

VCAL
4LIFE



FRANKSTON MORNINGTON PENINSULA VCAL VOICE 2020



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VCAL Work Placement, Brodie Dennehy

Before VCAL started I had begun my work placement with 2 comical blokes by the names of Jake and Rohan, 2 carpenters from Sale. As I joined halfway through a job there was a lot for me to learn and do quickly. The boring planning and marking had been done for me. When I joined their small group, I was quick to get to work on the first part of the job, fixing the garage.

We had over a dozen Defence houses to build, each containing a 2-car garage, 2 bathrooms and three bedrooms. Prefabricated frames made our lives harder than you would be led to believe. Some frames we had been sent did not fit the doors in the doorways, and another frame was bowed. BUT this did not deter us from getting the work done.

The best part about the job site was the music and the banter that goes with the work. Shortly after my 3rd week I was standing frames and I had been trusted to work on both villas and doors on my own. Yes, I made my mistakes but all I could do was learn from each of them. Bing a carpenter allowed me to dabble in other jobs, like concreting, the house DJ, plumbing, electrical and tiling. Lunch was always good, either KFC, Maccas, a café or a servo.

I learnt a great deal from guys old and young while working with the boys. I learnt skills and life lessons from tilers to garage cleaners and coffee ladies that I will be able to use in my lifetime. This made my 16-week experience even more worthwhile. In this short period, I learnt to plan and lift properly, how to use a concrete gun as well as the different uses each tool has.

I was amazed at how many trades have specialties and how much work goes into one house. Our quickest build (only carpentry work like walls, roofing, fitting, doors, fixing) took twenty-eight hours to resurrect from the ground up. Although a steady house relies on straight walls and a flat slab, if one trade messes up it has a large ripple like effect on each job that takes place around the house.

Overall. I enjoyed each and every day I spent working with Jake and Rohan and how could I turn down extra cash!



Isolation, Delilah Smith, Westernport Secondary College

PDS Intermediate.

One of the many tasks set for isolation:



Education, Pathways
and employment
options for young
people in the
Frankston and
Mornington Peninsula
region.
[View website](#)

Structured Workplace Learning



SWL can help you to:

- Develop your independence and self-confidence, especially in the workplace.
- Increase your motivation to study and do further training.
- Learn from experienced industry professionals.
- Enhance opportunities for part-time or casual employment.
- Gain further valuable skills relevant to the workplace.
- Try out career choices before leaving school.
- Decide if this career path is really what you want to do!
- Develop contacts with potential future employers

Looking for a Work Experience Placement for VCAL?



The SWL Statewide Portal makes it easy for you to search and connect with current available placements with local employers.

Get work experience related to your VET course:

- In a REAL workplace
- Under REAL working conditions
- Supervised by someone who works in and knows the industry

Over 2,700 available work experience placements for you to choose from!

The portal provides teachers and students with an easy to navigate information and referral point for a whole range



A Good News Story, Briony Burne, LEC Young Parents Program

2020 has been a year unlike any other, especially for the LEC VCAL Young Parents Program. For the many young mothers in the Program, going from being in class two days a week to learning online via Zoom was something any of us would never have expected to happen. For the whole of Term 2, up until the last two weeks all our classes were on Zoom and it was definitely an experience I personally will never forget. Many others, including myself, found it hard to concentrate and complete certain tasks whilst learning from home, which is probably why we were so excited when we were told that we could finally return to learning in class on campus.

Two weeks went by and it was finally time to return to study for term 3. This was a whole other experience with new guidelines and class rules put into place to make sure we could return. When in class we were required to take our shoes off and put slippers on, we had to spray our pram wheels with disinfectant and wipe down our phones, laptops and any stationary we were planning to use in the classroom. Upon arrival we had to make sure we used hand sanitizer and make sure we signed in. The classroom was rearranged to make sure we were complying with the restrictions that were in place and that we were all sitting 1.5m away from each other, but also making sure that we could see each other in the classroom and still able to discuss and socialise.

Before the mandatory wearing of face masks was announced, we decided as a class it would be fun to make one that we could wear, that is also washable and reusable. This was a fun activity that we could learn new skills, like how to use a sewing machine, measuring fabric and even working through problems whilst making our masks and learning how to resolve them.

We cant wait to see how the rest of our learning experiences happen this year and hoping we can be back in our classroom learning the best way we know how to. We have been so lucky to have been supported by Suzanne and Maree, who have encouraged us to stay engaged in the program and its reassuring knowing they are there for us.



Communities for Children
Frankston is funded by the
Australian Government
Department of Social Services



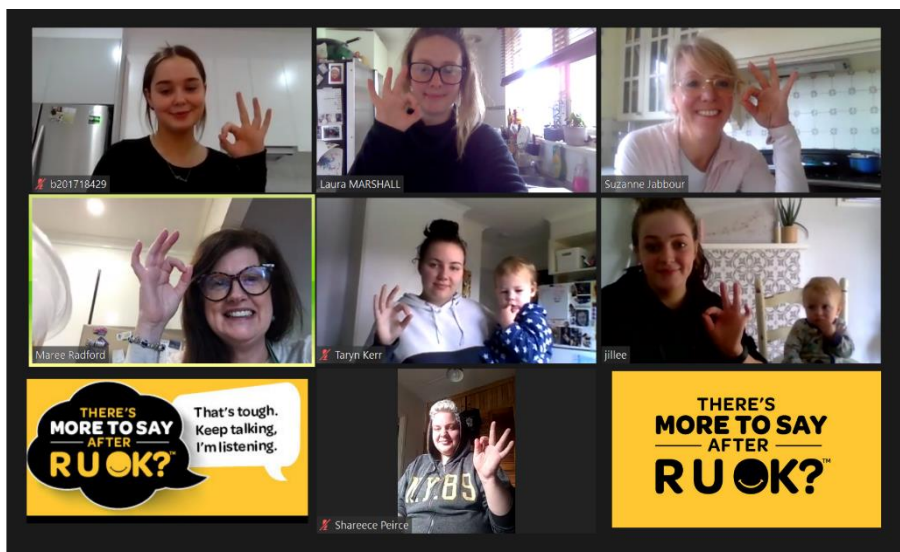
RU OK Day Event, Natalie Bennett, LEC Young Parents Program

R u ok day 2020 was all about keeping the conversation going and that there is more to say after “are you okay”.

I had the great pleasure of being able to spread the word about this day and present to the girls in Learn Engage Connect VCAL Young Parents Program, in a fun way because I was the project manager.

Mental health is something I am really passionate about and I just loved the message for 2020 so I thought it would be a good idea to make a fortnightly check in for our class to keep the conversation going. 2020 has been a really tough year for everyone so it is super important to check up on your friends and family.

Unfortunately I had to present this over Zoom, but that gave me the opportunity to go out of my comfort zone because talking over Zoom isn't easy, I made a Kahoot quiz, so that it was fun for the girls to be involved and so that I kept their attention. I presented this on Wednesday the 9th of September and again on Thursday the 10th of September. We will continue each fortnight to check in with each other asking are we okay?





headspace Frankston is a health service for young people living in the Frankston and Mornington Peninsula region.

If you are experiencing any mental health issues, want to reduce your use of alcohol and other drugs, are trying to find somewhere to live, need support getting into work or study, need an STI check or have anything else going on in your life you need support with, we can help.

To Make an appointment – 97696419

Drop in and talk to our team at 62 Playne Street Frankston

9am-5pm (7pm Wednesdays, closed weekends).

Looking for work? Frankston Mornington Peninsula Jobs Website

Access:

- Job vacancies
- Local newsletters
- Air CV
- Providers can print job beacons – printed job ads



Sudsy Challenge, Shereece Pierce, LEC Young Parents Program

With this year being one for the history books, it has been hard to remember those that need more help than others. This is when the Sudsy Challenge came into play, as I was assigned the task to project manage a fundraiser, hosted by Orange Sky.

Orange Sky is a non-profit organisation, providing mobile services across the country that support homeless individuals with access to free laundry, warm showers and most importantly, genuine conversation. This year not being able to go to aged care facilities, or volunteer at Matt's Place, where we normally get to serve meals to disadvantaged members of the community, this was one way the Learn Engage Connect VCAL Young Parents Program could give back to the community.

Our fundraising commenced with a \$300 donation, generously provided by the FMPLLEN, which meant each Program participant received an orange t-shirt, which they had to wear for three days straight. The t-shirt could only be taken off to shower. The concept behind this, is to give participants of the Sudsy Challenge a small taste of what it is like for those who cannot access laundry facilities. We set a group goal of raising \$500 by sharing our Sudsy challenge on Social Media platforms, local Youth Network agencies, FMPLLEN, Chisholm staff, family and friends. With a great amount of teamwork, together we were able to raise \$2,435!! Watching the fundraising tally grow every day was one of the most amazing feelings because we knew that it was going to make someone's day a little better while they are in a tough place in their lives.

Just knowing that you've made a stranger smile is enough to make my day. We had Victoria from Orange Sky join us over zoom who informed us we had raised enough funds for a 100 free loads of washing. I'm very proud of all the participants of the LEC VCAL Young Parents Program for helping push the word of the Sudsy Challenge and making a positive change for the community.



Parenting Vs Isolation, Taryn Kerr, LEC Young Parents Program

In March, 2020 the Australian Government declared that it was in Australia's best interest for the country to enter into a self-isolation period, in order to protect ourselves and the healthcare system from the Covid-19 virus which broke out in China late 2019. The restrictions meant that schools had to shut, as well as many other places and businesses around Australia. We are not allowed to go anywhere that is not an essential need, including family members' homes. Being a parent to an 18-month-old boy and trying to keep him entertained and in routine during in a time of lockdown is an extremely challenging thing to manage. Going from attending Chisholm Tafe in Frankston 2 days a week with my son River completing the VCAL Young Parents Program as a Senior, visiting family and friends, going to parks and doing other public activities, to suddenly having to stay home 24/7 really turns the whole routine upside down. Trying to complete my classes via Zoom and trying to keep an 18 month old, with a short attention span, occupied with a limited amount of resources can become very stressful. For example, I will set some paints up and within 15 minutes River is over it and throwing paint all over our house, because he is wanting to move onto something else. When becoming bored yourself, it is hard to do anything to occupy yourself as theirs a child hanging from your leg demanding something. Even simple things like reading a book is hard, as River wants to take the book and run off with it.

Using Zoom to continue VCAL was a challenge for the first few weeks but once I had gotten used to working out the program and adjusting to doing schoolwork outside of the classroom it did become easier. The benefits of completing VCAL via Zoom is getting to stay in your pyjamas until 5 minutes before class starts, being able to not travel to and from Tafe in the cold weather and having everything in the own comfort of your home for your child is a life saver! Having interactive and interesting hands on classes makes zooming enjoyable. It has all been a very big and challenging time in our lives, and extremely stressful at times. However, I will always have the memories from these times of us bonding as a little family from doing things like building forts in the lounge room, going on bug hunts, playing in the garden, and all the laughs we have had. The positives in this situation definitely out way the negatives. I have learnt how to enjoy my own company better, bonded more as a little family with my partner Trent and our son River, and I have witnessed how the human race can come together to work as one to keep the world safe. Even if I feel like I am going crazy in isolation and pulling my hair out, I am thankful we are safe and healthy.



Communities for Children
Frankston is funded by the
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Grand Prix Excursion, Westernport Secondary College

On Thursday 12th March Year 11 Intermediate VCAL students from WPSC attended the Grand Prix

This excursion enabled students to see how major events are set out and the impact they have on society, including tourism and the environment.

It was also an opportunity for students to also have some FUN !



Numeracy Gardening, John Paul College, Daniel Didomenicantonio, Jay Hopkins, James Rossi

In year 11 VCAL we have started a Numeracy gardening task which involves mathematical calculations including financial maths, measurement and many other mathematical techniques used to assist us in the project.

The Gardening project required we students, at home, with the assistance of teachers, to correctly plant 8 different seeds into 8 different pots. We had to nurture and care for our plants over the isolation period to successfully document our findings and record all our evidence for our portfolio. We were required to water our plants daily and find a place in the house where sunlight would shine on our plants to give them the best opportunity to grow and develop. During this process we were in competition with one another as well as the other numeracy class and teachers to see whose plants would grow the most in an 8 week period. The winner received a greenhouse, soil bags, gardening tools, variety of seeds pack and a voucher to Bunnings.

This project was completed through isolation and really connected us as a VCAL community at John Paul college. Everyone enjoyed the competitive nature of the gardening task and it was a great way to communicate with our peers whilst being isolated at home, through COVID-19 Virus.



FMP Youth Pathways

Education, Pathways and employment options for young people in the Frankston and Mornington Peninsula region.

[View website](#)

My COVID 19 & Isolation Reflection, Katrina Sarkozi, Westernport Secondary College

No one in a million years, would have imagined that such a world-wide pandemic such as the Corona Virus, also known as (COVID 19) would have swept around the whole nation like it has. It has taken away our freedom, independence and it has changed our whole world and our way of living as we know it. We have not been able to see family and friends, go to the gym, or just simply browse around the shops. This time of isolation has made many of us appreciate the simple things in life and reminds us that we should not take anything for granted.

While most of us have been stuck in isolation, the amazing teachers, principal, vice-principals and well-being people have been busy setting up remote and flexible learning for students, so they can still get an education at home. This is a time when the whole WPSC community has come together to support and guide each other through this pandemic we are currently facing. Thank you WPSC community for all your help and support with the online learning and making it possible for all of us students to be able to learn efficiently in the privacy of our own homes, so that we don't miss out on our important classes, don't fall behind, and so we don't miss out on our education.

I want to acknowledge all the healthcare workers in hospitals, nursing homes, doctors, mental health care professionals, and all the other essential workers. All the work they do is truly amazing, they are risking their lives, and their families to save ours, that's what you call courage, sheer determination and pure bravery.

Some of the things that people are doing in isolation are dancing and singing in their own homes, playing music, or musical instruments, learning new hobbies, taking up cooking and learning new recipes, playing sports in their back or front yard, home renovations, making TikTok videos, exercising at home, writing song lyrics, and a whole lot more. It just goes to show, what we can all do when we put our minds to it, and we're in lock down. It also shows that we are very strong, resilient, and that we can all stick together and come out of this pandemic even stronger than we were before.

Unfortunately, many people have lost their lives through this Corona Virus, and it's very sad to see this happening right across the world. If we stick together, do the social distancing, listen to the Government and medical advice, we can all make a big difference, and reduce the death toll, number of cases, and the severity of the disease. We are in it for the long haul, so we better do the right thing by everybody, ourselves, our families, friends, work colleagues and the elderly.

Remember to keep in contact with loved ones, work colleagues, friends, families, etc, and check in everyday to see how they are coping, and if they are okay. **Remember** it is okay not to be okay, and if you are struggling, always reach out for help, there is always services, and people willing to help and listen to you.

Since this whole Corona Virus started, I have been feeling very isolated, very lonely and a little bit depressed. I would rather see my friends and family, go to school and learn in a proper learning environment, face to face with teachers. I am one of many students who is learning from home but find it a little bit difficult because it's not the same as being in a classroom environment where we are able to get that extra help and support. I feel frustrated that I cannot see my family or friends at this time, but I'm looking forward to seeing them when this is all over. I feel trapped in my own home as I can't go out to many places, apart from going to get the essentials items that the Government allows. Below are some photos of the some of the activities I do in isolation to keep myself busy, pass the time and to maintain good health and well-being.



Frankston Mornington Peninsula VCAL Awards 2020

The 2020 VCAL awards were very different to the past 6 years. Due to the Government Covid 19 restrictions it was not possible to hold a live Awards celebration. Where possible, the awards were presented at the student's school.

Thank you to all the schools who participated in the awards.

Excellence Awards:

Alex Green, Frankston High School
 Bella Potter, Peninsula Specialist College
 Ben McClutchie, McClelland College
 Blade Wilson, Elisabeth Murdoch College
 Blain Blight, Padua College
 Callum McKay, Monterey Secondary College
 Charlie-Rose Watson Terrick, Mt Eliza Secondary College
 Delilah Smith, Western Port Secondary College
 Ebony Craft, Rosebud Secondary College
 Elizabeth Veerman, Chisholm Institute Frankston
 Emily Bartlett, David Scott School
 Flynn Cliffe, Mt Erin College
 Jasmine Withall, Dromana College
 Jesslyn Virgona, Mornington Secondary College
 Kionie Hickey, SkillsPlus Frankston
 Kyron Mills-McCarthy, John Paul College
 Laura Badrian, Advance College
 Lucy Bentham, Somerville Secondary College
 Maddison Beck, Bayside Christian College
 Natalie Collins, Learn Engage Connect
 Rorey Lister, Naranga School
 Samantha Storer, Patterson River Secondary College
 Shelby Cropley, Flinders Christian Community College Carrum Downs
 Tahlia Knowles, Carrum Downs Secondary College
 Thomas Fergusson, Flinders Christian Community College Tyabb
 Zaiyna Fuller, Chisholm Mornington Peninsula



Maddison Beck, Bayside Christian College



Westernport Secondary College

Encouragement awards:

Amy Campbell, Peninsula Specialist College
 Caitilie Saunders, Advance College
 Corey Daniel, Chisholm Mornington Peninsula
 Ethan Emery, Padua College
 Ethan Wooldridge, Flinders Christian Community College Carrum Downs
 Georgia Hill, Western Port Secondary College
 Gina Richards, Naranga School
 Jamie Hudson, McClelland College
 Jasper Millward, Dromana College

Frankston Mornington Peninsula VCAL Awards 2020

Encouragement Awards (continued):

Jaxson Phelan, Somerville Secondary College
 Jed Hall, Rosebud Secondary College
 Katelyn Clancy, SkillsPlus Frankston
 Lachlan Harvey, Mt Eliza Secondary College
 Lachlan Smith, David Scott School
 Liam Condie, John Paul College
 Madeleine Duncan, Chisholm Institute Frankston
 Natalie Bennett, Learn Engage Connect
 Nellie Bleasby, Mornington Secondary College
 Ryan Barrett, Flinders Christian Community College Tyabb
 Shayla Howden, Frankston High School
 Sinead Warne, Mt Erin College
 Stefanie Karrison, Carrum Downs Secondary College
 Steve Topouzoglou, Bayside Christian College
 Tamika Atwell, Patterson River Secondary College
 Trinity Smith, Elisabeth Murdoch College
 Troy Wells, Monterey Secondary College



Corey Daniel, Chisholm Mornington Peninsula

Entrepreneurship awards:

Bethany Sampson, McClelland College
 Brodie Walker, Patterson River Secondary College
 Cody Bardolph, Mt Eliza Secondary College
 James Lindsay, Carrum Downs Secondary College
 Lucy Waring, Bayside Christian College
 Taryn Kerr, Learn Engage Connect

Schools that were Acknowledged as Best Practice in VCAL Delivery:

Flinders Christian Community College, Tyabb
 Learn Engage Connect Young Parents Program
 Chisholm Mornington Peninsula



Frankston Mornington Peninsula VCAL Awards 2020

A very special thank you to our Sponsors:

Gold Sponsors



Silver Sponsors



Bronze Sponsors



Lucy Waring, Bayside Christian College



Taryn Kerr, Learn Engage Connect



Thomas Fergusson, Flinders Christian Community College



Steve Topouzoglou, Bayside Christian College



Katelyn Clancy, SkillsPlus



VCAL Cook Off 2020

In 2020, due to the COVID-19 restrictions, we were unable to host a face to face competition. Instead, students cranked up the heat at home and got creative in their own kitchens for the chance to showcase their best dish.

Congratulations to the 2020 Cook Off winners:

Jaxon Fraser, Frankston High School (Best Entrée)

Taren Kerr, Learn Engage Connect Young Parents (Best Main)

Ashlin Nelson, Naranga School (Best Dessert)



Natalie Collins, Young
Parents Program



Ashlin Nelson,
Naranga School



Jake Simpson,
Frankston High School



Jaxon Fraser,
Frankston High School



Matthew Crouch,
Frankston High School



Katrina Sarkozi,
Westernport
Secondary College



20 Years of the Frankston Mornington Peninsula LLEN & VCAL 2021/2022

2021 marks 20 Years of LLEN and we will be celebrating the work that has been done through partnerships with schools and industry.

2021 also marks 20 years since the inception of the Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL), which began in schools in 2002.

The VCAL program was developed in response to education and learning needs identified by the Ministerial Review of Post Compulsory Education and Training Pathways in Victoria (2000), also known as the Kirby Report. One of the findings of the Kirby Report highlighted poor senior secondary outcomes for many students. VCAL provides hands on and vocational options for students and became a robust qualification for those students seeking trade and vocational pathways.

VCAL allows students to obtain real life and employment experience setting them in advanced standing for careers as they left school. VCAL provided a satisfying and meaningful VCE option for students who may have exited for a trade in year 9 or 10. We will explore the rich history of VCAL in detail next year to commemorate the anniversary we will celebrate and reflect through the VCAL Voice and other events. Looking forward to a great 20th birthday

