northern Mallee Leaders Program Yearbook and would like to congratulate all those who have graduated from the program this year. I'm looking forward to seeing where your journey will take you in the coming years. Don't forget to connect with our alumni and make the most of what it offers to you, including opening doors to new connections and opportunities.

This year was another successful and exciting one for Northern Mallee Leaders Inc. I'm privileged to see and hear firsthand the impact our community leadership program has on individuals and our wider community. As always, we are incredibly grateful for the ongoing support of our many program presenters, volunteers and alumni in helping us to fulfil our mission of Developing people in active business and community leadership roles.

I would like to thank our dedicated staff, Executive Officer Jenny Grigg, Program Manager Rodney Robinson and Alumni Manager Paula Robinson. Their commitment and work to ensuring our organisation continues to grow and that our participants and alumni have the best experiences that we can possibly provide is outstanding.

Further to this and on behalf of Northern Mallee Leader Inc., I must extend our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to Rod, who recently tendered his resignation. Finding someone to fill your shoes will be no easy task. Nevertheless, we wish you all the best in your future endeavours.

I would also acknowledge the work of the Victorian Regional Community Leadership Program's (VRCLP) Board and Chief

Executive Officer, Katrina Baddeley. NML Inc. contribute to our state body through representation on the board and involvement in events like the 2017 VRCLP Regional Summit, which I attended in August this year.

Thank you to my fellow Committee of Management members for their dedication and commitment to their important roles in governing our organisation: Ian Ballantyne, Laurence Burt, Jenny Garrone and Mark Jenkins. This year we welcomed Trevor Carter, Aleesha Davis and Jackie Heaysman to the committee. We also farewelled Glenn Stewart and Melissa Amos and I'd like to thank them for their contributions on both the Committee of Management and the Advisory Committee.

I'd also like to congratulate and say thank you to the employers, sponsors, those that provided scholarships, the mentors, spouses, partners, families and friends that supported participants through the program. It's this type of impact investing that will enhance and bring dividends to our community as a whole.

Finally this will be my last yearbook report as Chair of the Northern Mallee Leaders Inc. After serving over five years as the Chair on the Committee of Management and Advisory Committee, I will retire from the committee at the end of December. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those that have shared in and contributed to my leadership journey thus far and wish Northern Mallee Leaders Inc. every success in the future.

Rebecca Wells

Chair, Northern Mallee Leaders Inc. Graduate Northern Mallee Leadership Program





Executive Officer's Report

"Leadership is risky, daunting and uncertain, but the benefits are amazing!"

Each year we are always excited by a new group of NMLP participants and eager to get to know them, learn of their leadership aspirations, listen to their insights and hopes and dreams for our region. The 2017 NMLP certainly didn't disappoint as I was genuinely taken aback by this dynamic and hopeful group of individuals who quickly became immersed in the program content, connections, places and events. They truly were inspirational and never ceased to amaze!

What I clearly enjoyed was their generosity in sharing their stories and willingness to challenge and question, to probe issues and seek solutions. They are truly enamoured of this region and will establish their place in determining its future.

I can only reiterate that the success of any leadership program is the participants themselves, their diverse backgrounds, passions, thoughtfulness, engagement and care in providing a safe supportive environment for everyone in their group to grow both personally and professionally.

Through NMLP, some have taken the first steps in their leadership journey, others are somewhat more advanced for that is the nature of diversity. And as they launch into community activism, a term that is now embedded in our psyche thanks to the very inspirational launch speaker, Ruth McGowan, I urge them to continue honing their new-found skills and knowledge, and seek new proficiencies as part of a lifelong learning agenda.

NMLP is one of ten community leadership programs across Victoria under the guidance of the Victorian Regional Community Leadership Program (VRCLP). This network provides opportunities to tap into other programs successes, lessons, resources and acumen. This year for the first time, a small group of NMLP participants joined their compatriots from across the state to network, explore new practices and methodologies in advancing leadership capacity at the Combined Program Day in Melbourne. Networking is such a significant advantage and requirement for any leadership aspirant.

Undoubtedly our Program Manager, Rod Robinson has been tantamount to the success of NMLP. His educational background and extreme professionalism, commitment to the program and care of the participants stamps our program as one that changes lives, grows confidence and provides so many opportunities to develop leadership capacity. I acknowledge your excellent contribution Pod

We are most appreciative of the many speakers, organisations and businesses who so generously support NMLP through funding, their time, expertise and resources. It is well-recognised that strong and capable leadership is the foundation of community and organisation success based on those who are prepared to take some risks, at times be vulnerable, make good decisions and lead people.

I would like to acknowledge Paula Robinson as Alumni Manager. Her work provides avenues for continuously developing leadership across our community and she too is to be commended for her professionalism, perseverance, creativity in affording leadership capacity opportunities for our graduates.

Our rural communities increasingly rely on competent and creative leadership for their sustainability, growth prospects and liveability. I am sure our 2017 NMLP graduates will live up to our expectations and 'take the baton' in ensuring a prosperous future for our region.

Jenny Grigg

Executive Officer, Northern Mallee Leaders Inc.



Program Manager's Report

Here we are at the end of the 2017 program year and another great group has been through the Northern Mallee Leaders Program. It has been my absolute pleasure to witness their progress on their leadership journey, to hear their stories and to share their successes and struggles.

They have challenged themselves to expand their comfort zone, to push the boundaries of their awareness of what happens in their communities, and to make connections with decision makers. As the year progressed the 2017 cohort has certainly been true to their opening day pledge of:

Being Present Being Open Being Resilient Being Inclusive

Being connected Enjoyment

It is fair to say that Northern Mallee Leaders participants understand that there is no one style of leadership that suits all. This group really underpins that understanding. They have such a diverse range of styles and skills that makes each one of them standout for different reasons. And, we have seen these on display during the year as they each move forward.

When they began their program year back in February I am sure that not many of them knew what was in store for them during the year. Launch speaker Ruth McGowan (OAM) challenged them to make a difference in their community through projects this year and this has been well and truly taken up. Many of the project ideas are truly inspirational, very well thought out and will make an impact for years to come.

Over the 2017 program year we have had approximately 120 speakers and site visits for this group and each in their own way has made an impact. The knowledge and learnings that our

speakers openly share have been amazing and give our participants an insight into what goes into making a leader. It is this willingness to share that gives our program real impact for participants and I thank each and every one of the presenters for this.

There have been many highlights this year, including trips to Canberra and Melbourne to witness the machinations of government and hear about some of the bigger issues that we face. The program days around our region talking to people who make things happen and seeing the things that make our community tick have added significantly to participants local knowledge.

The real highlight for me has been the participants themselves. The Margaret Mead quote "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed it is the only thing that ever has." really applies to this group. They are such a great group of people and I am convinced that they will now go on to do great things for their communities, their workplaces, their families and themselves.

I would also like to acknowledge the support of the NML Inc Committee of Management, Executive Officer, Jenny Grigg, and Alumni Program Manager, Paula Robinson, who together make a real difference to the breadth and scope of the program.

The program is a start on their leadership journey. As they move to becoming alumni they are now part of a statewide network that shares a similar philosophy and outlook. Go well!

Rod Robinson

Program Manager, Northern Mallee Leaders Inc

Participants Report

Anyone considering participating in the 2018 NMLP don't think any more - just do it! The journey of self-discovery and professional development is lifelong and this program is the perfect springboard for those considering stepping up in leadership roles or maybe you already stepped up and would like to broaden your networks, enhance your presentation and leadership skills or gain a better understanding of the region and its diverse people.

For those of us that took that leap of faith and registered to participate in the 2017 program the defining moment for many was being accepted to participate through the provision of a scholarship provided by generous sponsors and employers. Now it was a reality... What have I done? Can I do this? Bring it on! Whatever post-acceptance feelings we may have been experiencing these were soon replaced with enthusiastic motivation to be activated at the 2017 NMLP Launch by dynamic presenter Ruth McGowan OAM. Ruth's passion was infectious while sharing insights into her experiences of leadership and this was the ideal precursor setting the tone for the remainder of the program - "Don't just get active, get Activated!"

The learning was diverse and broad: self-awareness, personal leadership skills development, a greater understanding of Northern Mallee regional issues, networking and influencing skills through interaction with a wide range of people from business, community, media, education, social enterprise and all 3 tiers of government. The program experiences afforded participants cannot be measured by what money can buy, however we are acutely aware that without major funding provided by State Government, Regional

Development Victoria (RDV), sponsors and employers then this NMLP cohort would not be graduating and you would not be reading this right now. What other local leadership program can provide opportunities to wine and dine at Parliament House with our National Leaders; sharing leadership tips with the Governor General over afternoon tea at Government House; know about Australia's best kept secret or have Q&A sessions with some of Mildura's, Victoria's and the Nation's most influential people? This program delivers on all this and more. We highly recommend any prospective sponsor or employer to invest in the future of the region by investing in the people who are prepared to step up and make a difference.

Although the 2017 program has drawn to a close – friendships and professional relationships have been cemented as well as pertinent knowledge and skills have been acquired - the participants' community projects will continue to be rolled out over the following months, so keep a lookout. Thanks to the NMLP Manager Rod for being accessible and dependable because without these attributes many participants may not have had the confidence or stamina to finish the program. And the biggest thanks go to our families and friends that supported us through the highs and lows of this journey of personal and professional enlightenment. Good bye 2017 NMLP and Welcome 2018 NMLP!

Redgina Balchin, Matt Spencer, Jennifer Gadsden, Lachlan Skinner, Gerald Mutubuki 2017 NMLP Yearbook Committee





PROGRAM REPORTS

The 2017 program consisted of 16 events conducted in Melbourne, Canberra and at various locations and organisations throughout our region.

Program Launch

Date 9 February 2017

Venue Crowe Horwath and Mildura Arts Centre

Sponsor State Government of Victoria through Regional

Development Victoria

Guest Speakers/Schedule

Trademark Workshop

Craig Biddiscombe- Leadership Facilitator, Elite team dynamics **2016 Program Launch**

Master of Ceremonies

Sharon Smith - NML Alumni 2016

Introduction of 2017 participants

Rod Robinson - Program Manager, NML Inc.

Badge presentation

Rebecca Wells - Communications and liaison Officer, NML Alumni 2009

Guest speaker

Ruth McGowan OAM - Active to Activist

"Don't just be active, be activated!" - Ruth McGowan OAM

Opening Retreat

Date 17–19 February 2017

Venue Lake Cullulleraine Camp

Sponsor Bob and Heather McNaught

Guest Speakers/Schedule

Welcome

Rebecca Wells - Communications and Liaison Officer, NML Alumni 2009

Understanding yourself and others, Conflict Resolution and Emotional Intelligence

Bob & Heather McNaught

Team Building Activities

Wild Side Outdoors Team

Leadership Characteristics

Rod Robinson - Program Manager, NML Inc.

Emotional intelligence (EQ) ... A lesson in understanding yourself and others - "not right, not wrong, just different" - Bob and Heather McNaught







Community Development

Date 1 March 2017

Venue Red Cliffs Community Resource Centre /

Red Cliffs Club / The Sett's Business Centre

Sponsor Mildura Rural City Council

Guest Speakers/Schedule

Understanding the importance of a community hub and volunteers

Jo Farrell - Co-ordinator, Red Cliffs Community Resource Centre, NML Alumni 2013

Community Leadership

Gerard Jose - Chief Executive Officer, Mildura Rural City Council

Community Development Panel

Mark Jenkins - Manager Community Futures,

Mildura Rural City Council

Belinda Fitzgerald - Community Development Officer,

Mildura Rural City Council

Jody Jones - Community Development Co-ordinator,

Mildura Rural City Council

Transitioning Towns Toolbox Workshop

Mark Remnant - Community Development, Buloke

Community from a Different Perspective

Dean Wickham - Executive Officer, Sunraysia Mallee Ethnic Communities Council

Innovation and Development

Patrick McMahon - Red Tie Limos, Innovator and Entrepreneur

Innovative in Action

Steve Timmis - Owner, Fossey's Gin Emporium

"My door is always open, I try to lead through actions, not words" - Gerard Jose



Arts and Culture

Date 21 March 2017

Venue Arts Mildura / Art Vault / Mildura Men's Shed /

Mildura Art Centre / The Bistro

Sponsor Hugh Williamson Foundation

Guest Speakers/Schedule

Arts Mildura

Helen Healy - Director of Arts, Arts Mildura

Jo Ely-Crase - Events Officer, Arts Mildura

Domenico De Clario - Artist

Art Vault - "A Unique art venue internationally recognised"

Julie Chambers - Owner, The Art Vault

Sonja Hodge - Artist

Robert Watson - Artist

Mildura Men's Shed

Bruce Hurrell - Secretary, Sunraysia Men's Shed

Working Lunch at SuniTafe

Rachael Fyfe - NML Alumni 2013

Mildura Arts Centre

Antoinette Zema - Arts and Culture Development Manager, Mildura Arts Centre

Community Projects Panel

Tara Williams - NML Alumni 2015 Michelle Lobley - NML Alumni 2015

Kellie Coff - NML Alumni 2016

Dinner at the Bistro

Yang "George" Yanbao - Red Cliffs Secondary College Teacher and Chinese Exchange Student Program

"There can be unity in diversity" - Yung "George" Yanbao



Media and Communication

Date 26 April 2017

Venue Sunraysia Daily / Quest Apartments / ABC Studios

Sponsor Peter Dhu / Mildura Rural City Council

Guest Speakers/Schedule

Making the Most of Print Media

Allan Murphy - Chief of Staff, Sunraysia Daily

Social Media Skills

Rebecca Wells - Communications and Liaison Officer, NML Alumni 2009

Live and Local

Kellie Hollingworth - Producer

Matt Tribe - Presenter

Jen Douglas - ABC Open

Emma Brown - ABC Rural

Simon Gilletta - ABC News

Sally Dakis - Station Manager

Winning Public Speaking Skills

Peter Dhu - Public Speaking Expert, Corporate Communication Experts

"Most people speak once in a blue moon and want to overcome their nerves. It doesn't work, you've got to stand up and speak once a week" - Peter Dhu



Regional Economy and Tourism

Date 17 May 2017

Venue Wakefield Transport / Artback Cafe /

Murray House Aged Care / Mildura Airport

Sponsor Mildura Airport

Guest Speakers/Schedule

Linking Sunraysia's Exports to the World

Glenn Collihole - Chief Operations Officer, Wakefield Transport

The Future of Economic Development in Action

Margaret Thomson - ex Mayor and ex Chair of Wentworth Community Bank

Lunch - Artback Australia

Anne Hederics - Owner and Artist

Caring for the Elderly

Sid Duckett - General Manager, Murray House Aged Care

Economic Development and the Future of Transport

Bill Burke - Chief Executive Officer, Mildura Airport

"Listening is key" - Margaret Thomson



Vision of the **Region Dinner**

Date 24 May 2017

Black Stump Bistro, Mildura Settlers Venue

Sponsor Regional Development Victoria

Guest Speakers/Schedule

Master of Ceremonies

Aleesha Davis - NML Alumni 2016

Welcome

Rebecca Wells - Communications and Liaison Officer and NML Alumni 2009, Chair, NML Inc.

Guest Speakers

Melissa Hederics - Mayor, Wentworth Shire Alan Saunders - Manager, Agormillora Jenny Grigg - Executive Officer, NML Inc.

"It takes people like us to make a change. You don't have to have an impressive title or credentials to begin change" - Melissa Hederics



Metropolitan Communities / State Issues / Social Justice

Date 18-21 June 2017

Venue Melbourne

Sponsor Hugh DT Williamson Foundation

Guest Speakers/Schedule

The current security climate and how counter terrorism is managing it

John O'Connor - Detective Superintendent, Victoria Police

Networking dinner with Loddon Murray Community Leaders Young and Jacksons, Melbourne

Connecting with Social Enterprise Breakfast

STREAT Cafe and Kinfolk Cafe

Purpose, Vision and Leadership in an Indigenous sense

Indi Clarke - Manager, Koorie Youth Council and NML Alumni 2015

Social Justice and Human Rights in Melbourne

Patrick Keyzer - School Chair of Law and Public Policy, La Trobe University

Nicole Shackleton - Lawyer, La Trobe University

The Salvo's 614 Project

Brendan Nottle - Major, Salvation Army

Challenging Homophobia

Daniel Whitthaus - National Institute for Challenging Homophobia Education

You be the Judge

Chris Gill - Education and Online Engagement Co-ordinator, Sentencing Advisory Council

Victoria Women's Trust

Mary Crooks AO - Executive Director, Victoria Womens Trust

Tour of Port Melbourne

Don Forsdyke - Business Development Manager, Port of Melbourne Corporation

The Big Issue

Sally Hines - Chief Operations Officer, The Big Issue

How the Victorian Parliament Works Lunch

Hon. Peter Crisp - National Member for Mildura Hon. Peter Walsh - National Member for Murray Plains,

Leader of the Nationals

Hon. Luke Sullivan - Member of Upper House for Northern Victoria

Continued...

Metropolitan Communities / State Issues / Social Justice

Continued...

Victoria Parliament Guest Speakers

Hon. Jaala Paul - Minister for Regional Development, Minister for Agriculture, Deputy Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council

Hon. Jacinta Allan - Minister for Public Transport, Minister for Major Projects, Leader of the House (Assembly)

Hon. Maree Edwards - Member of Parliament for Bendigo West, Deputy Speaker of the House

Collingwood Arts Precinct and Reclaim Newcastle

Marcus Westbury - Founder, Renew Newcastle

Connecting with Social Enterprise Dinner Lentil as Anything

Tour of Melbourne Wholesale Markets

Jan Claire - Tour Operator, C the Market

"Leadership is about relationships" - Major Brendan Nottle





Health and Wellbeing Day

Date 18 July 2017

Venue Sunraysia Community Health / La Trobe

Sponsor Sunraysia Community Health

Guest Speakers/Schedule

Welcome to SCHS and Leadership in the Health Sector

Simone Heald - CEO, Sunraysia Community Health

Alcohol and Other Drugs Forum

Melissa Lonsdale, Matt Fulton, Sam Deluca, Lisa Carter

Health Support Services Panel

Jane McCracken, Felicity Cummins, Linda Henderson

Mental Health and Personal Well Being

Chris Hermans- Associate Director of Mental Health Services, Mildura Base Hospital

La Trobe Uni Training Lab

Tara Williams - Lecturer, La Trobe Rural Health School, Department of Rural Nursing and Midwifery

"Always put up your hand to take on new challenges"
- Simone Heald





Leadership Week Luncheon Lunch

Date 27 July 2017

Venue Mildura Rowers Club

Sponsor Regional Development Victoria

Guest Speaker

Jack Archer-CEO, Regional Australia Institute

Jack has worked with the RAI since its inception in 2012 and was appointed CEO in July 2015.

Jack developed the RAI's policy and research program as well as major tools including [In]Sight: Australia's Regional Competitiveness Index and [In]Form: Australia's Online Library of Regional Research. In previous roles as a consultant and public servant, Jack contributed to major regional reform in water, climate change, indigenous issues and industry. Originally from Paterson in the lower Hunter Valley of NSW, he now lives in the hills west of Canberra.

"Location is no barrier to success, The internet and digital tools are opening up many new windows for businesses to expand their offering to target new markets and locations, not just in Australia, but internationally" - Jack Archer



Youth in Our Communities / Education

Date 3 August 2017

Venue Mildura Specialist School / Madec Community

College / FLO Connect

Sponsor MADEC

Guest Speakers/Schedule

Tour of Mildura Specialist School

Marg Curran - Principal, Mildura Specialist School

The Future of Higher Education in the Northern Mallee Region

Geoff Dea - Chief Executive Officer, SuniTafe Mildura Dr Deb Neal - Head of Campus, La Trobe University Mildura

International Education - Benefits to the Region

Brad Fyfe - Manager of International Programs, SuniTafe Mildura

The Kokoda Program and MASP

Ken Innes - Kokoda Youth Mentoring Co-ordinator, MASP

What is Headspace? What is Mental Health?

Matt Spencer - Community Engagement Officer, Headspace Mildura

A Different Model of Education

Bernadette Warburton - Education Co-ordinator, Flo Connect

"We are very good at being negative, we need to minimise the bad things and focus on the good things" - Ken Innes



Understanding Our Political Landscape and National Issues

Date 13–17 August 2017

Venue Canberra

Sponsor Mildura Rural City Council & Andrew Broad

Member for Mallee

Guest Speakers/Schedule

CSIRO

Dr Daniel Walker: Chief of CSIRO Ecosystem Sciences;

Dr Mark Stafford Smith: Adaptation in CSIRO;

Dr Heather McGuiness: Water Bird Analysis

Murray Darling Basin Authority

The Hon. Neil Andrew, Chair; Colin Mues, Executive Director, Environmental Management

Australian Rural Leadership Foundation

Phillipa Woodall

Australian War Memorial

Dr Brendon Nelson Australian War Memorial Director Old Parliament House - Guided Tour and interactive session

Parliament House

Dinner with Andrew Broad Nationals Member for Mallee & Q&A session; Janet Rice Senator for Victoria (Greens), Cathy McGowan (Independent Member for Indi), Joel Fitzgibbon MP Federal Member for Hunter, Shadow Minister for Agriculture and Rural and Regional Australia, Damian Drum, Michael McCormack, Keith Pitt, Bridget McKenzie (Nationals)

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS)

John Paul Janke

Former Chief Executive Officer, Australian Indigenous Leadership - Rachelle Towart

National Arboretum

Jack Archer Regional Australia Institute

Government House Yaralumla

Afternoon Tea with the Governor General Sir Peter & Lady Cosgrove

National Press Club

Lyndal Curtis (Sky News); Sabra Lane (ABC News and AM); Colin Bettles (Fairfax Agricultural News Bureau Chief) Networking Dinners with Loddon Murray Community Leadership Program and The Williamson Leadership Foundation (Melbourne)

Participant Canberra Testimonials

Stand up and have a go, believe in yourself, say yes to opportunities and keep learning and trying is inspiring and each day I am finding more confidence to push myself and believe I am enough to do whatever I want to do.

Afternoon tea with the Governor General at Government House & dinner with Andrew Broad MP at new Parliament House were memorable experiences – the prestigious ambience, diverse company, gorgeous food and topical discourse.

Thanks NMLP for the opportunity to hear from our Nation's Leaders as it provided a glimpse of the hectic life they live and the personal and political sacrifices they make.

Sir Peter Cosgrove provided great wisdom and a "have a go" attitude resonated with me.

I have developed awareness and confidence in approaching issues and activities at the Federal level for my community. The comradery of the group was outstanding and the trip consistently ran smoothly and was an enjoyable experience.

Politics - Canberra. Change the way I view information provided by the media, what the politicians are doing for our region and how they work within the boundaries of the game. It provided a different insight into what I would fight for and what I would leave. Canberra is a must do experience for this program

The long scheduled days and fast pace confirmed that a career in politics is not something I am interested in

This trip is an extremely valuable component of the overall experience and would recommend highly for future groups.

What I learnt in Canberra - Always keep trying, trying and trying.

And even when you are told no, look at it from a different angle.

There is always a way to solve your problem or task if you believe in it.

I did not have an interest in politics at all (only under sufferance) but now I want to learn so much more! My whole experience in Canberra was amazing and I am so grateful for this opportunity. Big take away was - spend time to get to know people - you never know what you will learn!













International Leadership

Date 31 August 2017

Venue La Trobe University, Deakin Avenue Campus

Sponsor La Trobe University

Guest Speakers/Schedule

The Canadian Context; Why Civic Leadership Matters

Jodie Rawn - Managing Director, Civic Action Leadership Foundation

The Kansas Experience

Ed O'Malley - CEO, Kansas Leadership Centre

Leadership NZ, How we do it

Sina Wendt Moore - CEO, Leadership NZ

Leadership Fiji, A Pacific view on leadership

Sharyne Fong - Leadership Fiji, Head of Banking Transformation, Bank of South Pacific

"Personal development provides the foundation for leadership development, an individual's personal development and leadership capacities can be enhanced by participation in structured programs" - Ed O'Malley

Poem 'Spirited Leadership' – Karlo Mila (Leadership NZ Participant 2013)

Let us navigate today
Open-hearted
With a spirit of inquiry
Leaving our judges behind
Embracing the archetype
Of the learner.

We have learned that leadership Is not about putting more on, But about taking stuff off.

Letting go

Of what we've accumulated That no longer serves us.

Daring to bare.
Sometimes being naked
Is your only protection from life.
Stripping the layers away,
To find

The puutake within,

The taproot,

Where we draw our energy That will sustain us going forward.

Governance / Justice

Date 12 September 2017

Venue Merbein Citizens Club

Sponsor Rotary International

Guest Speakers/Schedule

The Challenges and Opportunities

Cr Jason Modica - Deputy Mayor, Mildura Rural City Council

Governance - A Practical Approach

Jenny Grigg - Executive Officer, NML Inc.

Policing a Modern World

Rebecca Olsen - Mildura Superintendent, Victoria Police

Department of Justice - Our Role

Chelsea Todd - Manager, Justice Services Mildura

Ethics: What are they? How do they work? Do I have any?

Rod Robinson - Program Manager, NML Inc.

"Constantly challenge and questions what is happening around you" - Jason Modica



Food, Water and the Environment

Date 8–9 October 2017

Venue Robinvale District Health Services / Lower Murray Water Pumping Station / Select Harvest / Lamattina Carrots /

Murray River Pumps / Hattah Lakes National Park / Agromillora

Sponsor Lower Murray Water Authority / Robinvale District Health Services

Guest Speakers/Schedule

Welcome to Robinvale

Cr John Katis - Councillor, Swan Hill Rural City Council

Robinvale - The bigger picture/skills commission

Glenn Stewart - Strategic Projects Manager, Advancing Country Towns

Water Policy: An Irrigators perspective

Alan Whyte - Pastoralist and Irrigator, "Jamesville" Station

Water - a regional perspective and leading change

Phil Endley - Chief Executive Officer, Lower Murray Water

People and Culture

Ray Gentle - Manager People and Culture, Robinvale District Health Services

High pressure pumping: The difference it makes

Scott Barnes - Senior Technical Manager, Lower Murray Water

Select Harvests - Broad Acre Almonds

Davin Wright - Operations Manager (Processing), Select Harvest

Lamattina Carrots

Angelo Lamattina

The Living Murray Program and Environmental Water

Cath Hall - Stakeholder Engagement Officer, Mallee Catchment Management Authority

Agromillorra: A large scale nursery

Alan Saunders

"Stay emotionally balanced, but still passionate about the task at hand" - Glenn Stewart







Final Retreat Weekend Ouyen

Date 21–22 October 2017

Venue Roxy Theatre, Ouyen

Sponsor Mildura Rural City Council

Graduation Ceremony

Date 9 November 2017

Venue Mildura Grand Hotel

Guest Speakers/Schedule

Saturday 21st October

Welcome to Ouyen

Scott Anderson - Ouyen Inc.

The Roxy- A successful think-big community project

Jenny Heaslip - NML Alumni 2008

What does it mean to be a NML Graduate?

Rebecca Wells - Chair, NML Inc.

Paula Robinson - Alumni Program Manager, NML Inc.

Ouyen Lake Presentation

Dean Munro - President, Ouyen Inc.

Patchewollock Music Festival

Sunday 22nd of October

Digital Storytelling

Matt Spencer - 2017 NML Participant

Positive Goals/Mindset

Rod Robinson

Lessons from a candle

Rod Robinson



2017 Program Graduates

Redgina Balchin Giovanni Barbera Dan Bertoli Tim Coff Sophie Cook Tatjana Dale Laura Duff Guy Fielding Jack Freeman Jennifer Gadsden Vanessa Hall Jacob Hunt Wayne Keyte Shiva Neiker

Traci Pevy
Trudy Scott
Lachlan Skinner
Evelien Spelten
Matt Spencer
Bianca Spooner
Melissa Worthington



The Northern Mallee Leaders would like to extend a sincere thank you to all the inspiring people and amazing organisations which helped to make this year's program possible.

We acknowledge the contributions of all our financial partners and our in-kind sponsors. This wonderful support truly makes a difference in strengthening the leadership capacity of the Northern Mallee region.

Could you be a Northern Mallee Leader?

If you're hesitant, know that most of this year's group felt the same way before applying. Try asking someone, "Could you see me doing this?".

For information on applications and scholarships go to nml.org.au/applications

If you are interested in participating or contributing to our program please contact a staff member:

Jenny Grigg

Executive Officer 0427 438 111 executive@nml.org.au **Paula Robinson**

Alumni Program Manager 0438 345 988 alumni@nml.org.au **Rod Robinson**

Program Manager 0429 220 069 program@nml.org.au



PARTICIPANT PROFILES The 2017 prograwas undertaker 22 participants

The 2017 program was undertaken by 22 participants from various industries across our region.



Redgina Balchin

Giovanni Barbera

"Ordinary people doing extraordinary things" Cathy McGowan AO MP (reflection on leadership) "Relationships are absolutely critical.

Be on the frontline, see what's going on and use your connections and influence to make the change"

Major Brendan Nottle

Current Position/s

Mental Health Clinician/Social Worker - Ramsay Healthcare Lecturer - La Trobe University

Sponsor

Sunraysia Mallee Ethnic Communities Council Inc.

Motivation for joining the Northern Mallee Leaders Program?

Broaden my knowledge and understanding of the region in areas of industry, business, media, government and water. Exposure to knowledgeable, creative and influential people driving change. Identifying opportunities and challenges for SMECC and local CALD communities.

Highlight of the Program

Networking.

Community Project

Diabetes Education Program in Tonga.

Current Position/s

International Students Liaison Officer - SuniTAFE Chef - Pizza Café, Meals & Munchkins, Zoe Support Australia

Sponsor

Rotary Club of Irymple

Motivation for joining the Northern Mallee Leaders Program?

Challenge myself and learn how to make an impact in society. I have always been passionate about leadership and I like to take any chance that leads to personal growth.

Highlight of the Program

Melbourne and Canberra were inspiring. We met people making a difference locally, nationally and internationally. Enjoyed learning about governance at the highest level. The Opening Retreat was good and It was incredible to see unfamiliar people develop strong friendships.

Community Project

'Project Beanstalk' involves educating young people about trees and environmental awareness by 'seed bombing' involving drone technology.



Dan Bertoli

"A leader...is like a shepherd. He stays behind the flock, letting the most nimble go out ahead, whereupon the others follow, not realizing that all along they are being directed from behind." Nelson Mandela



Tim Coff

> "As the seconds of our lives are ticking away, you have to realise that life needs to be an adventure" Hans Zimmer

Current Position

Senior Tech Officer Land Development - Lower Murray Water

Sponsor

Lower Murray Water

Motivation for joining the Northern Mallee Leaders Program? Knowledge on leadership.

Highlight of the Program

Meeting ordinary people who are doing amazing work within their community.

Community Project

Screening of the movie 'Lion' followed by Q & A with Saroo Brierley.

Current Position

Co-founder - The Knowledge Centre

Sponsor

Order of Australia - Mallee Group

Motivation for joining the Northern Mallee Leaders Program?

My wife participated in the 2016 NMLP and I was inspired to be more confident, learn about myself and leadership opportunities.

Highlight of the Program

Major Brendan Nottle shared Salvation Army's 614 Project and the challenges faced by homeless people. I better understand the issues impacting upon homelessness and awed by the dedicated professionals working in this sector.

Community Project

Create an opportunity for people to experience the joy of a Community Piano in the Sunraysia Area. This project will use music to create a sense of community connection.



Sophie Cook



Tatjana Dale

"A leader is a dealer in hope" Napoleon Bonaparte "Leadership is not a popularity contest; it's about leaving your ego at the door. The name of the game is to lead without a title" Robin S. Sharma

Current Position

Teacher of Graphic Design and VCAL - SuniTAFE

Sponsor

Sunraysia Institute of TAFE

Motivation for joining the Northern Mallee Leaders Program?

Looking for a genuine opportunity to further develop and challenge my skill sets, gain a better understanding of our community and to engage with the people in it.

Highlight of the Program

Pleasantly surprised what is going on locally. Melbourne had a strong social enterprise/justice/community focus which was eye-opening and highlighted the importance of understanding the backstory in change-making.

Community Project

OUTBACK LIGHT SHOW. A collaborative projection workshop in Mildura titled 'Outback Light Show' from September 7-9th. Local tertiary art and design students and RMIT students engaged with locals to derive content for their animations which then became the focal point of large-scale works projected onto local landmarks including the Telstra building and Powerhouse shed.

Current Position

Mental Health Trainee - Dareton Mental Health Drug & Alcohol Service, NSW Health, FWLHD

Sponsor

WDEA Employment

Motivation for joining the Northern Mallee Leaders Program?

I was really motivated by previous participants and how it changed their life and connection to the community. I wanted to become more involved in my community and needed be to pushed out of my comfort zone. This program has definitely done that for me.

Highlight of the Program

Canberra was so inspirational - War Memorial was a special experience; Parliament House and seeing the leaders who make big decisions for our country.

Community Project

Indigenous youth engagement program - encouraging indigenous youth to engage in the community.



Laura Duff

"I'm not scared of anything in particular, but I am motivated by a fear of failure as opposed to a need to succeed" Heston Blumenthal



Guy Fielding

"Leadership happens in moments" / "Leadership is mobilising people to create change" / "Leadership is being among the people you lead" Nuggets from Ed O'Malley

Current Position

Health Promotion Officer / Public Health Nutritionist - Healthy Together Mildura, SCHS

Sponsor

Sunraysia Community Health Services (SCHS)

Motivation for joining the Northern Mallee Leaders Program?

To extend myself, challenge myself and force myself to grow professionally and personally.

Highlight of the Program

The Health and Wellbeing Day. It was amazing to see so many inspiring people working to improve the health of our community, particularly those from my workplace, SCHS.

Community Project

Healthy Self-Catering Guide: A guide for workplaces and organisations in providing easy, healthy catering to staff, clients and the greater community. The guide will use the State Governments Healthy Choices Guidelines and be a companion piece to the existing Healthy Catering Handbook – Mildura region.

Current Position

Chief Operations Officer - Euston Club Resort

Sponsor

Euston Club Resort

Motivation for joining the Northern Mallee Leaders Program?

Professional development of leadership skills and self improvement for career advancement opportunities.

Highlight of the Program

Networking!

Community Project

The Great Murray River Salami Festival. An inaugural community event located on the Euston Waterfront Reserve and Euston Club Resort, incorporating a salami competition.



Jack Freeman

Jennifer Gadsden

"The difference between leadership and management is vision" Dr Brendan Nelson "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has" Margaret Mead, quoted by Senator Janet Rice

Current Position

Learning and Development Advisor - MADEC Australia

Sponsor

MADEC Australia

Motivation for joining the Northern Mallee Leaders Program?

Learn more about our community and my own leadership – strengths and areas for development and improve our community for my children's future.

Highlight of the Program

Canberra - meeting inspiring people making a difference on the country's biggest platform. Parliament House, War Memorial, CSIRO.

Community Project

Community Youth Engagement through 'Mildura South Regional Sports Precinct' proposal" in an effort to improve opportunities and quality of experiences for the youth of the community (including my own children).

Current Position

Senior Administration Assistant - Dareton Primary Health, Far West Local Health District, NSW Health

Sponsor

Williamson Foundation Scholarship

Motivation for joining the Northern Mallee Leaders Program?

Build self-confidence; personal and professional development; learn how our community connects with the wider world; meet aspiring leaders; develop community project to enhance and promote our region.

Highlight of the Program

New connections; Abbotsford Convent, Port of Melbourne Authority, Major Brendan Nottle (Salvation Army), War Memorial with Dr Brendan Nelson; interactive education session at Old Parliament House and meeting Sir Peter & Lady Cosgrove and Yarralumla staff.

Community Project

The MAKERS & ARTISTS MILDURA (MAAM) website is a resource for artists and people interested in local art. It will feature exhibitions, markets, networking events and links to artists and makers.



Vanessa Hall



Jacob Hunt

"Reflect on change that represent loss" Ed O'Malley Kansas Leadership Centre "Before you ask people to change. First, consider what you are asking them to give up. What loss may they suffer?" Unknown

Current Position

Information Systems Project Officer - Mildura Rural City Council

Sponsor

Mildura Rural City Council

Motivation for joining the Northern Mallee Leaders Program?

Learn more about the region I grew up in and to understand how I can contribute to a safer future for my children.

Highlight of the Program

The opportunity to meet and thank the Governor General and Lady Cosgrove in their beautiful home. Networking with other participants from other groups.

Community Project

Website and Facebook pages for Community Groups to seek volunteers in Mildura (Mallee).

Current Position

Owner/Consultant - Tupun Pangoryeri

Sponsor

Bank Australia

Motivation for joining the Northern Mallee Leaders Program?

Grow confidence in my own leadership, have new experiences, strengthen and building new skill sets.

Highlight of the Program

Australian War Memorial, Old Parliament, Aboriginal Tent Embassy and New Parliament in Canberra - very grounding and humbling experience.

Community Project

To be decided.



Wayne Keyte

Gerald Mutubuki

"Be a silent leader, lead from behind" Helen Healy NMLP Alumni 2009 "A leader is like a shepherd. He stays behind the flock, letting the most nimble go out ahead, whereupon the others follow, not realizing that all along they are being directed from behind." Nelson Madiba Mandela

Current Position

Operations Manager - Mawsons Concrete & Quarries

Sponsor

Mawsons Concrete & Quarries

Motivation for joining the Northern Mallee Leaders Program? It was my time to make a difference.

Highlight of the Program

This program makes you open your eyes up to how community is the key to our success. I have been given the tools to now go into our community with ideas and confidence to help anyone. I have made friends for life in the program.

Community Project

Mental Health Awareness in local sporting clubs.

Current Position

Registered Nursing Student - La Trobe University

Sponsor

Mildura Deakin Rotary Club

Motivation for joining the Northern Mallee Leaders Program?

Great opportunity to learn more about the Sunraysia region, to network and to give back to the community. The program was highly recommended to me by previous participants.

Highlight of the Program

The guest speakers were willing to share about the challenges and triumphs which they faced throughout their leadership journey. Through this sharing, it was evident that a leader's journey is an ongoing learning opportunity.

Community Project

R U OK? Day event at La Trobe University Mildura Campus to increase awareness of mental health and suicide.



Shiva Neiker

"Ultimately, leadership is not about glorious crowning acts.
It's about keeping your team focused on a goal and motivated to
do their best to achieve it, especially when the stakes are high and
the consequences really matter. It is about laying the groundwork for
others' success, and then standing back and letting them shine"
Chris Hadfield (Retired Canadian astronaut)



Traci Pevy

"The standard you walk past is the standard you accept"
Chief of the Army, Lieutenant General David Morrison
"Each day of our lives we make deposits in the memory
banks of our children"
Charles R. Swindoll

Current Position

Manager, Storage Technical Advisors - IBM Australia Ltd.

Sponsor

Self funded

Motivation for joining the Northern Mallee Leaders Program?

Being relatively new in Mildura it is a great opportunity to network and understand the local dynamics. As a migrant, integrating is key, hence it was also an opportunity to understand leadership and culture from an Australian context.

Highlight of the Program

The calibre of speakers, presenters and facilitators. Definitely having Rod Robinson as program coordinator - he has the experience and the presence of an adaptive leader. Having Rod on every program day was a learning opportunity by itself!

Community Project

Build a volunteer portal – VolunteerMildura. This portal will match skills available in the region to the needs of these organisations and to add a social networking component to volunteering.

Current Position

Manager Customer Experience - Lower Murray Water

Sponsor

Lower Murray Water

Motivation for joining the Northern Mallee Leaders Program?

Build my leadership capabilities and test my boundaries but also to gain a better understanding of my community so that I can become more involved and give back wherever I can.

Highlight of the Program

Peter Dhu is an amazing presenter with an amazing story to tell – he gave tips that will carry me well into the future. Canberra and Melbourne - I want to learn more about our political landscape and the amazing passion and support we have in our regional centres. The homeless situation in Melbourne got me thinking of Mildura and what can be done.

Community Project

Anti-bullying campaign and event in Mildura incorporating Bully Zero for Years 6 & 7 and local workplaces.



Trudy Scott



Lachlan Skinner

"We cannot solve our problems with the same thinking we used when we created them" Albert Einstein "Captaincy is 90 percent luck and 10 percent skill. But don't try it without that 10 percent" Richie Benaud

Current Position

Manager Finance & Administration - Mildura Airport

Sponsor

Mildura Airport Pty Ltd

Motivation for joining the Northern Mallee Leaders Program?

Expand my regional knowledge, enhance my leadership skills and to meet new people and new ideas.

Highlight of the Program

The wide range of people I have met and the personal stories and knowledge they have shared with us. I have a new appreciation for what can be achieved by people working together and having the self-belief to step up and make a difference.

Community Project

Establish an Aeromedical Transfer Station at Mildura Airport. The aim is to provide an enclosed space dedicated to patient transfer which will improve comfort and safety when transferring patients between ambulance and aircraft.

Current Position

Electorate Officer - Office of Andrew Broad MP

Sponsor

Rotary Club of Mildura Deakin

Motivation for joining the Northern Mallee Leaders Program?

Fantastic reports about the program from previous participants and the opportunity to expand personal and professional networks in the community.

Highlight of the Program

Opening Retreat at Lake Cullulleraine - getting stuck right in meeting a range of new people, doing some great team bonding activities and getting to know the group. Archery and problem solving tasks were a great way to get the group working together. Australian War Memorial with Dr Brendan Nelson was also very powerful.

Community Project

Veterans Health Week forum at the Mildura RSL - providing support for veterans and widows in Sunraysia.



Evelien Spelten

Matt **Spencer**

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world" Nelson Mandella

"The first follower is what transforms a lone nut into

Current Position

Regional Research Coordinator - La Trobe University

Sponsor

La Trobe University Mildura

Motivation for joining the Northern Mallee Leaders Program? Getting to know my new community and Australia better.

Highlight of the Program

Outdoor team activities / trip to Canberra.

Community Project

Platform to promote awareness of research around the Mallee.

Current Position/s

Community Engagement and Group Program Coordinator - Headspace Mildura

Committee Member - Mildura Radio Control Car Club

Sponsor

NMLP Alumni

Motivation for joining the Northern Mallee Leaders Program?

I am new to the region and found out about the program on my first night in town. I joined to learn about the region which has aided greatly with my work here, and help me to feel part of this community.

Highlight of the Program

Driving down the Mildura Airport runway in a mini bus is a unique moment that comes to mind! The program offers so many opportunities that I would never otherwise had the chance to do, or even thought of otherwise.

Community Project

Digital Storytelling project offering workshops to past participants, with the aim of building skills and helping to promote the program.



Bianca Spooner

"Pay attention to what you are learning and put your hand up for leadership. The first step is always the hardest" Cathy McGowan, Independent MP for Indi



Mel Worthington

"The role of an innovative leader is to be humble and to harness the abilities of their organisation" Vijay Govindarajan

Current Position

Administration Support Officer - Chances for Children / Mallee Family Care

Sponsor

Northern Mallee Leaders Program

Motivation for joining the Northern Mallee Leaders Program?

To shake up the mindset and connection to community.

Highlight of the Program

It is like a year-long debutante ball, constantly being introduced to community leaders and their services, while being given plenty of opportunities to take the lead. There is always something significant to learn about ourselves and our community on any given program day, at the personal, local, state, federal and international levels.

Community Project

Public Meditation Spaces and exploring a Sunraysia support group for Families Managing Online Media and Video Gaming Use.

Current Position

Atomik Business Support Services

Sponsor

Curious Grace Social Enterprise

Motivation for joining the Northern Mallee Leaders Program?

Further develop my personal and professional network and to develop a better understanding of how I can be an effective part of the wider Sunraysia community.

Highlight of the Program

Canberra was jam packed and gave me a greater appreciation for our political environment, an understanding of the wonderful resources we have such as AIATSIS and the Arboretum and meeting the Governor General. The whole program delivers a high calibre of presenters that give their time, knowledge and expertise. All presenters were willing to share their leadership journey and impart crucial advice as we embark on ours.

Community Project

Volunteer Mildura - Website and Database to advocate Volunteering.

NMLALUMNI

2008

Alex Cross Camille Mansell Carmel Pethick Carrie Belei Dafydd Scholes David Zacher **Evette Turlan** Debbie McKinnon Helen Healy Jennifer Douglas Jennifer Heaslip Julie Prenc Karlie Conner Kelly Fyfe Leanne Mitchell Louise Williams Lynda Robertson Merryl Whyte Nadine Harley Naomi Burke Nicole Shaw Selfet Kuzu

2009

Amy Nicol **Brett Kempton** Dale Antonysen Darryl Pearl Kaare Anderson Kevin Chaplin Leanne Perry Louise Barnes Mark Turlan Martin Hill Michelle Arnold Nardia Sheriff Rebecca Wells Samantha Cooke Sharon Morrison William Snell

2013

Melissa Amos **Cheryl Benson** Connie Chirchiglia Jo Clutterbuck Karen Costa Jo Farrell Stephanie Ferdelja Racheal Fyfe Erin Hoye Roslyn Hudson Robert Libchard David McNabb Ronni O'Donnell Louise Searle Sharon Trewin Kim Trigg Tracee Vassallo Gemma Walker Alexander Wilson Viona Woodroffe

2014

Yvonne Allford Rachel Broad **Andy Charles** Luke Englefield Kaitlyn Fasso-Opie Belinda Fitzgerald Mark Hayden Toby Heil Dianne Johnstone Mel Lever Danielle Mazza Dan Menzies Rohan Morris Sue Rudd Claudia Tassone Kerry Thompson Narelle Tomlinson Michelle Wall Rachel White

2015

Amy Mulchany Amy Nash Andrea Soebardi Anna Sullivan Catherine McNabb Ealasaid Manson Elvira Mazza **Eric Tomlinson** Heleana Burridge Indi Clarke Jackie Heays<u>man</u> **Kate Roberts** Kylie Sergi Matthew Cook Michelle Lobley Filomena Chirchiglia Reece McNally Ross Taylor Ryan Maddox Stephen Bennett Sue Watson Tara Williams Tegan Watson

2016

Ada Peterson Aleesha Davis Andrea Dalton Apollinaire Irumva Ben Israel Cath Hall Cindy HinterholzI **Danny Barnes Emily Wright** Emma Clarke Ethan Fox Jade Millard Joe Barber Katie Walsh Kellie Coff **Louise Hodgetts** Min Poole **Scott Barnes** Sharon Smith Steven Howden Tania Pearce

Get with the Program! Learn more at **nml.org.au**

E info@nml.org.au

f/NorthernMalleeLeaders

y/LeadersNM

PO Box 10311, Mildura Victoria 3500



Proudly supported by

