



NAWO Mentoring Program 2026: Mentor Onboarding Session

Chat log from session on 10 February 2026

Please note: this chat log is provided for accessibility purposes only, for those acting as mentors in the 2026 NAWO Mentoring Program. This log should not be distributed beyond those participants.

00:16:39 Madeline Cooper (she/her) - NAWO Team: Welcome everyone! I'm Madeline Cooper from the NAWO Team and will be in the chat today. I'm joining from Wurundjeri Country in Melbourne/Naarm this afternoon.

00:16:52 Cath Reid: sorry my camera isn't working

00:17:38 anna.southcombe: Gadigal land here, in Sydney :)

00:17:41 Cath Reid: HI, Catherine Reid, Energy Australia Yallourn Power Station

00:17:45 Jules Georgiou: Jules, DON Smallgoods. We're located on Djarra Country (Dja Dja Wurrung).

00:17:48 Hugh Sullivan dss+: Hugh originally from Wales, now living in Sydney with my son and his fiancé on Gadigal land and working with dss+

00:17:55 Jess Taylor: Jessica Taylor - BlueScope Brisbane dialling in from a WFH day Yugembeh Language Region (Gold Coast)

00:17:57 jzannel: Hi. Jennifer Zannelli coming to you from the United states - Chicago Illinois

00:18:02 Zinab: Hi, Zinab Al-Khaleefa from Yarra Valley Water - Victoria

00:18:03 Lindsey Taranto: HI. Lindsey here attending from the lands of the Kulin nation. I work with ORIX Australia

00:18:03 Kari Banick-Sydney: Gadigal country of the Eora Nation- Sydney!

00:18:03 Tsitsi.Munyuki: Good morning. I am Tsitsi from Rio Tinto Rail Division based in Karratha

00:18:23 Vidya.Thorby: Hi - I'm Vidya - working at Rio Tinto in Brisbane

00:18:29 Lucy: Hi, I'm Lucy at Endeavour Group. Dialling in from foot of the Blue Mountains in Sydney, but originally Scottish!

00:18:31 Anthony Hengel: Anthony Hengel here. I'm joining from Wurundjeri Country in Melbourne

00:18:35 Simone Young: Hi Everyone, Simone from Opal Packaging working on Bunurong land

00:18:38 Dion Turner: Hi Dion Turner. Bunnings Bunbury - Wadandi Land

00:18:39 Seyda Kurtmen: Hi I'm Seyda Kurtmen from Intellihub, Senior P&C Business Partner, joining from Darug Country Sydney.

00:18:50 VDobson: Vicky Dobson, Lineage. Hi all.

00:18:52 Fiona MacLeod: Hi I'm Fiona, joining from Wurundjeri Country in Melbourne/Naarm

00:18:52 Madeline Cooper (she/her) - NAWO Team: Replying to "Hi. Jennifer Zannell..."

Jennifer you definitely win the award for the furthest away today! Thanks so much for joining us from the other side of the world.

00:18:58 Matt Strudwick: Hi all, Matt working from Kurna country (Adelaide) @ SAGE Automation.

00:19:15 jzannel: Replying to "Hi. Jennifer Zannell..."

So excited to be part of this cohort 😊

00:19:18 Russell Riding: Hi - Russell Riding from Beca

00:19:19 Kerry Pronk (She/Her): Hi there. I'm Kerry joining from Cammeraygal land

00:19:20 Dave Lathbury: Hi there, David - Yarra Valley Water dialling in from Melbourne.

00:19:33 Michelle Slevin: Hi Everyone, Michelle Slevin here coming to you from South West Sydney - the traditional Country of the Cabrogal people of the Darug Nation

00:19:39 Nick Hogan: Hi all, Nick from Incitec Pivot Fertiliser, based in Geelong/Wadawurrung

00:20:32 Madeline Cooper (she/her) - NAWO Team: As we go through today's session feel free to drop any questions here in the chat - I'll try to answer them straight away, and if I can't Liz will be able to take questions at the end of the session.

00:20:47 Russell Riding: Replying to "Hi, Zinab Al-Khale..."

Hello Zinab

00:21:12 megan zairis: Hi Everyone, Megan here from bunings. Vic Regional Manager, based out of Melbourne.

00:21:24 Lesley Marchioro: Hi everyone, Lesley Marchioro here coming to you from Kurna Country - we had a great NAWO event on Kurna Country this morning learning more about the history of the location. I work for SAGE 🥰

00:21:51 Madeline Cooper (she/her) - NAWO Team: This is the biggest NAWO Mentoring Program ever, by quite a large margin! We're so appreciative of everyone joining us to support this.

00:22:04 Babs Smiith: Hi Everyone - Babs here from Kanda, Disability provider from WA - looking forwrd to being a mentor this year

00:22:39 Ryan Bowen: Hello Everyone, Ryan - Regional Sales Manager Bradken WA. Looking forward to this!

00:23:09 Lindsey Taranto: Is there a forum for 1:1 mentors to ask questions or get advice from other mentors?

00:25:01 Madeline Cooper (she/her) - NAWO Team: Replying to "Is there a forum for..."

We have a private LinkedIn group for our mentors - Liz will discuss it later in the session, but the link is <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/14202496/>

00:26:40 Madeline Cooper (she/her) - NAWO Team: We have an incredible line-up of events for NAWO this year: <https://nawo.org.au/whats-on/>

There are (at least!) three online events each month - first Thursday (Nine Dials specific), third Thursday (Career Club), and fourth Thursday (national webinar or interview with a senior women in operations).

00:26:49 Lesley Marchioro: Can confirm the in-person events are awesome!

00:27:23 Madeline Cooper (she/her) - NAWO Team: @Lesley Marchioro may be slightly biased as the Chair of our incredible SA Committee... but I agree that they're a fantastic opportunity to connect with the NAWO Network!

00:28:05 Madeline Cooper (she/her) - NAWO Team: Featured on this slide - Greg Suzor and Kylie Jones, our joint Mentor of the Year award winners for 2025!

00:32:22 Madeline Cooper (she/her) - NAWO Team: Here's the direct link to the Hub: <https://nawo.org.au/2026-mentoring-resources-hub/>

00:34:58 Jules Georgiou: Amazing set of resources

00:36:51 Madeline Cooper (she/her) - NAWO Team: Replying to "Amazing set of resou..."

Great to hear!

00:39:12 Jen Ison: Can we please get a copy of these slides afterwards?
00:39:37 Madeline Cooper (she/her) - NAWO Team: Replying to "Can we please get a ..."

Yes, of course! We'll send around the recording, slides and transcript afterwards to all mentors. They'll also be available on the Hub at any time to refer back to.

00:41:13 Madeline Cooper (she/her) - NAWO Team: Here's the link to register for the Program Launch on the 17th if you haven't already:
<https://NAWOMentoring2026.eventbrite.com.au>

And just as an fyi, mentees have their onboarding session this Thursday.

00:41:43 Madeline Cooper (she/her) - NAWO Team: Here's the direct LinkedIn link for ease of clicking!: <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/14202496/>

00:42:26 Sanita van Dyk: Great job with the development of this program

00:42:33 Seyda Kurtmen: It all sounds great, fantastic resources!

00:42:52 mMaddock: A great summary, thanks!

00:42:55 Hugh Sullivan dss+: Do the mentors get a chance to share together?

00:43:04 AU-iPhone-KP36F6LD0H: Fantastic summary. Which locations are the in person events?

00:43:06 ManishaTane Iphone: Excellent summary, thanks

00:43:07 Michelle Slevin: Do we need to ask the Mentees to fill out the development goals or will they be asked to do that in their onboarding

00:43:07 Lindsey Taranto: How do you broach the challenge of a mentee in a different state for event attendance

00:43:11 Namrita Anchan: Very helpful session, looking forward to getting started with my Mentee..

00:43:25 ManishaTane Iphone: Can we get copy of these slides afterwards

00:43:50 Katrina Boyd: has teh NAWO mentor Connect linkedin group been set up yet?

00:43:53 Madeline Cooper (she/her) - NAWO Team: Replying to "Fantastic summary. W..."

We regularly run events in Perth, Adelaide, Melbourne, Geelong, Hobart, Launceston, Sydney, Newcastle, Brisbane, Gladstone, Toowoomba, Moranbah and Cairns! So... close to the whole country!

00:43:55 Hugh Sullivan dss+: I was thinking maybe half way through would be good

00:44:07 Madeline Cooper (she/her) - NAWO Team: Reacted to "has teh NAWO mentor ..." with 👍

00:44:19 Madeline Cooper (she/her) - NAWO Team: Replying to "has teh NAWO mentor ..."

Here's the link to join, @Katrina Boyd: <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/14202496/>

00:44:38 Sanita van Dyk: I need to drop off to attend another meeting. Thanks so much. I am excited to meet mentors and mentees as we go!

00:44:41 AU-iPhone-KP36F6LD0H: Replying to "Fantastic summary. W..."

Thank you

00:44:42 Madeline Cooper (she/her) - NAWO Team: Replying to "Can we get copy of t..."

Yes, we'll email them out afterwards and they'll be available to download on the Hub as well

00:44:48 Jen Ison: Yes, I agree Hugh - good for mentors to connect. I would like to see more of this.

It's not just for those mentors that a newer or need support, I see it as an important part of continued learning and building some consistency over what support mentors can offer and how they approach these sessions

00:45:24 Simone Young: great to connect - I need to drop off to attend another meeting

00:45:54 Jen Ison: Also good to share resources we find that are helpful. I found the linked Mentor LinkedIn has been quiet in recent years... I would like to see more traffic of questions and shared resources - I need to commit to doing this too!

00:46:03 Madeline Cooper (she/her) - NAWO Team: Reacted to "Also good to share r..." with 🙌

00:46:54 Madeline Cooper (she/her) - NAWO Team: The Career Club sessions that happen the third Thursday of every month would be perfect to do as a circle

00:47:14 Madeline Cooper (she/her) - NAWO Team: The first Career Club of the year is on 19 February: <https://nawo.org.au/events/career-club-starting-the-year-with-purpose-with-penny-ryall/>

00:47:28 Michelle Slevin: sorry I have to jump off for another meeting.

00:48:03 Lindsey Taranto: Ah Lesley that's such a great idea and now I know an SA person I can reach out to :)

00:48:03 Jess Taylor: Great ideas @Lesley Marchioro



00:48:55 Madeline Cooper (she/her) - NAWO Team: @Jess Taylor on this call is your go-to person for Regional Queensland enquiries!

00:48:56 Hugh Sullivan dss+: Great session thanks

00:49:05 Babs Smith: Thank you :)

00:49:06 Evelene Raj: Thank you - lots of good resources to support mentors!

00:49:06 Matt Strudwick: Thank you,

00:49:06 Madeline Cooper (she/her) - NAWO Team: Thank you all!

00:49:06 LingChen: great session, thank you!

00:49:07 Fiona MacLeod: Thanks for a useful session

00:49:09 Zinab: Thanks heaps

00:49:09 Seyda Kurtmen: thank you! Good luck all