



Australian Learning  
Communities Network Inc.  
(ALCN)



Incorporated in NSW.

No: 9883167

Australian Registered Body No  
113 273 859

Annual Report  
2021-2022

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## Introduction:

This Annual Report summaries the work of the ALCN Inc. and particularly our place-based learning cities and learning communities over the period May 2021 until May 2022.

My role is to support our current and next generation of learning city and learning community practitioners and leaders. Featured activities include another successful Global Learning Festival; an examination of the history of Australian Learning Cities and Learning Communities; and most recently a very successful Australian Learning Cities Webinar where we showcased Australian City members of the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities, and those cities aspiring to become members.

ALCN Inc. welcomes feedback on this Final Report, and please send further contributions highlighting your incredible work that we can include in our newsletters. Please contact [alcn@bigpond.com](mailto:alcn@bigpond.com).

Dr. Leone Wheeler, Hon. CEO, ALCN

## Executive Appointments

In accordance with decisions of the 2021 AGM the following members were appointed for a two-year appointment from June 2021 until June 2023.

Adam Josifovski – Melton City Council (Victoria)

Jan Simmons – (Regional Victoria)

Max Eastcott – Gwydir Learning Region (Regional New South Wales)

Lara Pugh – Wollongong City Council (New South Wales)

Diane Tabbagh – Wyndham City Council (Victoria)

Diane Tabbagh was appointed as Chair (the position is a 2-year term June 2021-June 2023)

Ken Thompson, Chair of the Hume Learning Community, Victoria, nominated and was duly elected for a two-year term (May 2020 – May 2022). It is noted with sadness that Ken passed away in 2021 leaving a vacant position on the Executive Team.

A decision was made at the AGM in 2021 that the Hon CEO could appoint representation from Queensland, and other States not represented on the Board. This to be ratified at the 2022 AGM. It is noted that Caroline Jones, Canning City Council, Western Australia; Benita Parsons, Port Adelaide City Council, South Australia and Dr Donna Goldie, Townsville City Council, Queensland have joined the Executive, subject to confirmation at the 2022 AGM.

Leone Wheeler continued in the position of Hon. CEO/public officer in 2021, while Jim Saleeba, former Hon. CEO/public officer, continues as treasurer and information resource person. The Manager, Corporate Services at the Albury-Wodonga Community College (an organizational member), generously agreed to continue to act as the second signature for ease of payment of accounts.

Thank you to the support from Wyndham City Council the Executive now meets via online video (Microsoft Teams) regularly and communicates through email or by phone on a constant basis as issues emerge or to membership demands. Also, thank you to Jac Torres-Gomez and Sharyn Wheatcroft from Wyndham for secretarial support to the Executive Committee.

## Farewell

This year we farewelled long-term member Judith Jensen, Team Manager – Arts (Visual and Performing) Lifestyle, Economy, Environment and Planning, Townsville City Council. Judith supported the ALCN for many years both nationally and internationally. Notably, Judith, with Jim Saleeba, contributed to the City Showcase Presentations at the 13<sup>th</sup> PASCAL International Conference, University of Glasgow, 2016 (see <http://pie.pascalobservatory.org/pascalnow/pascal-activities/news/showcase-presentation-profiles>).

Thank you, Judith, and good luck with your next adventure.

## Welcome:

We are pleased to report that Caroline Jones, Community Learning and Capacity Manager, representing Canning City Council and Benita Parsons, Community Learning Leader (Libraries), Port Adelaide Enfield City Council joined the network this year. We welcome them and look forward to their contribution as part of a community of practice.

## Vale Ken Thompson

### **Ken Thompson, PhD – a true champion of lifelong learning communities**



Dr. Ken Thompson, colleague, mentor, and friend to many, especially in the Hume Learning Community, is remembered for his generosity, his vast knowledge of lifelong learning, his leadership, and his empathy to people from all walks of life.

Ken was foundation Chair of the Hume Global Learning Village (HGLV) committee (the operational committee) and member of the strategic HGLV Advisory Board (2003-2014). He was eminently qualified for this role considering his background as a registered Psychologist, former Principal of Gladstone Park Secondary College (1993-2006), Visiting Fellow at Melbourne University (1996-2022) and Board Member at Meadow Heights Learning Shop (2012-2016) as well as several other appointments for the Department of Education, Victoria.

The HGLV (2003-2014), a collaboration of partner organisations and Hume City Council, achieved many successful, innovative initiatives that set down values and principles for developing learning cities/learning communities both within Australia, and internationally and the successes have been widely written about.

After the disbandment of the HGLV Committee and Advisory Board in 2014 Ken with the help of several strategic community partners established the Hume Learning Community Inc. He was Chair of the Hume Learning Community and made sure that the collaboration, the sharing of projects and ideas, and the valuing of lifelong learning continued until his passing. He was particularly keen to ensure the voice of the most disadvantaged in the community was heard. Many initiatives developed during the years of the HGLV live on in the work of Hume City Council, for example, the Jobs and Skills Taskforce and the Multiversity programme.

To me Ken was a mentor and has supported of my lifelong work especially when I took up the position of Hon CEO of the Australian Learning Communities Network (ALCN) in 2020. He became a member of the ALCN Executive Committee and worked with me on a story template so that our members would continue to tell their stories of learning innovation, exploration, and inspiration.

Leone Wheeler

## Annual General Meetings

The 2020-2021 AGM was held on 11 May 2021 using support from Wyndham City Council, Microsoft Teams.

Executive members are a nominated point of contact for their State and for any information to members. In 2021 contact points were:

NSW – Regional NSW Max Eastcott

NSW – Lara Pugh

Victoria –Diane Tabbagh; Jan Simmons;

The Executive also nominate other specific responsibilities around which they are the focal point for information and research. In the past year, these responsibilities were:

Name	Executive position	Additional responsibilities
Max Eastcott	NSW rural contact	Local government contact NSW liaison
Jan Simmons	Victorian contact	Regional Victorian activities
Diane Tabbagh	Victorian contacts	Metropolitan activities, Global Learning Festival, mentoring student intern
All		Participation in deputations when possible
Leone Wheeler	Hon CEO	Overall coordination responsibilities Public officer
Jim Saleeba	Treasurer	
<b>Other Members</b>		
Peter Kearns		National and International Learning City Advocate

## Privacy

The Executive is conscious of the privacy issues affecting members. So, to avoid confusion that can arise with ease of electronic communication, circulation to and the point of contact for members is restricted to

- Leone Wheeler – for issues affecting the membership.
- Those Executive members listed above.

Members' details are distributed only after expressed consent of members.

## Advocacy

ALCN Inc. will meet with or make representations to parliamentarians, State Authorities, or key agencies to argue for recognition of and support for the work of learning communities and learning cities throughout Australia and internationally. In 2021/2022 members of our Executive were involved in promoting learning communities and learning cities locally, nationally, and internationally (Refer to Appendix A – Wyndham City Council Report).

In 2021/2022 Executive Members:

- Led the successful running of a second Global Learning Festival (Wyndham and Melton City Council).

- Facilitated the Urban and Rural Learning Initiative as a Learning City Network (LCN) as part of the PASCAL International Observatory (Dr Leone Wheeler).
- Coordinated two professional development Webinars - *Learning Cities in Australia – Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow* (as part of the AGM – May 11 in partnerships with Wyndham), and *Universities as Partners in Learning Cities and Communities* (November 9 in partnership with Wollongong City Council, as part of the Global Learning Festival).
- Coordinated the LearnWest *Learning for Earning Festival – May 2021* (Wyndham City Council, Melton City Council with ALCN sponsorship).
- Continued as active members of UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities (GNLC).
- Continued to liaise with Adult Learning Australia.
- Played an important role in contributing significant content and Webinars for PASCAL International Observatory and the UNESCO GNLC.

## Information Clearing House on Learning Cities and Learning Communities

The ALCN website ([alcn.com.au](http://alcn.com.au)) and Facebook page (@aus.alcn) are the organisation's main clearing house with information about learning cities, links to the learning community strategies, stories, evaluation tools and research of our partners. The site also links to international partners - the PASCAL International Observatory and UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities (GNLC).

We thank Andrew Williamson, our web and host manager, for continued generous assistance with the site.

## Communication

The main method of communication is through our newsletter entitled "Ripples" which is sent to our members, posted on Facebook, and the PASCAL International Observatory Website.

The newsletter is the main way we communicate with our membership. Eight Ripple Newsletters were sent out in the 2021-2022 period. The newsletters contain stories about our learning communities; notices of events; reviews; articles of interest; updates from UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities; Adult Learning Australia and PASCAL International Observatory. Archived copies of these newsletters can be accessed [here](#).

## Research and Publications

Peter Kearns AM wrote the following as planning papers for consideration on the future direction of the ALCN:

- Peter Kearns. (2021), *Learning Cities in Australia – Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow*. Retrieved from <https://alcn.com.au/2021/03/08/feature-paper-learning-cities-in-australia-yesterday-today-tomorrow/>
- Peter Kearns. (2021), *Building Resilience for Turbulent Times A key objective for learning communities*. Retrieved from <https://alcn.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Building-Resilience-for-Turbulent-Times-Peter-Kearns.pdf>
- Peter Kearns. (2022), *Some Perspectives and Questions for Discussion on the Report of the UNESCO International Commission of Futures of Education Paper: Reimagining our Futures Together. A New Social Contract for Education*. Retrieved from <https://alcn.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Report-of-the-UNESCO-International-Commission-on-Futures-of-Education-Questions.pdf>

Leone Wheeler wrote the following book chapter with Professor Rupert Maclean. The publisher is Springer and the entire book on learning societies is available as open access.

Maclean, R. and L. Wheeler, *Conceptualising the Meaning, Theory and Practice of Learning Societies During an Age of Disruption*, in *Powering a Learning Society During an Age of Disruption*, S. Ra, S. Jagannathan, and R. Maclean, Editors. 2021. p. 15-29. Retrieved from [https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-981-16-0983-1\\_2](https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-981-16-0983-1_2)

Our members also contributed to international case studies, in particular:

Wyndham is featured in this UNESCO publication on ESD Implementation in Learning Cities.

Wyndham City Council. (2021), 'Empowering and Mobilization of Youth: Lifelong Learning Initiative for ESD that focus on Young People', in *ESD Implementation in Learning Cities*. Editor. UNESCO UIL: Hamburg, Germany. pp. 38-41. Retrieved from <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000379535>

Melton's COVID response via the Community Connector Hubs are showcased in the background paper to the Fifth International Conference on Learning Cities - ICLC5 Background Paper.

UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities [GNLC], *From emergency to resilience: Building healthy and resilient cities through learning. ICLC5 Background Document*. 2021, UNESCO UIL. Retrieved from [https://uil.unesco.org/sites/default/files/doc/lifelong-learning/cities/5th-conference/iclc5\\_backgrounddocumenten.pdf](https://uil.unesco.org/sites/default/files/doc/lifelong-learning/cities/5th-conference/iclc5_backgrounddocumenten.pdf), p.11

## Story Template

In 2020 the ALCN, developed a story template to guide our practitioners in the writing of stories for the network. See

- Learning City Profile (following on from the example of Wyndham Learning City – see <http://lcn.pascalobservatory.org/participants/wyndham-city-council>).
- Learning City Profile - the City of Canning - <http://lcn.pascalobservatory.org/participants/canning>
- McKay, J, Enable Social Enterprises (2021) – Renew Tech for Good Initiative, Hume Learning Community. Retrieved from <https://alcn.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Feature-Story-March-2021-Hume-Learning-Community-Enable.pdf>.
- Lara Pugh, Project Leader Learning City, Wollongong, wrote a handout on *Hosting a Learning Festival – 10 Tips for Beginners*. This was based on interviews with organisers of the 2021 Learning for Earning Festival. Read more [here](#).

If you are interested in submitting a story using one of the about methods, please contact Leone Wheeler.

## Student Placement

Once again, the Australian Learning Communities Network (ALCN), RMIT University and Wyndham City Council partnered to host two RMIT International Development students. We are very impressed with the calibre of the RMIT students:

- Ava Ter, an RMIT International Development student worked with the Australian Learning Communities Network (ALCN) and Wyndham City Council in Semester 1, 2021. Ava worked on the AGM Webinar ***Learning cities in Australia: yesterday, today, tomorrow*** and on the LearnWest ***Learning for Earning Festival***, particularly the evaluation report.

- Vi Bui, RMIT International Development student volunteered as a Virtual Learning Festival Project Assistant in Semester Two and assisted with the facilitation of the Global and Wyndham Learning Festivals, the evaluation of the Festivals, and the collection of stories and the writing of a final report.

Heartfelt thanks to Ava and Vi for their wonderful work and to the Wyndham team Diane Tabbagh and Jac Torres-Gomez for their mentorship. Also, to RMIT University for their continued support of our programmes.

## Networks

### Regional Networks

The ALCN encourages the formation of regional learning networks. These networks can support and share ideas and resources locally.

A good example of a cross Council Network is *Learn West* which meets regularly to share knowledge. Its membership includes Maribyrnong; Wyndham; Brimbank; Moonee Valley; Melton; Hobsons Bay; Darebin; Maribyrnong; Ballarat; and Hume. Their latest innovative project is the [Learning for Earning Festival](#) and our ALCN members (Wyndham, Brimbank, Hume and Melton) are collaborating with several other Local Government Areas (LGAs) in the West of Greater Melbourne and this festival is happening again this year in a hybrid form from 25-26 May 2022.

An example of a rural learning community network is Gwydir Learning Region, and I had the pleasure of visiting this learning community in 2021.

Lara Pugh, Learning City Project Officer, Wollongong City Council has established Friday Forums – an informal Community of Practice for ALCN members. Currently this consists of four virtual meetings, held informally, where members can share ideas and information. The first meeting about *Building a Learning City* was held on Friday 6 May 2022, and members shared experiences and resources.

### Adult Learning Australia

ALCN Inc. and ALA continue to collaborate on matters to do with the promotion of lifelong learning throughout Australia. The most recent example was collaboration on a webinar - ***Sharing Insights – Australian Learning Cities: global to local – local to global*** (May 4, 2022).

### International Networks

ALCN Inc. supports the **UNESCO's Global Network of Learning Cities** and promotes UNESCO's GNLC newsletters and webinars to our members. Australia has three local government areas that are members of the GNLC, including Melton City, and City of Wyndham, and Circular Heads in Tasmania. David Atchoarena, Director of UNESCO UIL, and keynote speaker for the recent Australian Learning Cities Webinar noted that the Australian members of UNESCO's GNLC were a constant source of inspiration for other member cities! Wyndham was honoured to become a proud recipient of a UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities Award in October 2021, for its work in lifelong and life-wide learning.

### PASCAL International Observatory

ALCN Inc. is a member of this international network, and this has enabled, as well, individual members, upon registering, to keep abreast of developments in other parts of the world.

Leone Wheeler is a member of the Board of PASCAL International Observatory. Our members play an active role in the work of PASCAL. Canning, Wyndham, Gwydir, and Wollongong are featured on the PASCAL Learning City



Network (LCN). Wyndham regularly participates in Webinars and is an active participant of the group *Reimagining Economic Futures*, while Gwydir Learning Region is contributing to the *Urban-Rural Learning Initiatives* group.

Limerick and Wyndham Learning City partnered to co-lead a webinar entitled: **Transformation Through Empathy Partnerships**. This was an initiative led through the PASCAL EcCoWell group, building on the paper developed by Peter Kearns in 2020. The Webinar is available at <http://pascalobservatory.org/pascalnow/pascal-activities/news/transformation-through-empathy-partnerships-webinar-report-jac-torr> .

### Asia Pacific Learning Cities Alliance (APLC) Hall of Fame

Wyndham City's Learning Cities & Libraries Team were recognised for their commitment to lifelong learning by the Alliance for Asia-Pacific Learning Cities (APLC) by being inducted into the APLC Hall of Fame. APLC is a coalition of cities with policies, wills and plans for the growth of global learning cities under the motto of promoting lifelong learning in the region.

## Webinars/Forums

The ALCN takes opportunities to join with other member organisations to contribute to Webinars and other professional development activities where possible.

1. **Sharing Insights – Australian Learning Cities: global to local – local to global – May 4, 2022.** The ALCN with Adult Learning Australia hosted a webinar: 'Sharing Insights - Australian Learning Cities: global to local - local to global'. Councils from across Australia, including the award-winning learning cities – Wyndham City Council, Melton City council; Circular Head Council and aspiring learning cities, City of Canning and Wollongong City Council shared their experiences and insights on building healthy and resilient communities through learning and how they share knowledge and good practices on a local, national, and global scale.

The webinar included a keynote speech by David Atchoarena, Director, UNESCO Institute of Lifelong Learning (UIL), an Australian Learning Cities Showcase Panel - facilitated by Jenny Macaffer, CEO, Adult Learning Australia and a presentation by Peter Kearns, AM, 'Reimagining Australian Learning Cities'.

View the webinar [recording here](#).

2. **Learning Cities in Australia: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow – AGM Webinar 11 May 2021.**

Peter Kearns, AO spoke briefly about the history of learning communities in Australia and made suggestions for future directions including to think about how we can build lifelong learning into our culture so that it is endemic to everything we do. How can we innovate and creative in building a learning culture?

Jac Torres Gomez, Wyndham City Council spoke about **An Empathy Partnership Lens in Australian Learning Cities: Increasing our Impact**. Jac believes non-traditional partnerships are vital for sustainable change and transformation for achieving United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

The Webinar is available at <https://www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/services/wyndham-learning-city/learning-city-resources> .

### 3. Global Learning Festival

From 8-11 November 2021, the City of Melton and the City of Wyndham co-led the second Global Learning Festival (GLF). The Global Learning Festival (GLF) showcased over 95 live and recorded events delivered from across Australia, the USA, the U.K, Israel, Northern Ireland, Taiwan, Canada, Bangladesh, Kenya, Benin, Colombia, Finland, Italy, Lithuania, and Turkey.

The final report with full details of the programmes is available on the Wyndham Learning Community Resource page <https://www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/services/wyndham-learning-city/learning-city-resources> or

<http://otb.pascalobservatory.org/pascalnow/pascal-activities/news/final-report-2021-global-learning-festival-now-available>

The ALCN Inc contributed directly by being a member of the Working Group and partnering with Wollongong City Council and RMIT University on a virtual roundtable 'Universities as Partners in Learning Cities and Communities'.

The next GLF will be held again in late 2022. For more details go to <https://www.globallearningfestival.com/> or to be on a Working Group email Diane Tabbagh - [Diane.tabbagh@wyndham.vic.gov.au](mailto:Diane.tabbagh@wyndham.vic.gov.au).

4. **ALIA LibTech21** - Lara Pugh, Project Leader Learning City, Wollongong City Council, presented at the [ALIA LibTech21 Connections](#) (a National Library and Information Technicians Online Symposium ) on 28 October 2021. Her presentation was entitled *Lifelong Learning, Learning Cities and Libraries*.

## Strategic Plans

Examples of Strategic and Educational plans are below and will be updated as new plans come to hand. handled.

Brimbank (Vic);	<a href="#">Brimbank Lifelong Learning Strategy 2018-2023</a>
Canning City Council	City of Canning, Enriching Your World: Learning City Strategy (2020-2024). 2022, City of Canning: Canning, Western Australia. Retrieved from <a href="https://www.canning.wa.gov.au/CanningWebsite/media/Files/Enriching-Your-World-Learning-City-Strategy-2020-2024_1.pdf">https://www.canning.wa.gov.au/CanningWebsite/media/Files/Enriching-Your-World-Learning-City-Strategy-2020-2024_1.pdf</a>
Hume City (Vic);	<a href="#">Hume Multiversity</a>
Melton (Vic):	<a href="#">Melton Community Learning Plan 2015-2018</a>
Wyndham (Vic);	<a href="#">Wyndham Learning Community Strategy 2018-2023</a>
Townsville (QLD)	<a href="#">Learning and Recreation in Townsville</a>
Circular Head Council and Waratah Winyard Council, Tasmania:	Circular Head Education and Training: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="https://www.circularhead.tas.gov.au/community-and-recreation/education">https://www.circularhead.tas.gov.au/community-and-recreation/education</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Health and Wellbeing Plan 2019-2024</a></li> </ul>
Rockingham (WA):	<a href="#">Education and Training</a>
Wollongong (NSW)	• <a href="#">Creative Wollongong 2019-2024 Plan</a> ,

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Sustainable Wollongong 2030 Strategy.</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Ageing Plan 2018-2022</a></li></ul>
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## Membership Funds

These funds were audited through the certificated auditor. This financial statement is recommended by the Executive for approval by members at the Annual General Meeting. The statement is then circulated to members.

The previous requirement for forwarding the audited financial details to the NSW Office of Fair Trading has been changed and overall funds of the ALCN Inc. are now the prerequisite level for reporting.

**This report was compiled by the Executive for circulation prior to a motion of acceptance at the Annual General Meeting of the ALCN. Financial Statements are tabled at the AGM and are available to members upon request.**

# Appendix: A Snapshot Sample of Member Achievements 2020/2021

*The following is a snapshot of our learning cities and communities report on their activities for the 2020/2021 year.*

## 1. Brimbank, Victoria

- Danielle Marie

The activities listed support the implementation of the **Brimbank Lifelong Learning Strategy 2018-2023**, a framework for building better learning outcomes. The events of 2020 and the global pandemic heavily influenced the way Brimbank has supported the community, with a concentrated effort to support young learners whose school year was disrupted, young people and adults who faced unemployment in an uncertain time, and ongoing support to access services to support them through the transition from school to work.

The Strategy guided Council actions to improve learning outcomes in Brimbank through a life stage approach with a focus on the following life stages:

- i) Early Years (birth to compulsory school age)
- ii) School Years (compulsory school age 6-16 years)
- iii) Young People (post-compulsory school age, 17 to early adulthood)
- iv) Adults (25 – 60 years)
- v) Later Life (60 years and beyond)

Baseline Measures have been developed for each life stage. These measures will support Council and its partners to monitor specific priorities and trends to inform a framework for future work and to understand whether or not there has been a positive shift in intended outcomes or measures identified in the Lifelong Learning Strategy. Publication is now available on the [Brimbank Council website](#).

In collaboration with Learn West, and building on the success of the previous year, the [Learning for Earning Festival](#) has been developed and launched in April 2022. The festival will take place online May 25 - 26, 2022. In collaboration with Hobsons Bay, Melton, Maribyrnong, Darebin and Wyndham Councils, the festival once again addresses unemployment in the west, with a view to support jobseekers to gain insight into particular industries and practical advice on meeting employer expectations. Three signature forum events will feature opportunities and big employers in the west, what it is like to work in local government, as well as job support events happening at all participating local governments in the week of the festival.

### Hybrid programming

In response to the Covid-19 shutdown, Brimbank developed several new programs for children, families and individuals to support learning, literacy, digital literacy, wellbeing, recreation and social connection while people stayed at home. With the easing of restrictions, and lockdowns being a thing of the past, live programs returned in term 1 of 2022, with a slow, but steady return to in person program attendance.

Early literacy programs continue to be delivered in person and online to support families and to continue important pre literacy learning from home, increasing access for vulnerable families.

Several council departments delivered online and regular weekly pathways to learning and employment sessions, collaborating with VU Jobs and Skills centre, RMIT, and Learn Locals. Staff continue to deliver regular job support through Libraries, Neighbourhood Houses, and Brimbank Learning Futures.

Adult digital literacy sessions included:

- Lively.org intergenerational digital skills program
- a suite of computer literacy sessions that included Excel basics, iPad/digital device support, email and Internet access
- Resume Help sessions
- E-help sessions with topics of how to apply for jobs online, uploading resumes, online job search sites, and how to format a resume.
- Managing your Money Workshop
- Growing Up online – Internet Safety for Kids
- Be Connected courses delivered through the Good Things Foundation
- Digital Literacy four-week classes are confirmed for the Vietnamese and Burmese communities in language

### **School to work transition support**

In partnership with Department of Education, the Parents as Career Transitions Support (PACTS) program was delivered in October/November 2021. PACTS supports parents and young people to engage with stakeholders to transition successfully from school to the workforce and supports families with young adults with disabilities to be engaged in meaningful work. The participants had a strong desire to be connected to local services, and the Learning Officer and Department of Education and Training (DET) worked together to run a stand-alone event with local providers showcasing their services.

A further six sessions were delivered with 32 parents and young people. These sessions focused on supporting young people with autism to identify their skills, develop career knowledge and see the strengths of autism. Job Advocates presented services and spoke with students to help with their pathway to work. The parent sessions assist parents in acting as career supports for their children.

A further PACTS session was delivered in February 2022 for Vietnamese families with young people with disabilities, with an interpreter present.

### **Studiosity**

Brimbank acquired Studiosity in 2020, and renewed it for the 2021/2022 financial year. Studiosity is a free online tutoring program, which provides study help to all students and community members.

Studiosity employs subject matter experts which are available 24/7 to provide quick one on one tutoring support to students of all ages from grade 3 to postgraduate level. Students can upload their essay/written work and receive feedback within 24hours.

As well as being an invaluable study help resource for students, the service also provides support to job seekers by providing feedback on their resume and cover letter and assists with job search skills. This service is free to all Brimbank library members.

### **Study Blitz**

Neighbourhood Houses 'Study Support Blitz' program continued to provide learning support to students who do not have access to additional assistant outside of school.

This includes students from refugee, migrant and low socio-economic backgrounds. Some of the students have had a challenging and disrupted year and together with the help of **Equal Ed** tutors and Brimbank Council *Community*

*Learning and Participation* staff supported them with different strategies at no cost. The sessions have seen more than 40 students attending sessions and seeking support in a range of subjects. These additional sessions have provided students with extra knowledge, skills and tools which may otherwise be unavailable to them to assist with reaching their potential.

### **Western Chances**

Brimbank Council increased its annual \$10,000 scholarship grant to Western Chances to \$30,000 to enable more Brimbank students to be supported to stay at school and continue to tertiary education. Western Chances support students to stay at school with practical assistance such as transportation costs, IT, text books and stationery.

The following activities and projects support the implementation of the Brimbank Youth Jobs Strategy 2018-2023 which was developed in response to high youth unemployment and disengagement from learning, training and education.

Two **Jobs Victoria Advocates (JVAs)** assisted 440 job seekers in their career journeys between June 2021 and March 2022.

Support is delivered via outreach four days a week across various sites in Brimbank, including Libraries and Shopping Centres, and Sunshine Railway Station.

The JVAs engage with workers with close ties to culturally specific groups. Council has developed a connection with a Burmese community worker to streamline referrals directly to the Jobs Victoria Advocates service. Work is ongoing to develop a similar relationship with community workers from the South Sudanese community and Ethiopian community.

### **Young Innovators Program**

Brimbank City Council collaborated with local social enterprise Equal Ed to deliver an exciting initiative, the 'Young Innovators Program'

The program provided opportunities for 24 young people to develop innovative solutions to important problems in the community and provide the opportunity to access seed funding to implement their ideas. The Young Innovators Program provides a unique opportunity for Mentors to not only create relationships with members of the community, but also make a positive impact by working on real-world projects with young innovators

Over the course of six months, mentors helped a young person to:

- Reflect upon their experiences, as they participate in wide range of workshops to help develop, refine, and pitch their project idea
- Contextualise their ideas, as they 'connect the dots' between their projects, motivations, and local community contexts
- Gain social capital, as they hear learnings and experiences related to employment, education, and community sectors
- Develop a real-world project, which can be sustainably implemented in the community.

At the same time, mentors will gain a better understanding of the diverse communities that live, work and play within the Brimbank area and continue to strengthen their connections with the communities they serve. Mentors will also have opportunities to connect with other Mentors from various departments in Brimbank and Wyndham, along with other community and corporate partners.

## 2. Canning City Council

- Caroline Jones

In February Canning celebrated the opening of Hillview Intercultural Community Centre. Providing a base that will act as the Southern Hub across Perth, the \$2.5 million-dollar Intercultural Community Centre will support the City's vision to enable our diverse community to thrive by creating a place where people from all backgrounds can come together to connect with each other, share their culture, learn new skills, and access opportunities that help them to reach their potential.

### Reconciliation

Sustainability and environmental education projects rolled out this year have included Climate Clever Neighbourhoods, Grow it Local, Your Move and the Biennial Changing Your World Conference. Bringing together game changing thought leaders and innovators from across the sustainability, social impact, and impact management community this conference aims to showcase innovation in the sustainability space to co-create solutions.

In 2021, the Ngalang Kadjin Moorditj Program (Our Spirit Strong) was launched, a First Nations youth employment initiative working in partnership with Sister Kate's Home Kids Aboriginal Corporation, Langford Aboriginal Corporation & Kuditj. Participants engaged with and learnt from Aboriginal Curators, learnt to cook a feed, learnt language, and created connection to their mob, attended art class, participated in bush walks and Yarning Circles, built entrepreneurship skills at Noongar Radio and received assistance with resume writing, applying for jobs and interview skills.

The Kaleidoscope Initiative is a joint project between the Cities of Canning, Stirling and Swan and the Metropolitan Migrant Resource Centre. Canning joined the mentoring program in 2019 with the aim to help skilled migrant professionals improve their employment potential by connecting them with local mentors from their industry or occupation. The Kaleidoscope Mentoring Program provides newcomers with the skills and knowledge to achieve their employment goals and gives local businesses the opportunity to reap the rewards of a diverse and inclusive workforce. The award-winning program is a first of its kind for Western Australia and highlights the benefits of migration and cultural diversity.

Business Development Mentoring program is an outstanding program where the City has built a strong supporting ecosystem for local businesses through fostering networks and developing partnerships. The Canning Business Mentoring Program is now in its fifth year and is continuing to gain momentum, the program added a new category of support to 'seed' level. BMP focuses on the continual refinement of programs that appeal to the business community to build their capacity and capability whilst instilling a culture of life-long learning.

## 3. Hume City Council, Victoria

George Osborne, Manager Economic Development, reported on several activities provided by the Hume Jobs and Skills Task Force. The 2021 Hume Multiversity Tertiary Scholarship Program is a standout program. The Hume Multiversity Tertiary Scholarship Program is part of the Council's response to a COVID-19 recovery package in response to the impacts that the pandemic has had on employment. The scholarship program is offered to Hume residents in area such as Transport and Logistics; Health and Community Care; Education; Construction; Advanced Manufacturing; Food and Fibre and the Visitor Economy.

In 2021 the offer was a one-year scholarship to 70 eligible Hume residents to commence a new tertiary qualification (Certificate III and above) with La Trobe University, Victoria University, Melbourne Polytechnic or Kangan Institute.

For more information visit [hume.vic.gov.au/multiversity-scholarships](https://hume.vic.gov.au/multiversity-scholarships).

## 4. Melton, Victoria

- *Robert Menzies*, Acting Coordinator Community Activation and Learning

### Melton City Council – ALCN Annual Report 2021-2022

Melton City Council continues to deliver enhanced outcomes for community in engagement, empowerment, activity, and community learning objectives through online and face-to-face programming and events as well as learning policy and strategy development.

Throughout the 2021/22 financial year, our *Community Connector Hubs* continued to support vulnerable community members with needs brought about by the coronavirus pandemic through food relief, social connection, remote learning opportunities and more. These hubs are expected to complete operations at the end of June with management of certain aspects to return to community centres including social connection, job readiness and learning opportunities for all ages.

Early in 2020, our Community Activation & Learning (CA&L) team quickly pivoted and adapted from our normal face-to-face delivery of community learning programs to an online format through the now very successful *Melton City Council Learning Directory YouTube channel*. The channel has delivered consistent programming and is still used by the community now that our pandemic restrictions have been lifted. Since its inception the channel has achieved:

- 3160 subscribers
- 196 published videos
- 385,771 views
- 4.8 million impressions (the number of times our video thumbnails were shown to a user), plus so much more.

With our online learning offering proving so successful throughout Melbourne's lockdowns in 2021, it was decided to continue to deliver this as our main source of learning opportunities rather than deliver a fully online *City of Melton Lifelong Learning Festival*. This event will, however, return in a mixed mode format later in 2022.

Since a stop-start return to face-to-face programming in community centres as well as a selection of online learning offerings over the past 12 months, our team have been pleased to see a continued appetite for learning among our residents. Between July 2020 and December 2021, we saw 3,345 people enrolled in 370 learning programs. Since January 2022 we have seen 1,437 people enrol into over 180 learning programs offered by Melton's CA&L team.

Our CA&L team also returned to co-manage and deliver the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual *Global Learning Festival* together with Wyndham City Council. Both organisations were pleased to deliver, in partnership with over 20 learning cities and organisations from across the globe:

- 95 virtual events across 15 countries Australia, the USA, the U.K, Israel, Northern Ireland, Taiwan, Canada, Bangladesh, Kenya, Benin, Colombia, Finland, Italy, Lithuania, and Turkey.
- Almost 4800 attendees
- Over 100 diverse presenters

Our City of Melton Learning Strategy 2022-2032 will soon complete consultation with community with an expected endorsement to be received by Council before the end of the 2022 calendar year.



## 5. Introduction to The City of Port Adelaide Enfield

Written by Belinda Parsons

The City is in the north-western suburbs of Adelaide, about eight kilometres from the CBD. It is bounded by the Cities of Salisbury in the north, Tea Tree Gully and Campbelltown in the east, Walkerville, Prospect and Charles Sturt in the South and the Gulf of St Vincent in the west.

The Traditional Owners of the land on which the City of PAE stands is the Kaurna People of the Adelaide Plains. It is upon their ancestral lands that the Port Adelaide Enfield Council meets.

The City of PAE is one of the largest Councils in metropolitan Adelaide, covering an area of about 97 square kilometres. The city is divided into seven wards that span across 51 suburbs.

Our city is home to some of the State's finest historical buildings and landmarks, together with a wealth of parks, cultural facilities beaches and recreational areas.

### Council Demographics

At the 2016 Census, the City of Port Adelaide had a population of 121,230 people. The population has grown by 7.5% since the 2011 Census.

#### **Some key statistics from the 2016 Census:**

Median age = 37 years

Persons born overseas = 33.3%

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Persons = 2.3%

Median weekly individual income = \$551

Median weekly household income = \$1,141

#### **Other statistics:**

University attendance – 5%

University qualification – 20%

Trade qualification – 18%

Language at home other than English – 32%

SEIFA Index of Disadvantage for City of Port Adelaide Enfield in 2016 was 936.

### **Formal and Non-formal Learning Infrastructure of the City**

#### **Non-formal.**

- 5 City of PAE Library Branches
- Mens' Sheds
- Playgroups
- 2 Community Centres
- University of Third Age

- Port Environment Centre

## Formal

- Many preschools, kindergartens, and childcare centres, mix of private, and public.
- 21 Primary Schools, 9 High Schools, 2 K-12 Schools
- One Special School (students with disability, high needs)
- Some High schools link to vocational training and provide flexible learning options.

## TAFE /Colleges

- Tauondi Aboriginal College
- Regency TAFE
- Australian Maritime and Fisheries Academy

There are no university campuses in the City, the nearest is Mawson Lakes campus of University of SA, only a few kilometres over the Council boundary to the North.

### Learning city developments

City of PAE Libraries has a Community Learning team to deliver a range of learning opportunities for families, parents, school students, adults. The vision for the library is PAE Libraries are innovative and responsive community facilities that collaborate with locals to provide services that foster growth and improve the lives of individuals and the broader community.

Programs aim to improve Literacy, Prosperity, Vibrancy, Wellbeing and Civic Participation. Library programs range from Baby Bounce, Toddler Time, Storytime and Active Storytime, after school sessions in craft and sustainability, coding, Anime club, Yarnfullness. Book clubs, Scrabble and Gardening clubs also keep residents active and connected. There are two STEM specialist staff, one Makerspace and a Media Room.

STEM programs include science and maths for pre-schoolers, after school guided projects in STEM Squad, a Repair Café, Internet of Things interest group, Arduino, woodwork, electronics.

The Library also has several Digital learning specialists and deliver a range of small group sessions and classes to support the community with access and skills to engage with their phones, devices, computers and online services. More advanced sessions include podcasting, coding, 3D printing and modelling.

Libraries partner with waste education and other facilitators to engage with the community on reducing waste and living more sustainably.

Libraries provide free support to job seekers including a resume advice service, courses on written job applications and interview skills. The Makerspace held a 12-month program in 2021 to teach creative skills and also how to run a market stall, and then held a beginner's market at the end of the year. Entrepreneur courses to help start your own business are also offered. The Adelaide Business Hub, based in Port Adelaide and supported

by Council, offers co-working space and many courses and advisory services to local businesses.

The City of PAE delivers a range of support programs for youth with a particular focus on Learning and Earning.

The Health and Wellbeing team promote the 7 Ways to Wellbeing, which includes learning.

Council also supports the Port Environment Centre, for individuals and families to learn and actively care for our environment.

Volunteers have been trained in citizen science, working with Council to support data gathering on bird populations.

Community Centres are also active in supporting community learning with English language classes, dance, martial arts, yoga, music, arts and crafts.

### Key activities in the learning city field



Late in 2021, an observational honeybee hive was installed at one of the Libraries. This has been a journey of learning itself and sits within a program of community education about Pollinators.

<https://www.cityofpae.sa.gov.au/explore/libraries/programs-and-events/pollinators>

The City of PAE is also a partner in the Northern Regional Consortium Employment Pathways Project with the City of Salisbury and the City of Playford to deliver shared Adult Community Education for jobseekers from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

<https://www.cityofpae.sa.gov.au/explore/libraries/programs-and-events/build-your-skills-adult-education-programs>



The Council have partnered with Writers SA to develop a Living Landscape Writers Festival in April 2022. <https://www.cityofpae.sa.gov.au/explore/events/writers-festival3339933>

#### Loanable Devices

A COVID-Recovery project in 2021 was to purchase a fleet of devices (tablets) that could be loaned to community members who could not afford their own technology.

#### Adult Literacy Class

In mid-2021 a small group class commenced at Port Adelaide Library for adults with low literacy, and English as their first language. This has filled a gap in learning opportunities in the region.

### Key priorities for future development

The aims for 2022 are to progress plans for an Aboriginal Cultural Centre and offer more regular learning opportunities for our local Aboriginal community.

The City of PAE also has a focus on improving the evaluation and outcomes measurement of learning programs offered.

We are working to improve technology offered in community facilities to address the lack of access in private homes. This can support telehealth, small business, co-working and students.

## 5. Townsville City Council: City Libraries, Queensland

- *Dr Donna Goldie*

CityLibraries has three locations in Flinders Street, Aitkenvale and Thuringowa Central as well as our Mobile Library service. The Mobile Library visits various locations around Townsville and Magnetic Island.

CityLibraries provides programs, activities, and services for everyone in the Townsville community including book clubs, storytime, lectures, computer classes and child development advice.

### **First 5 Forever:**

First 5 Forever connects with families through public libraries and community agencies. The program is generously supported by the State Government with the participation of Local Government Councils.

Townsville City Council is one of 320 public libraries that have received additional resources to deliver First 5 Forever. The First 5 Forever program includes:

- More opportunities for families to participate in public programs such as Baby Time, Story Time and Parent Information sessions,
- Information toolkits for parents and caregivers of young children (library Bag with picture book, bath puppet, nursery rhyme book and CD, and information and tips on how to support their child's early language and literacy development),
- Partnerships between CityLibraries Townsville and local early childhood organisations to deliver First 5 Forever key messages and programs in the community.

First 5 Forever is focused on improving the outcomes for all Queensland children 0-5 years by supporting confidence around communication and learning through everyday experiences.

You can find more information about First 5 Forever on the [State Library of Queensland's First 5 Forever webpage](#).

### **First 5 Forever activities:**

- Baby Rhyme Time (0-5 years + adult): play/chat time, StoryBox Library, 20 minutes of songs and rhymes. Developmental focus: pre-emergent literacy skills. We also have mystery bags of children's picture books to borrow and return at the programs.

- Toddler Time (0-5 years + adult): play/chat time, StoryBox Library, 20 minutes of songs, dance and a story from 9:30am. Developmental focus: concentration and early literacy skills. We also have mystery bags of children's picture books to borrow and return at the programs.
- Stay and Play in the Park and Messy Play take-home packs

***Over the past twelve months, CityLibraries has provided the following programs for young people through to adults and seniors:***

***Young adults:***

- a Youth Space in each library
- Homework program
- graphic novels, fiction, magazines, DVDs, CDs
- eBooks, eAudiobooks
- non-***fiction*** books, including titles on job applications, sports, etc
- Studiosity and other online resources for schoolwork
- gaming consoles with Playstation and Xbox
- Loud Lounge!
- Creating Smash Book Journals

***Young people and adults:***

- Digital studio (with 24/7 access): completing co-designed projects using a creative hub space, such as:
  - Podcasts, art showcasing, coding, pop culture, hip hop culture development, song recording, online content creation, local storytelling, video production, networking, software development

***Adults and seniors:***

Over the past twelve months, CityLibraries has provided the following programs for adults and seniors:

- Local and Visiting Author talks
- Art in the Library: Artists showcasing and sharing their work and knowledge with the community.
- Local History and Heritage talks
- Local history conservation workshops
- Conservation and oral history workshops
- Career and Networking Chats
- Craft and Chat sessions
- Book clubs
- Tech Savvy Seniors program
- One Title One Townsville: This annual program is an opportunity for members of our community to read the same book during May Month of Learning

***All ages:***

- Guided story walks and activities
- Summer Reading Club
- Short Story Competition:

- The theme ***In My Backyard***.
- There are four age categories to apply for:
  - First Five (0 - 5 years): max 200 words
  - Children (up to 11 years): max 500 words
  - Young adult (12 – 17 years): max 1,000 words
  - Adult (18+ years): max 2,000 words

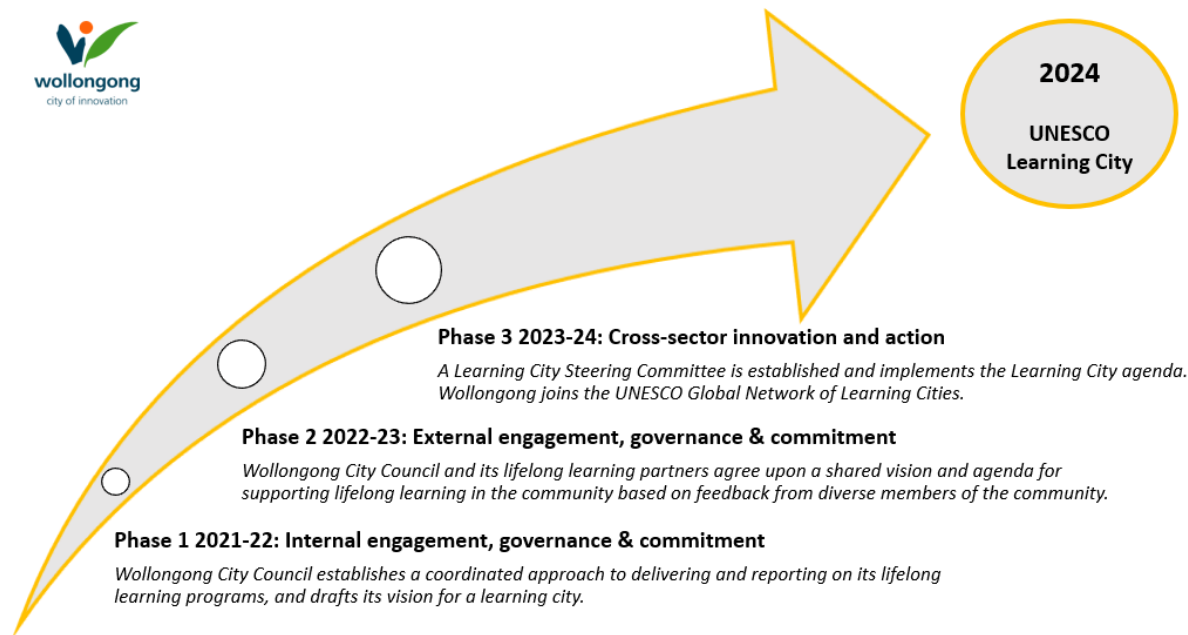
### **Other services / programs:**

- Community Displays: an opportunity for local community groups (including sporting clubs, hobby and craft groups, self-help and community organisations, non-profit and for-profit organisations) to exhibit displays of community interest to members of the public
- Food library
- Street libraries
- Capacity build community not-for-profits
- Community activations

## 6. Wollongong City Council, NSW

- Lara Pugh

Annual update for ALCN on the Wollongong Learning City Project May 2021- April 2022



Wollongong City Libraries is leading a whole-of-Council, city wide project to establish Wollongong as a UNESCO learning city by 2024. The Project Leader Learning City established a three-phase project that first prioritised internal engagement, governance, and commitment at Wollongong City Council from June 2021 to May 2022; the next two phases focus on external engagement, governance and commitment and then cross-sector innovation and action. The aim is to establish the fundamental conditions of a learning city as per the key features of a learning city outlined on page 11 of the [UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities: Guiding Document](#).

In June 2021, internal governance for the Learning City Project was established for a 12-month period. Two levels of governance was established: a Project Control Group with management-level representatives from various departments that utilise lifelong learning and a Project Working Group made up of a broad range of facilitators, marketing coordinators and officers involved in community education. The terms of reference for these two groups shared eight objectives, with the PWG meeting for 10 two-hour workshops over 12-month to work through the objectives and the PCG providing the strategic direction.

The objectives of Phase 1 of the Learning City Project have been met and will be presented to the Executive Management Committee and Councillors in May 2022 for noting:

1. Wollongong City Council's learning assets – events, programs, resources – have been mapped; this data could be used to develop an online directory in the future.
2. A definition of lifelong learning in the context of learning cities has been developed.
3. An evaluation framework that measures the impact and outcomes of Council's lifelong learning assets has been drafted; it includes a shared vision, goals, outcomes and evaluation tool for all of Wollongong City Council's lifelong learning assets; it is proposed that three or four business units pilot the framework in July-September 2022.
4. An internal engagement plan was developed and implemented; this included publishing articles on an internal online platform and delivering briefings to Divisional Management Teams.
5. A community engagement plan has been developed for implementation in phase 2 of the Learning City Project. Preliminary engagement activities were conducted with over 30 lifelong learning stakeholders in Disability Services, Multicultural services, Child and Family Services, Youth services, neighbourhood forums, community groups and education providers to inform the development of a far-reaching community engagement plan.
6. Wollongong actively participated in the 2021 Global Learning Festival, with the Project Leader Learning City brokering and managing four of the eight Wollongong-based events; most notably, Wollongong was actively involved in organising the ALCN event [Universities as Partners in Learning Cities and Learning Communities](#).
7. A Learning City objective has been included in Wollongong City Council's revised Community Strategic Plan and Delivery Program.
8. An internally facing *Phase 1 Learning City Project Action Plan 2022-24* has been developed, outlining next actions and next steps for Wollongong City Council lifelong learning stakeholders. The PWG would like to continue meeting quarterly as a community of practice to share ideas, collaborate and continue to develop a more coordinated approach to the way we design, promote, deliver, and evaluate our work.

The next phase of the Learning City Project will culminate in the development of a draft learning strategy for Wollongong through extensive community engagement. These are exciting times!

To find out more, contact Project Leader Learning City Lara Pugh [lpugh@wollongong.nsw.gov.au](mailto:lpugh@wollongong.nsw.gov.au)

## 7. Wyndham, Victoria

*Diane Tabbaq, Coordinator Learning Community, Libraries and Community Learning*, reports on many highlights implementing [Wyndham's Learning Community Strategy 2018-2023](#) (LCS) by the Council.

### UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities

As a member of the Global Network of Learning Cities, and in line with the achievement of LCS Action 12: Engaging, Participating and Leading Globally, Wyndham has taken up many opportunities to collaborate and participate on the international stage.

Throughout 2021 Wyndham has continued its global engagement and participation. The following is a snapshot of some of Wyndham's global contributions:

- In September Wyndham was recognised for its commitment to lifelong learning by the Alliance for Asia-Pacific Learning Cities (APLC). APLC is a coalition of cities with policies, wills and plans for the growth of global learning cities under the motto of promoting lifelong learning in the region. An Expert Advisory Committee reviewed Wyndham's lifelong learning achievements and inducted Wyndham into the Alliance's Hall of Fame, acknowledging future oriented cities with models of learning programs that may benefit other member cities. Wyndham joined four Korean cities and Okayama (Japan), Kashan (Iran), and Chiang Rai (Thailand) as inaugural Hall of Fame inductees.
- Wyndham was further honoured to become a proud recipient of a UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities Award in October, for its work in lifelong and life-wide learning. The biennial UNESCO Learning City Awards encourage, recognise and reward UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities (GNLC) members who have demonstrated significant progress in enhancing education and lifelong learning opportunities for all. Wyndham joined Shanghai, China; Damietta, Egypt; Clemont-Ferrand, France; Dublin, Ireland; Osan, Korea; Huejotzingo, Mexico; Al Wakra, Qatar; Jubail, Saudi Arabia; and Belfast, United Kingdom as 2021 Learning City awardees. Wyndham joins neighbouring municipality, the City of Melton, as the only other Australian recipient of the award.
- In May, through its work supporting sustainable development in lifelong learning and education, Wyndham was invited to attend the UNESCO World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), held online and live in Berlin, Germany. Wyndham joined approximately 2500 policymakers working in education and other areas related to sustainable development, ESD practitioners, NGOs, and other experts and members of the development community and private sector from around the world. The overall goal of the conference, considering the pressing environmental issues the world is facing, was to create momentum for the new framework ESD for 2030, which aims to build a more just and sustainable world through strengthening ESD to build education systems that support learners of all ages to be responsible and active contributors to more sustainable societies and a healthy planet. Being involved in this conference supported Wyndham's goal of further incorporating the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) authentically into our work.
- Wyndham's journey towards becoming a Learning City was shared in a paper co-delivered virtually by Wyndham and Dr Leone Wheeler, at the Adult Education in Global Times Conference, hosted by the University of British Columbia in Canada in June. The conference featured presentations by scholars around the world and formed part of an important global conversation about research and scholarship on adult learning and education.
- A representative from Wyndham continues to hold a place on the executive of the Australian Learning Communities Network (ALCN), chairing this important network and offering secretariat support enabling the ALCN to continue to offer proactive collegiate support and resources to learning cities and communities across Australia.
- In May Wyndham partnered with ALCN to host a webinar: 'Australian Learning Cities: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow.' The webinar included a presentation by Peter Kearns, AM, '*Learning cities in Australia: Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow*', and Wyndham's insightful presentation on Empathy in Learning City Partnerships.



- Also, in May, Learning Limerick Ireland and Wyndham Learning City partnered to co-lead a webinar titled: *Transformation Through Empathy Partnerships*. Led by the PASCAL Observatory EcCoWell group, the initiative built on the paper developed by Peter Kearns in 2020 and an exciting and proactive new collaboration between two key Australian and Irish Learning Cities, raising the profile for Wyndham Learning City on the global platform. The webinar highlighted ways in which learning cities and communities and their projects can progress using a lens of empathy for transformational change. Participants joined the webinar from across the globe including South Africa, Australia, Hungary, United Kingdom, United States of America, and India.
- Wyndham presented at the GNLC Cluster ‘Learning for Health and Well-being’, in May, an opportunity to discuss and share the Cluster Member Cities’ work on *Strengthening Resilience through Activism and Networking*. The meeting was co-hosted by learning cities Osan, Republic of Korea and Cork, Republic of Ireland. Wyndham provided context and background to the issues facing Wyndham in the past year, sharing examples of healthy and sustainable learning through civic activists, the Wyndham Learning Festival, the Young Scientist of Wyndham competition, and the Learning for Earning Festival. Participants joined from as far as Ireland, Hungary, Germany, Iran, Korea, Colombia, Thailand, France, Greece, Northern Ireland, UK, Egypt, Vietnam, Turkey, Italy, Algeria, Portugal and of course Australia.
- Wyndham collaborated with five neighbouring local government areas in western and inner-northern Melbourne to deliver the LearnWest Network’s Learning for Earning Festival 27-29 May. The festival was developed in response to the similar challenges faced by our respective communities in the face of the pandemic. By pooling resources, networks and contacts, the Network was able to maximise outcomes for our collective communities; being online, the Festival ensured access to a greater number of community members. The Learning for Earning Festival focused on six key themes: Learning; Skills; Career Planning and Pathways; Employment; Industry; and Business and Entrepreneurship and offered 30 free practical and inspirational virtual workshops were offered, aimed at helping people gain knowledge in starting or changing careers, learn about dominant and emerging local industries and discover opportunities for the future.
- The highlight for November was the Global Learning Festival (GLF) with over 95 live and recorded events delivered from across Australia, the USA, the U.K, Israel, Northern Ireland, Taiwan, Canada, Bangladesh, Kenya, Benin, Colombia, Finland, Italy, Lithuania, and Turkey. Co-hosted by Wyndham and Melton Councils along with over 20 learning communities around the world, the Global Learning Festival ran for the second time in 2021. The GLF aims to bring unity and connection to communities all over the world, and to give learners a firsthand experience of the benefits that lifelong learning can bring, particularly during uncertain and challenging times. The live events were scheduled between 8-11 November, and several recorded events can still be viewed on the GLF website. Topics included Cooking, History, Environment & Sustainability, International Development, Inclusion, Entrepreneurship, Reconciliation, Gardening, Cooking, Hope & Attachment, Hope & Resilience, Mentoring, Mental health and self-care, STEM, Author Talks, Career Change, Peacebuilding, Human Rights and a Virtual Tour of the Victorian Parliament House.

### Wyndham Learning Festival

The [Wyndham Learning Festival](#) (WLF) is Wyndham’s largest annual learning event, focusing on promoting and celebrating learning across the lifespan. Following a challenging year for all in 2021 the WLF was a smaller, curated program ensuring that all community members had the opportunity to find a learning event of interest in the program.

With the theme of *Re-emerge, Connect & Thrive*, the 2021 WLF provided a celebration for the community living through challenging times and offered hope for re-emerging brighter and better into the future. As collaborators on

the delivery of the Festival, now in its sixth year, the Wyndham Community and Education Centre (Wyndham CEC) and Wyndham City Council (WCC) share a passion for learning and recognise the far-reaching social, economic, environmental, and cultural benefits of promoting lifelong learning. Whilst initially planned as a hybrid event, the 2021 Festival was switched to completely online due to prolonged lockdowns in Victoria. This meant that some events could not proceed, as they did not translate into the virtual space, reducing the number of events offered to 43 (down from a planned, smaller than previous years 55 events). Approximately 1400 people attended the 43 events, with over 1800 people registering.

The festival evaluation report is available here: <https://www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/services/wyndham-learning-city/learning-city-resources>

### **Work Integrated Learning Student – Ava Ter & Vi Bui**

ALCN, RMIT University and Wyndham City Council partnered once again to host RMIT International Development students to work with Wyndham City Council. Ava Ter (May-July) and Vi Bui (August-December) worked on the research and evaluation of key projects: the ALCN AGM Webinar in May 2021, the LearnWest Learning for Earning Festival in May 2021, the Wyndham Learning Festival held in September 2021 and the Global Learning Festival (GLF) held in November 2021. Both students were very enthusiastic and with assistance from the Wyndham team added invaluable insight, humour and commitment to their projects developing questionnaires and writing stories using the Most Significant Change Technique to showcase the impact of the projects on those involved.

### **Transformative Education Showcase**

As a part of the 2021 Learning for Earning Festival, Wyndham Community & Education Centre's Transformative Education Showcase was held 27 May and featured four speakers presenting on Best Practice in Applied Learning. RMIT's School of Social Work presented their innovative work integrated learning model; Tradeswomen of Australia presented their work on promoting diversity and inclusion in workplaces and the promotion of pathways into trade for women and girls; Adult Learning Australia provided an effective model of education for disengaging young people; and finally the Public Pedagogy Institute detailed their Knowledge Project and Pop Up School Project, demonstrating and celebrating the rich knowledge held in 5 communities. An enthusiastic audience enjoyed the Showcase, highlighting learning across all life stages and best practice in education and learning models.

### **The Wyndham Integrated Learning Group – #2**

The Wyndham Integrated Learning Group (WILG2), co-chaired by Council and Deakin's National Disability Coordinator Officer, meets monthly, and features a different guest speaker to enhance the knowledge of members around inclusion and learning for Wyndham.

With the goal of enhancing inclusion and equity in learning for People with Disability aged 15-30 in Wyndham, WILG2 comprises 15 community and Council leaders from learning sectors, local government, disability action groups and higher education. The group utilises evidence-based approaches to support equitable pathways and outcomes for place-based learning needs for the target cohort in Wyndham, with ambitious goals including:

- Supporting the enhancement of learning providers' organisational culture, structures, systems, processes and practices to ensure they are designing learning for People with Disability from the target age cohort
- Advocating for learning recruitment and promotion which targets People with Disability
- Advocating that choice and control drives learning opportunities for 15-30-year-olds with disability in Wyndham
- Supporting learning providers in Wyndham to continuously adjust teaching and learning strategies to support learning for People with Disability

Highlights included hearing from SBS on their inclusive recruitment processes; a session on the topic of self-efficacy and belonging; a Professional Development session on transport accessibility; and a session by Wyndham Library staff presenting and consulting on how Library Young Adult programs can be more inclusive.

### **Global Learning Festival A Success!**

From 8-11 November 2021 the City of Melton and the City of Wyndham co-led the second Global Learning Festival with over 20 other partners. Over 95 events were run across the globe; delivered from across Australia, the USA, the U.K, Israel, Northern Ireland, Taiwan, Canada, Bangladesh, Kenya, Benin, Colombia, Finland, Italy, Lithuania, and Turkey. The GLF encouraged communities to learn something new as well as virtually meet new people from around the globe! Many of the events were recorded and can be seen here: <https://globallearningfestival.com/>.

### **WYNTalks**

WYNTalk 1: **“Re-emerge, Connect & Thrive”**, with Mina Guli

Wyndham Learning Festival’s signature event WYNTalk “Re-emerge, Connect & Thrive” featured global leader, entrepreneur, and adventurer Mina Guli: Water Advocate, Ultra Runner, Founder & CEO of Thirst. Mina inspired participants to look forward, post-COVID, to find purpose, to pursue goals in the face of unprecedented challenges and re-imagine ourselves and our future.

WYNTalk 2: **“Reconciliation: Respecting and Valuing Aboriginal History, Learning and Teaching”**, with Shelley Ware

As Wyndham’s signature contribution to the Global Learning Festival, WYNTalk keynote speaker Shelley Ware shared her perspectives on Aboriginal issues; leadership development in Aboriginal communities and ways in which Aboriginal history, culture, learning and teaching can be embedded into our broader education systems; interwoven with her own journey. Participants joined from across Victoria, South Australia, NSW and from as far away as Massachusetts, USA. A recording of the presentation can be accessed here:

<https://www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/services/wyndham-learning-city/learning-city-resources>

### **LearnWest Network**

The Wyndham Community Learning unit, in partnership with other councils in the West of Melbourne, are part of the LearnWest Network. The LearnWest Network supports experienced and emerging Learning Community practitioners in the Western Metropolitan Region of Melbourne in a community of practice where lifelong learning drives an increase in the economic and social capacity of our communities. The LearnWest network has further committed to a shared project in 2022, coordinating the Learning for Earning festival in order to support our respective communities in a united way to gain knowledge in starting or changing careers including upskilling and understanding dominant and emerging industries and opportunities for the future. The festival audience will be adults and young people living in the Western region of Melbourne. The Festival will offer three key online Forums: Local Employment Showcase; Council Employment Panel; and Opportunities in the West Forum. The festival will run from Wednesday 25 May to Thursday 26 May 2022. The Festival Streams are: Learning; Skills; Career Planning and Pathways; Employment; Industry; and Business and Entrepreneurship. For more information [check the website](#).