

# PARTICIPATE

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ISSUE  
05



**HeartLand Horsham:**  
celebrating diversity

**AN INITIATIVE** of the Centre for Participation, PARTICIPATE has been created to encourage participation within the broader Wimmera Mallee community and to help readers in staying connected with current events and opportunities across the district.

Formed following the amalgamation of Volunteering Western Victoria and the Wimmera HUB in 2016, the Centre for Participation encourages people from all walks of life and all skill sets to fully participate in their lives and their communities, via the four pillars of Community, Learning, Volunteering and Partnerships.

As such, the theme of our fifth edition is learning and community development.

We are exceptionally proud of PARTICIPATE and welcome any feedback you may have about it.

Please enjoy.

## IN THIS ISSUE:

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## COVER:

**CELEBRATION:** Visitors prepare stakes during the recent HeartLand Horsham community planting weekend which celebrated diversity and showcased the best of the Wimmera.

# CEO WELCOME >

Since our last edition of Participate I have been very busy with work, family and volunteering.

On the work front I am privileged to be in a job that enables me to work with an amazing group of staff, volunteers and colleagues that are committed to providing opportunities and support to enable people to participate in their own lives, their family's lives, their work life and their community life.

When I have time I enjoy stepping outside of my work and family commitments to volunteer; in fact, over the years I have found amazing opportunities to share my skills and experiences whilst helping others to achieve their goals. Sometimes this has seen me in front of a group of people as a key note speaker, providing training or being on a board, and other times it sees me working behind the scenes in the kitchen or at a working bee.

Over the past couple of months I have been enjoying using my cooking skills and experience, as a volunteer, to support communities of people achieve their goals... and it has been incredibly rewarding.

Last week I travelled to Arnhem Land to support Mimal Land Management bring together the first NT Women's Healthy Country Forum, an amazing group of elders and young women sea and land rangers who came together to look at how they can participate more in looking after country.

Prior to that, at home I spent a weekend helping with the catering for HeartLand Horsham (you can read about this on page 10), during which I met some beautiful people who have migrated to Australia and came to the Wimmera to plant trees and learn about our community and make new friends.

As you read this edition you will learn about many other community development programs and activities which would not happen without people, like you and I, putting their hand up and volunteering.

There really is a volunteering role or opportunity that will enable everyone to make a difference in their community... and as a volunteer you will be all the richer for having given your time to make a difference!

**Julie Pettett**

CEO, Centre for Participation



**SUPPORT:** Elders and rangers chat with CEO Julie Pettett (second from right) during the forum



# WORKFORCE>

## The day the Minister came to town...

Hospitality Workforce Pathways students put their new-found scone making, barista and catering skills to the test during a recent visit by Minister for Training and Skills and Minister for Higher Education Gayle Tierney to the Centre for Participation..

Welcoming the minister during her regional visit with tasty, warm scones and fresh brewed coffee, the students may have enrolled hoping to learn skills for the future, but the course has given them so many more wonderful benefits.

Coming from a range of backgrounds including Karen, Russian, Papua New Guinean, Thai and Filipino, the students are all migrant women who, while initially enrolling to learn skills to assist with gaining employment or even to learn how to make a meal suitable for an Australian lunchbox, have gone on to gain an adopted family in their classmates.

Tutors Melissa and Dorian Doti start each class with a learning intention and work with the students' varying learning styles to ensure their success, commenting that it has been rewarding to see the students' skills improve and grow.

"We make the classes fun to keep our students enthusiasm up; for example, seeing who can chop the onions the fastest, or having a treasure hunt in the local supermarket," Dorian said.

The students share the new kitchen facilities with Uniting Wimmera's Learning for Life group, who also undertake hospitality training on Tuesdays.

And the groups joined forces to cater for 220 people at the recent Career's Expo, furthering their hospitality and small business management skills.

"It has been interesting for us too seeing that what we take for granted, or assume everyone knows how to do, is not always the case. One example has included knowing how to prepare a school lunchbox. It's something we as Australians take for granted but which many of our students had never experienced prior to coming to Australia," Dorian said.

"We had repeated requests from the mums in our class to learn what to put



**TASTY:** Minister for Training and Skills and Minister for Higher Education Gayle Tierney (left), CEO Julie Pettett and tutor Melissa Doti discuss the course and catering during Ms Tierney's visit



**LEARN:** Students look on as tutors Melissa and Dorian Doti teach barista skills

in a typical Australian lunchbox, or even how to make scones, to help them and their children integrate into their new communities," he said.

Melissa said, as part of their learning, the students have been on field trips to food manufacturing plants to learn how food is made locally.

"We have also asked them to nominate one of their national dishes and then share this recipe with the group. This involved the student driving the exercise from costing out the recipe to planning the

steps and preparing the recipe," Melissa said.

"It has been heart-warming to hear the students share how they feel included and welcome by being part of the class," she said.

"We're excited to be able to help teach them skills which will not only look good on their resume, but which will give them experience to back up the skills when applying for future employment in the hospitality industry".

# LEARNING >

## Enterprise vision launched

Horsham's new Laneway café was launched in July amid a flurry of positivity, great coffee and enthusiastic smiles.

Laneway café without borders, located in the former Thipatyi Coffee Lounge building, is a social enterprise partnership between Centre for Participation, Horsham Special School and Woodbine and utilised the \$186,600 the centre received as a successful applicant in the 2018 round of Pick My Project funding.

The new social enterprise will help prepare students for ongoing, long term employment while also building pathways to develop skills in hospitality and small business.

Around 50 people celebrated the launch of the café including representatives from the three partner organisations, Horsham Mayor Mark Radford, Centre for Participation board members, and other supportive guests.

Barengi Gadjin Land Council's Uncle Ron Marks welcomed the crowd to country and shared how enterprises like the café can assist in breaking down barriers in the community.

"The opening was an exciting and long awaited day," Centre for Participation CEO Julie Pettett said.

"The café is a ground-up community initiative aimed at both young people with special needs and migrant women wanting skills to assist in gaining employment in the hospitality sector," she said.

Woodbine CEO Bernie O'Connor said he was honoured to have been invited into the partnership, commenting how exciting it is that the organisation's passion for supporting people with a disability was being further realised, and how the Horsham café would mean some clients would be able to work towards gaining employment in their home town.

Horsham Special School principal Matt Copping agreed, commenting that the business reflects the real sense

of community and citizenship in the Wimmera Mallee.

"We're thankful for this partnership and excited for the opportunity it will present for our students to transition after leaving school," Mr Copping said.

Thanking attendees for the warm welcome, Laneway Manager Sally Marcroft described the café as "a wonderful opportunity with a great team behind it". "We were pleased to be able to employ some of the previous Thipatyi's staff, along with some new faces, and look forward to continuing and, hopefully, growing the meal home delivery and school lunch services into the future," Ms Marcroft said.

Laneway café without borders trades Monday-Friday from 7am-3pm, focussing on breakfast, brunch and lunch.

*"A wonderful opportunity with a great team behind it"*

Laneway Manager Sally Marcroft



**Lane  
way**  
CAFE  
WITHOUT  
BORDERS



**SUPPORT:** Woodbine CEO Bernie O'Connor (left) said the new cafe will further realise opportunities to support people with a disability



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“We hope the café will be seen as working in cooperation, rather than competition, with other cafes and I welcome any constructive feedback the community may have in regard to improvements or changes going forward”

Centre for Participation CEO Julie Pettett

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**MINGLE:** Horsham Special School principal Matt Copping and chairperson Andrea Mugari catch up at the opening



**STRIKING:** The striking new Laneway cafe logo



**THANKFUL:** Horsham Special School principal Matt Copping is thankful for the opportunities the cafe will present



**LESSON:** Mahalia Coffee representative Kelly Mules teaches the baristas how to make coffee



**BUSY:** Laneway Manager Sally Marcroft (left), tutor Dorian Doti and Centre for Participation volunteer Barb Eltze were kept busy during the opening



**WELCOME:** Barengi Gadjin Land Council's Uncle Ron Marks performs the Welcome to Country

# MY AGED CARE >

## Funding is critical

Centre for Participation is pleased to be continuing to provide support for older people via the My Aged Care Program.

The My Aged Care program of services support people aged 65 years plus, or Aboriginals aged 50 years and over, to provide support services to meet individual's needs and to help them remain independent in their own home.

Each person who contacts the My Aged Care gateway on 1800 200 422 will be asked a series of questions as part of an assessment.

When the assessment has been completed the person then has the right to decide who can provide the services and whether they would like the assessor to refer them onto an organisation, or whether they wish to contact an organisation directly to access the services with a referral code.

Currently, funding is in place to June 2020... so what happens after 2020?

"My Aged Care is promoting Consumer Choice; it is the consumer who chooses what and where they receive services within the available resources. For a consumer who does not have an advocate to support them in this process, life can be very difficult," Manager Wimmera Social Support Christine Schirmer said.

Centre for Participation is funded for the number of trips that can be funded in total over a 12 month period.

As is often the case, the current funding model does not recognise the cost of providing services in the rural communities, some of which are up to 140 kilometres from the main service centre in Horsham.

From January 1, 2020 Centre for Participation will be asking all clients to make a small contribution in line with other service providers..

"For example, the Wimmera Southern Mallee Community Transport Service, which offers consumers the opportunity to get to medical appointments, has a limit on the number of trips it can make," Mrs Schirmer said.

"Once we have reached our target, we will no longer receive funds to deliver the service and may then have to charge people per kilometre to take them to medical appointments if there is no other means," she said.

"This may become too expensive for people on limited incomes to be able to pay, thus these people are at risk of not receiving the medical treatment and/or assessments they need."

Centre for Participation is seeking your help.

Through a tax deductible donation you can make a real difference. We have provided a guide to the costs of specific travel costs (via our donation slip) when our volunteers are helping those in our community who require our services to support their independent lifestyle and health.

Centre for Participation is funded to provide Social Support for visiting, socialisation, shopping and community transport. These services are provided by volunteers to help people who live at home and feel isolated as they are no longer able to go out, or are no longer driving, to go shopping and to maintain social connections.

For more information about the Wimmera Social Support services, Memory Lane Cafes community transport or about how you can volunteer please contact the Centre for Participation on 5382 5607.







## Case Study

Jack is supported through the Wimmera Social Support Service via a volunteer who visits him on a fortnightly basis to provide shopping assistance.

Being visually impaired, the visits assist Jack in retaining his independence and also ensure he has social connectedness within his community.

Centre for Participation matches volunteers and clients who have similar interests and, as a result of the regular shopping assistance, Jack and his volunteer built up an ongoing friendship which later saw the volunteer assisting Jack with some ongoing research and typing.

The visits have also helped Jack to feel less lonely, have given him a sense of purpose and the confidence to get out and about in the community.

Seniors and isolated people in our communities benefit greatly from volunteer visits and assistance.

If you are able to give some time to make a difference in the lives of others please give the Centre for Participation a call on 03 5382 5607

# LEARNING >

*"I thought it would be a good way for me to get a start in the industry"*

Student Jake Sudholz

## Eyes opened to opportunities

For student Jake Sudholz, enrolling in the VET in Schools (VETiS) course with Centre for Participation opened his eyes to the many career and further study opportunities available.

Completing years 1 and 2 of the Community Services course through VETiS in high school, Jake now aged 21, later heard about the Certificate III in Individual Support course, provided by Warner Institute and delivered at the Centre for Participation, and thought it sounded "like something I'd want to do".

"During the community services course I learned about carer and client rights and responsibilities, as well as etiquette," Jake said.

"When I later heard about the individual support course I thought it would be a good opportunity to further my skills and a good way for me to get a start in the industry," he said.

Also working on his family farm at Natimuk, Jake travels to the Centre for Participation tri-weekly to attend classes and said he is enjoying the subjects.

"We're only on the fourth week of the 6 month course, but have already learned more about rights and responsibilities, client dignity, and risks," he said.

"Right from the first unit, client care, my eyes were opened to the background and basics of care, and it is definitely something I'd like to go on and study further."

Preparing for work placement in November, Jake and his fellow students will graduate in February.



# VETiS

**STEPS:** Certificate III in Individual Support student Jake Sudholz is taking steps for the future



## Building confidence to lead

Centre for Participation's Good Governance program has been supporting community organisations and community involvement across the whole of our region.

The Good Governance program has been working for more than 12 months with the Wimmera Regional Sports Assembly as part of a state initiative called "Change Our Game" to empower women into leadership. This two day workshop provides women on boards, or wanting to get onto boards, with the confidence that they have the skills and capacity to contribute in this sort of leadership. More than 60 women have now participated in the More Women on Boards program, which was a finalist for the Victorian Sports Awards.

Another initiative has involved helping Victoria Police sergeants and officers on sergeant-track pathways to contribute to community engagement by representing VicPol on community committees.

"To a large extent the skills needed to be on an advisory or stakeholder committee are the same as being on a Committee of Management," Centre for Participation CEO Julie Pettett said.

"You need to understand the roles and responsibilities of those involved with the committee, think strategically, keep focused on purpose and understand the levers that enable the achievement of that purpose," she said.

Championed by Superintendent Paul Margetts and Acting Inspector Brendan Broadbent, this training allowed participation on committees by people closer to the day-to-day policing experience than the senior managers, and it's hoped it will also help to reduce some perceived distance between VicPol and the community.

Good Governance training was also recently extended to women involved with Landcare organisations in the Pyrenees, Ararat and Northern Grampians Shires. Funding was provided by the Grampians Pyrenees Primary Care Partnership and the Wimmera Catchment Management Authority, with the participants pulled together by Andrea Mitchel from Project Platypus.

"Like the Change Our Game program, this training was directed at women, who

often are under-represented on general boards and may have to overcome both unconscious and quite conscious bias," Centre for Participation Good Governance Manager, and workshop trainer, Alistair Shaw said.

Yet, without women being adequately represented, the boards and the communities they serve are missing out on the skills incumbent within 52% of the population, plus some particular perspectives that, if present, would enhance their performance.

"Such training is often about reinforcing the tremendous capability in the room and giving people the language, and some tools, so they have the confidence they can contribute more at the board or Committee of Management level."

"Organisations like Farm Her, the rural young professionals networks, and Girls in the Grass have an ethos and mission that encourages those who are part of these organisations to be involved in supporting one another," Mrs Pettett said.

"Additionally, we have been working for 6 years to support young people aged 15-21 to get involved with the leadership of their sporting clubs via the Club Leadership Program," she said.

"I have been impressed by both the young people's commitment to their clubs, and by their planning for the future."

"It's great to be involved in assisting community organisations with Good Governance. We are looking forward to taking the next steps with these women and with the communities they are connected to".

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**"This training was directed at women, who often are under-represented on general boards and may have to overcome both unconscious and quite conscious bias".**

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**CONFIDENCE:** Women were gifted the tools they need to contribute to boards and committees during the Good Governance training

# VOLUNTEERING >

## HeartLand: More than a planting weekend

WIMMERA families welcomed city-based migrants into their homes recently to showcase all our beautiful region has to offer and celebrate diversity during the HeartLand Horsham community planting event.

HeartLand Horsham was aimed to introduce city-based migrants to the Wimmera and showcase what a great place it is to live, work and raise a family, while also spending time in the natural environment.

It was auspiced by Centre for Participation in coordination with Horsham Urban Landcare, and could not have happened without the support of many groups including ACE Radio's Rowly and Judy Paterson, Oasis Wimmera, Horsham Agricultural Society, Grampians Community Health, Leadership Wimmera, Lentil as Anything, AMES Australia, Wimmera Catchment Management Authority and the State Government.

Guests from a diverse range of cultures, including two groups from Lentil as Anything in Abbotsford and the Adult Multicultural Education Services in Footscray, arrived at the Centre for Participation on Friday evening where they will meet their host families and shared dinner.

Saturday kicked off with a hearty breakfast before visitors and host families alike dug into planting 6000

trees to protect the Wimmera River; an opportunity to freely connect with, and assist, the environment many had not previously experienced.

Entertainment on the day included a mobile petting zoo presentation and tour of Horsham, before the group retired to the Holy Trinity Lutheran College hall for a shared multicultural feast provided by social fairness and inclusion movement, Melbourne-based Lentil as Anything whose ethos bases valuing people over profit and giving back while supporting environmental sustainability.

Following a hearty Sunday lunch on the banks of the Wimmera River at Horsham Showground Cattle Shed, with catering coordinated by Centre for Participation the group headed back to Melbourne to share their great experiences in the Wimmera.

"This weekend was about more than just tree planting," Horsham-Laharum Landcare Facilitator Wendy MacInnes said, "it was about connecting people and making friendships that can last years."

Guests were from a range of diverse cultures and countries, many of whom

were refugees, new migrants or international visitors and may have been forced to flee their homes, have few possessions or who have been subjected to human rights violations.

It was also designed to support migrants who have settled in the region to explore and share cultural experiences with the broader community, with Ms MacInnes commenting that some of the visitors first came to the Wimmera when they were children and are now returning as adults.

Host families showcased the rural Wimmera to their guests while sharing cultural differences and friendship, with anticipation that the planting weekend will become an annual event.

Centre for Participation CEO Julie Pettett said: "The multi-cultural weekend was the start of something that will grow into a celebration of diversity across our region."

"It was about encouraging diversity and multi-culturalism while showcasing the spectacular Wimmera region to our guests and learning from one another," she said.



**DIVERSE:** Hosted by local families, participants from a range of diverse backgrounds enjoyed sharing their culture



**COLOURFUL:** Dancers from Oasis Wimmera and other groups shared traditional dances with visitors



# YOUTH >

## Building belonging

Beechworth echoed with the sound of joyous laughter when Centre for Participation Young G Youth Group went on camp in June.

*"I really enjoyed sitting around the fire and telling stories"*

Camp participant



**CULTURE:** Albury-Wodonga African Ladies Multicultural Group visited the campsite and showcased their traditional dancing, singing and hair beading



**EXPERIENCE:** The Young G Youth Group enjoyed visiting Mount Hotham and seeing snow for the first time

As part of the centre's ongoing partnership with Centre For Multicultural Youth, Grampians Community Health and Wimmera Development Association, it was able to offer a camp to the Young G group, which is aimed at migrant youths aged 12-17.

Staying on a 55 acre mixed farming property, the group were excited to see sheep and learn how to cook using camp ovens, and to assist with activities including clearing sticks from around the almond orchard and the tying down and pruning of grapevines.

The purpose of the trip was for migrant youth to connect with other migrants with the aim of building relationships that will give them a sense of belonging and purpose, whilst building an understanding of the country they have adopted as their own.

It was also to give the youths an opportunity to experience farming and gain an understanding of the journey of those who came generations ago and made Australia their home.

A focus of the camp was to enable the group to experience Indigenous culture through the visit to MAMA – Albury Library and Museum, where they gained understanding of the culture of the traditional owners of Australia.

And heading to the snow at Dinner Plains Mount Hotham was also exciting as most of the teens had never seen snow, and had a blast trying out the sleds.

"The group also had a great experience with the African Ladies Multicultural Group from Albury-Wodonga Volunteer Resource Bureau when they came out to the campsite and did some African dancing, singing, got the young people involved and did beading for some of the girls," Young G Coordinator Eddie Nsanzimana said.

"We also participated in an Escape Room where the group were split into two groups of eight, placed in a themed room and given a back story and objective. We then had 60 minutes to achieve the objective and escape the room," he said.

# LEARNING >

## Social Pantry enhances growth

THE CAFE WITH PURPOSE  
SOCIAL  
PANTRY

Trainees now have an opportunity to experience how to operate a small hospitality business, thanks to the launch of a new outreach food van The Social Pantry.

Centre for Participation's new van will launch work ready trainees of all cultures and workforce participation disadvantage into hospitality education, jobs and enterprise pathways thanks to support received via the Victorian State Government Regional Jobs and Infrastructure Fund.

"Our community of Western Victoria will have greater access to food from a variety of different cultures, breaking down barriers and building social cohesion," Centre for Participation Manager Learning and Community Development Robbie Millar said.

"This will all be supported by the centre's learning programs and its volunteer mentors in hospitality, workforce, enterprise and business," he said.

The project invests in a community-led initiative building partnerships for skills and workforce development, and enhances opportunities for economic growth and participation for people disengaged from earning and learning; for migrants, refugees and asylum seekers, for restaurants, caf  s, caterers, and food enterprise start-ups.

The project supports a shared sense of belonging, respect, acceptance and contribution of the culturally diverse communities across the Wimmera.

"The Social Pantry will make a significant contribution to its fundraising efforts to underpin sustainability and reach of many programs," Mr Millar said.

"Centre for Participation has a main focus on community learning and volunteering as pathways for inclusion and participation," he said.



**SKILLS:** Trainees are taught how to operate a small hospitality business in the new Social Pantry



**READY:** Trainees catered to 220 exhibitors at the recent Career's Expo, during the second official outing of the Social Pantry



# VOLUNTEERING >

## Outstanding volunteering awarded

# VOLUNTEERING RECOGNITION 2019 AWARDS

With 1089 3WM, Mixx FM and The Weekly Advertiser

Volunteers from all corners of the Wimmera Southern Mallee were awarded for the outstanding work they do in their communities at the 2019 Volunteering Recognition Awards in May

Hosted at Horsham Town Hall the gala dinner, which welcomed in excess of 250 guests, saw volunteers awarded across a total of 18 categories from Lifetime Achievement to Kinship and Foster Carer, Young Volunteer to Celebrating Diversity.

Hosted biennially, the Volunteering Recognition Awards celebrate the role volunteers play across the region and bring together individuals and organisations in acknowledging outstanding achievements, and 2019

saw the introduction of a new People's Choice Award which proved popular.

A great opportunity to recognise the remarkable efforts of volunteers, volunteer programs and volunteer-involving organisations that make our communities vibrant, Centre for Participation would like to recognise and thank all of the sponsors who helped make the event so successful; starting with gold sponsor 1089 3WM, Mixx FM and The Weekly Advertiser.

It would further like to thank silver sponsor Optus Horsham, bronze sponsor Simpsons, as well as the various award, shire award and dinner sponsors.

Thanks must also go to co-Masters of Ceremony Volunteering Victoria CEO Scott Miller and Awards Working Group chair Andrea Cross, who kept guests laughing with their antics on the night.



**CHEERS:** Stawell's Alphabet Soup group celebrate being named a finalist in the Celebrating Diversity category

# WINNERS ...

## 2019 Volunteering Recognition Awards



**Overall Leading Volunteer Organisation/Program**  
Sponsored by: 1089 3WM, Mixx FM, The Weekly Advertiser  
[Wimmera River Parkrun](#)



**People's Choice Award**  
Sponsored by Bendigo Bank  
[MATES Mentoring Program](#)



**Celebrating Diversity Award**  
Sponsored by Centre for Participation  
[Wimmera Pride Project](#)



**New Resident Award**  
Sponsored by Leadership  
Wimmera  
[Zack Currie](#)



**Young Volunteer Award**  
Sponsored by Wimmera  
Southern Mallee LLEN  
[Jessica Pilgrim](#)



**Lifetime Achievement Award**  
Sponsored by Morrow Motor  
Group  
[John Deckert](#)



**Emergency and Recovery Award**  
Sponsored by GWMWater  
[Warracknabeal Urban Fire Brigade](#)



**Individual Landcarer Award**  
Sponsored by Wimmera Catchment  
Management Authority & Landcare  
Wimmera  
[John Pye](#)



**Young Landcare Leader Award**  
Sponsored by Wimmera  
Catchment Management  
Authority & Landcare Wimmera  
[Mirinda Thorpe](#)



**Local Landcare Group Award**  
Sponsored by Wimmera  
Catchment Management  
Authority & Landcare Wimmera  
[Horsham Urban Landcare](#)



**Kinship and Foster Carer Award**  
Sponsored by the Department of  
Health and Human Services  
[Jess Pendlebury](#)



**Community Health Award**  
Sponsored by Wimmera  
Southern Mallee Health Alliance  
[Wimmera River Parkrun](#)



**Strong Community Program Award**  
Sponsored by Wimmera West  
Grampians Neighbourhood House  
Network  
[Nhill Aviation Heritage Centre](#)



**Connecting Communities Award**  
Sponsored by Wimmera Primary  
Care Partnership  
[SPARK Program](#)



**West Wimmera Shire Award**  
[Wimmera Southern Mallee  
Community Transport Service](#)



**Hindmarsh Shire Award**  
[Nhill Aviation Heritage  
Centre](#)



**Yarriambiack Shire Award**  
[Y-fest Easter Festival](#)



**Horsham Rural City Award**  
[Healthy Minds Horsham](#)



# AND GRINNERS >

# 275

NOMINATIONS RECEIVED

## 2019 Volunteering Recognition Awards



**EXCITED:** Kinship and Foster Carer Award winner Jess Pendlebury (left) discusses the awards with a friend during the pre-awards VIP function



**SUPPORT:** Centre for Participation was thrilled to welcome ACE Radio owners Rowly and Judy Paterson, whose generosity helped make the awards so successful



**CELEBRATE:** Wimmera River Parkrun members were excited to learn their group was named a winner not once, but twice, on the night



**POSITIVE:** MCs Andrea Cross and Scott Miller kept the 250-strong crowd laughing throughout the evening, celebrating the many positives volunteering brings to the community

# LEARNING >

## Millar awarded Fellowship

*"I am super excited to have received a Fellowship with the ISS institute"*

Robbie Millar

Centre for Participation Manager Learning and Community Development Robbie Millar will further his skills after being awarded a 2019 Higher Education Skills Group Fellowship through the ISS Institute.

In partnership with the Department of Education & Training Victoria, Fellows who work as a VET practitioner in a Learn Local, TAFE or RTO have been given a valuable opportunity to travel overseas to acquire higher level skills to drive leading practice and innovation in Australia's education industry.

Looking at how the Centre for Participation can embed vocational and employability training, along with providing entrepreneurship skills for job seekers to establish their own social enterprise or small business start-up will be the focus of Robbie's trip.

"I am super excited to have received a Fellowship with the ISS institute," Robbie said.

"It will enable me to explore models of social enterprise

for the vocational training and education sector and how this can translate into the Australian market; I'm particularly interested in how it can grow the rural community I live in," he said.

"We have very limited opportunities for people to obtain training and opportunities to find ongoing sustainable employment. Social enterprise gives hands-on experience that can lead to employment."

"This opportunity will give me the opportunity to see best practice models that I can share with my sector upon returning".

Centre for Participation CEO Julie Pettett said: "We are thrilled that Robbie is being given the opportunity to undertake an international Fellowship, including attending the World Social Enterprise Forum in



Ethiopia in late October."

"This experience will assist in growing his entrepreneurial leadership, and the Wimmera will also benefit greatly from this," she said.

### CONTACT US ON



03 5382 5607



info@centreforparticipation.org.au



P.O. Box 267 Horsham, VIC 3402



centreforparticipation.org.au

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