



Mountain Track News

Autumn 2026



To All Our Marvellous Mountain Track Supporters

Welcome to the Autumn 2026 edition of Mountain Track News. Let me start by acknowledging the fair (absurd?) length of time that has passed since we last reported back. It's no excuse but we have had a VERY busy 12 months at Mountain Track, so we're going to try and make up for some lost time in this newsletter update.

As ever, we've had some great new Mountain Trackers join us and settle into the flock, whilst others have spread their wings and taken off in different directions. But we're lucky because we keep in touch with those who have taken off.

In the last 12 months we've had some great wins with our young people and some pretty tough losses as well. At Mountain Track it is not always a neat upward trajectory. In fact, a roller-coaster ride is more like it.

Here is a snapshot of what we've been up to on the hill recently.

To see what our young people are up to between newsletters, follow [Mountain Track on Facebook](#)

www.mountaintrack.org

In this issue:

- 01 Welcome
- 02 Mural Project
- 03 Meet the Team
- 04 Learning Mode
- 05 Accredited Training
- 06 Out and About
- 07 Fly Together
- 08 Young People of Mountain Track
- 09 Support That Makes This Possible
- 10 Our Story in Pictures



Making Mural Magic With The Creative Sparks Team

Over the past few months, Mountain Track young people have been working alongside Kyle Brightside from Creative Sparks Projects to design and paint the spectacular new mural now featured on the west wall of the Mountain Track dining room — a project built through creativity, teamwork and pride.

Following an initial brainstorming session with Kyle, the group created a mural reflecting their passion for music, sport, culture, nature and the environment. Despite working through extreme heat, wind and rain, they rose to the challenge and completed a mural they should all be incredibly proud of.

The mural was officially unveiled on May 8 in front of friends, families, local MPs, Jumbuk neighbours and Mountain Track supporters, with the project also featured in the Latrobe Valley Express. It was wonderful to see the young people recognised for their creativity, contribution and talents.

The entire process encouraged creativity, teamwork and confidence, and thanks to the efforts of the young artists and Kyle Brightside, Mountain Track now has a stunning mural that will remain part of the Mountain Track legacy for years to come.



Welcome to the Team... Christine



Christine - A Maths Hero

Recently we have had maths teacher Christine join us at Mountain Track. **A more passionate Maths teacher you will not find.** She has wonderful high energy – innovative, engaging ways of teaching maths to young people at all levels. It's been a joy to watch as the young people have started to grasp more and more complex maths concepts.

She has a **great way of making maths fun** and bringing it to life, through games, illustrations and diagrams. It has then been a pleasure watching the young people take their new maths learnings, whether it be multiplication, division, fractions, measurements and use it to solve the puzzles Dave sets them.



Learning Mode, Activated



Since we last wrote, Mountain Track now runs an array of industry-based accredited training courses for its older participants. This includes **white card, chainsaw, first aid, excavator, working at heights and working in confined spaces**.

To prepare them for the accredited short courses and the assessments that come with it, we immerse them in the material and related hands-on learning for a time beforehand. For example, they don't just sit the two-day first aid course, they spend time learning effective CPR, wound treatment and snake bite treatment during the lead up. So, when the assessment comes around, they are completely familiar and confident with the content.

Mountain Track offers a supportive, active and engaging hands-on learning environment. Here participants are free to go at their own pace, allowed to learn by doing and advised to talk through their understandings and ask questions wherever needed.





Accredited Trainers @ Mountain Track

Mountain Track employs accredited trainers who **recognise the student's intelligence** and understand some of the barriers they have faced - and continue to face - in their educational pursuits.

Our trainers share their knowledge, and work with the participants to extract the knowledge and skills that they already possess. Our trainers recognise that with the right support, and the right environment, each student participant has enormous learning capabilities.

Often it's the students driving the learning; asking questions they're curious about, driving the curriculum and project work in the areas that interest them.

The **young people** that attend Mountain Track **are sharp, intelligent and curious individuals**. They may have struggled in a traditional classroom environment but the nurturing environment created at Mountain Track, helps grow their confidence and trust giving them the courage to try new things. Tailored learning experiences result in growth, development and success.

Accredited training works on a number of levels. It highlights what they're capable of and helps them appreciate their inherent intelligence. It gives them confidence, if they can get through an accredited training course, what else can they achieve? The more success they have in completing these courses the more they're encouraged to pursue further learning and further development.

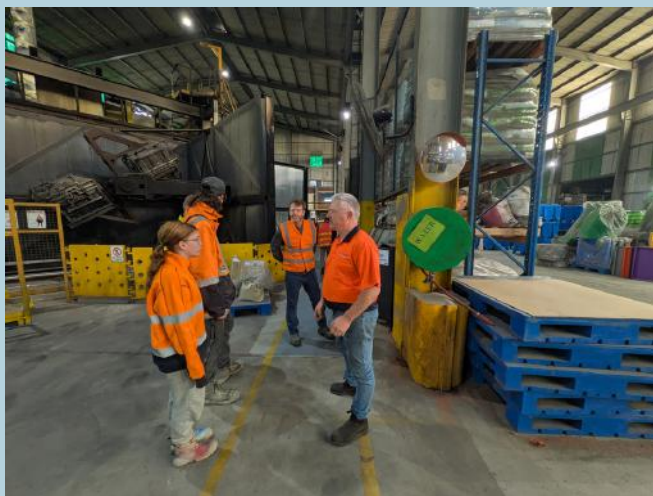
These courses help establish positive relationships between trainer and student. They also **set them up for working life**; with these courses behind them industry doors start to open up.



Out and About



General manager Peter Ceeney and Mark Medew kindly gave of their time to show our young people the mechanisms and intricacies of working in a plastic fabrication factory, which skills and competencies are required and what an ordinary day there can look like.



These visits are also for a chance for local industry to find out more about our young people and what they're capable of and perhaps consider them for employment opportunities in future.

By building links to industry we hope to be able to open up more opportunities for the young people and their future endeavours.

Plastic Fabrication Factory Visit

Speaking of industry, we recently had the chance to take a number of our young people to visit the Plastic Fabrication Factory in Morwell.



At Mountain Track we aim to expose our young people to a range of industries so that they can get a glimpse of some of the work opportunities that exist out there for them, and start to think about what particular line of work they might be interested in pursuing.



Fly Together



The **Mountain Track Logo** is two soaring Yellow Tailed Black Cockatoos. The black cockatoos' talismans were selected for the lifelong bonds that these ancient and endemic birds forge over the course of decades. And it is this lifelong bond that encapsulates the Mountain Track experience.

The bonds formed at Mountain Track between mentor and young person and young person and young person may well last a lifetime. As the young people of Mountain Track go on to forge their own life pathways, we will be there to support them, cheer them on, pick them up as needed and be their backstop as required. It's this lifelong approach that helps give our young people the confidence to grow, and soar, face challenges but find their way through.

They'll thrive too due to the support and quiet assurance they offer one another. The peer-to-peer to support acts as a powerful force to lift each other up as they head towards interesting and exciting life pursuits.



Yellow Tailed Black cockatoos **fly together**, often in great flocks. At Mountain Track we see the great value in this approach. By looking out for each other, acting as each other's teachers, advocates and protectors the whole flock flies further; rises and strengthens, strives and flourishes together. And that is why our motto is **fly together**.

Zed - A Young Person's Story

Zed started with Mountain Track in March 2025. When he first came up to Jumbuk Park he'd already experienced some of the worst that life can throw at you. He'd lost his father at a young age. He had experienced horrific bullying at the hands of some of the Valley's young people. He never felt safe around town. His mental health was at crisis point and drug use was a regular thing.

Not long after he settled into Mountain Track life we started to appreciate just how extraordinary this young man was. It was clear from our first interactions with Zed that not only was he a wonderful human being, not only was he a survivor, but here was someone with exceptional talents. His sporting skills, his musical talent and **his artistic abilities were, and are, really quite striking. In Zed's case there is just limitless potential** to be tapped.

Since being with Mountain Track he has completed his year 12 certificate at Kurnai Flo School, tried his hand at mechanics, and got his White Card and First Aid Certificate. He is currently working towards his Chainsaw and Working at Heights qualifications.

After months of trying, he's got his L plates and is very ready to hit the road. He's become a mentor to our younger Mountain Trackers, and he is learning to teach our younger participants some of the skills Mountain Track taught him. He's **writing new music and life is looking up.** And just recently Zed's early adversaries have reached out and apologised.

Zed talks about wanting to become a childcare worker – you'd be perfect in that role Zed, you've got the biggest heart of anyone we know. King of the kids, that's you, Zed. We love having Zed at Mountain Track. He's a hero of ours.



To Our Supporters, Thank You For Making It Possible.



It's still early days here at Mountain Track, which is why we are so grateful for the financial support and intellectual guidance of those who have taken the chance on our small, not-for-profit, and wholeheartedly believed in our mission and our approach.

When you're not a proven entity it can be a hard sell to explain to people that some of the tools you use to change lives include **sig welders, chainsaws, and excavators.**

We are very lucky to have people in our corner who understand why these tools work, how these tools work, and who can appreciate that without the human connection none of these tools would work at all.

We would particularly like to thank:

**The Funding Network
Campbell Edwards Trust
Channel Foundation
Wetherall Family Foundation**

Your support allows us to provide the people, programs, training, materials, plant and equipment to give our young people a great grounding and set them up for their next stages of life.

Thanks to their funding we can offer educational support, emotional support, job-ready skills and general life skills designed to see them through to their next stage as students, apprentices, workers, volunteers, peers, partners, and as mentors themselves. We could not do what we do without you.

