

INDUSTRY TALK

FOR EMPLOYERS, APPRENTICES AND TRAINEES
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**VICTORIA
UNIVERSITY**

MELBOURNE AUSTRALIA

COLLEGE STUDENTS LEARN NEW SKILLS AT TECHNICAL TRADE CENTRE

Western region college students were given an opportunity to try a trade at the Keilor Downs College Technical Trade Centre (TTC) in August.

Students from Copperfield College and Keilor Downs College worked with a range of materials to explore and create products as part of the technological processes. On offer were hands on activities in carpentry, joinery, bricklaying, plumbing and signcraft.

The visit is part of a VU community engagement program, designed to raise awareness of the variety of trade occupations available.

The student experience was a collaborative event with Keilor Downs College providing the TTC venue and the Brimbank Local Learning and Employment Network providing transport.

"The response to the activities has been fantastic" says Fred Inguanez, a VU staff member permanently embedded at the Technical Trade Centre. "It's a great opportunity to introduce students to trades they may not have considered as a career."

The TTC, a VU initiative based at Keilor Downs College, is a purpose built facility offering courses in the areas of electrotechnology, carpentry, fitting, hairdressing and engineering.

Students interested in extending their trade knowledge before committing to an apprenticeship can sign up for a pre-apprenticeship. The 17 week program develops important basic skills, acquires some experience and gives a more realistic expectation of the work involved in a particular trade.

VU offers pre-apprenticeships in Bricklaying, Carpentry, Engineering - Fabrication, Engineering - Machining, Joinery/Shopfitting/Stairbuilding, Plumbing and Signage.



VU teachers Daniel Bonnici and Fred Inguanez in the Technical Trade Centre workshop at Keilor Downs.



From left the VU team: Mandy Caroll, Judith Guantai, Antonelle Lindrea, Claudette Rahme, Christine Beros. Jennifer Elshaug was unavailable.

EXPERT STAFF JUDGE HAIRSTYLIST COMPETITION

The expertise of Victoria University's hair personnel was again called upon to assist in the judging of the 2012 International Hairdressing Society (IHS) Victorian State Competition held at Federation Square in August.

The energy in the venue was electric as hair designers and models filled the theatre. Four hundred entries were received and with sixteen category entries from cutting, colour, photography and catwalk the competition was fierce.

For more than four decades, VU staff has worked with the IHS committee on competitions. Winners at the state awards are eligible to compete at the national titles. This highly acclaimed competition is open to all apprentices, trainees, students and qualified hairdressers.

The winning looks are judged by elite salon managers, creative directors and educators who are highly regarded for their professional achievements.

The team at VU is committed to the success of this event as a showcase for the young stars of the industry. The staff assisted with ticket sales, membership, backstage, floor judging, point judging and putting on stage shows.



CADETSHIP PROGRAM RIGHT PLACE, RIGHT TIME

Victoria University's Institute for Supply Chain and Logistics (ISCL) worked closely with industry to deliver the first year of a successful cadetship program during 2012.

The program, developed in collaboration with the Victorian Transport Association (VTA) has engaged people 18-25 in a two year cadetship program focussed upon supply chain and logistics.

The program is recognised as a leading traineeship program for new entrants into logistics. In their first year, the participants studied and completed the Certificate IV in Logistics and in the second year will study the latest Diploma of Logistics.

Some of the key 2012 cadetship host companies included; Camerons, Chalmers, Eastern Plant Hire, Patrick Auto Care, Prix Car, Rocke Brothers, Secon Freight Logistics, Simon National Carriers, Silk Logistics Group, Victorian Freight Specialists and Zagami Transport.

The cadetship offered applicants the opportunity to be employed in full time paid employment while they studied. Participants learned on the job through job rotations within the host business. Their key earnings and extensive professional development is underpinned by the units delivered by the Institute. The participants have benefitted from being allocated a mentor through their host employer and being paid whilst attending classes at no cost.

All participants were provided with on-going feedback of their individual progress throughout their course and the ISCL worked closely in partnership with the respective company sponsors and the VTA. Site visits were also conducted to assist in applying the learning outcomes for the participants and to enhance the industry engagement with the sponsor company.

This year's program was delivered to meet specific industry needs and was contextualised to suit industry requirements due to changes within the industry. The actual cadetship program required participants to be released from work to attend eight one week blocks of study per during the year. The next intake for the program will begin in October 2012 for commencement in February 2013.

The Institute for Supply Chain and Logistics (ISCL) is proud to announce that all 18 cadets will graduate in 2012 and will have the opportunity to progress into 2013 to complete the Diploma of Logistics.

Graduates of the cadetship program have the opportunity to further their studies into higher education and enter into their second year of the Bachelor Degree in Logistics and Supply Chain.





WORKPLACE LEARNING IN THE BIG APPLE

Computer whizzes head to Silicon Valley while aspiring actors descend on Hollywood, for a hair and make-up devotee the opportunity to work on a live show during New York Fashion Week is a career changer!

During September, eight students from Victoria University's (VU) School of Service Industries took Learning in the Workplace to a new level. The four hairdressing and four makeup students worked behind the scenes at New York Fashion Week as part of VU's Outbound Mobility Program (OMP).

The OMP investigates the outcomes for students who combine recognised training qualifications with experience applying their skills in an internationally recognised forum.

An intense selection process was followed to ensure all students were given the opportunity

to extend their experience. After facing an interview panel, a review of their portfolio of work to date and an assessment on their skills, the winners were selected to head to New York for a feast of fashion, makeup and hair.

The students selected were Amy McDonald, Natalie Li Volti, Annalise Langdon, Saleena Cheetamun, Frankie Endersbee, Linda Fadda, Alishia Misevski and Ainslie Fisher.

Freda Rossidis, Director at Cast Salons, accompanied the group to support and mentor the students. Freda has directed many high-profile editorials and advertising shoots and has become a regular participant in fashion weeks in Australia and the US.

Freda and VU teacher Veronica Di Girolamo, a VU graduate herself supervised the students on their 10 day intensive exchange.

ECO LIVING CENTRE FOR THE WEST

Victoria University trade students are transforming a 70-year old timber bungalow in Brimbank into a community showcase of eco-living features as one of their next real-life projects.

Pre-apprentice carpentry students will retrofit the Council-owned home located near Albion's Selwyn Reserve with a raft of sustainability features to demonstrate the benefits of sustainable living.

VU has partnered with Brimbank City Council, with support from Sustainability Victoria and with input from various community partners, to retrofit the Federation-style home with solar heating, a recycled water system, composting toilets, skylights, water-wise gardens, double-glazed windows, a stormwater tank and insulated floors.

VU teachers will offer demonstrations during the construction of the Eco-Living Centre, which are expected to be held next month. Once completed later this year, the house will host Council-run public education workshops, and be made available for environmental and community groups in Melbourne's west.

Peter Jacobson, Head of VU's School of Construction Industries says the University was fortunate to be involved in a project that benefitted both the community and VU students.

"The end result will be greater skills for our students and a project that enables the community to improve the sustainability of their homes."

The Eco-Living Centre project is supported by the Victorian Government Sustainability Fund.

For more information on the project visit: <http://www.vu.edu.au/about-vu/vision-and-mission/environmental-sustainability-at-vu/eco-living-centre>.



CLASSROOM OF THE FUTURE



Students enjoy the new learning space.

When students of Victoria University's Diploma of Business (Enterprise) walk into their classroom, there are no desks, chairs or paper. In fact, their newly built 'learning space' at Footscray Nicholson Campus looks like it belongs more in a funky youth centre than at a university.

Over-sized beanbags take the place of chairs, writable walls help unleash creativity, iPads replace textbooks, and screens with high-definition telepresence video open the classroom to the world.

The multi-platform Terrain room is part of a five-year makeover to many of the University's classrooms, libraries and lecture theatres. The aim is to shift focus from lesson-delivering teachers in uninspiring classrooms to student-centred learning in creative and technology-rich environments.

The 20 students in VU's new Diploma of Business (Enterprise) are among the first at the University to participate not just in an innovative learning environment, but also in a whole new approach to learning. Dubbed the Learning Spaces of the Future project, it involves less teacher talk, more learning online through a variety of sources, and plenty of collaboration with classmates.

Amanda Achterberg, Associate Dean, Learning, Teaching and Students says the new approach gives students more responsibility for their own learning. It also develops skills in problem solving, teamwork, critical thinking, curiosity and leadership - all essential for a 21st century student and the modern workplace.

"We're creating an environment for participation and collaboration that emphasises process rather than product," she says. "Today more than ever, the physical environment is an important component of the way students learn and interact."

The approach emphasises 'blended delivery' - a combination of face-to-face and technology-based teaching content - so students can interact from anywhere they like. VU is rolling out the new approach in selected courses at its campuses in Footscray Park, Melton and Werribee, especially for students whose learning style fits best outside traditional classroom walls.

Management and Marketing teacher Robert Mackenzie says teachers have had to adapt to the new approach as much as the students.

"We've had to re-jig the curriculum and redevelop some of the units," he says. "This teaching style removes the self centeredness of the teacher so it becomes more about my students than about me."

The students in the program say they enjoy the deinstitutionalised setting for their course.

"It's relaxing and more social than any classroom I've ever been in," says 18-year-old Katherine Delia. "It feels just like home."

ACCOLADES FOR CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRIES STUDENTS



Celebrating success - Paul Ashley(Furniture teacher), Bill Emerson, Samuel Eyre and Mark Stone(Furniture teacher).

Victoria University students Sam Eyre and Osake Fukushima from the School of Construction Industries received accolades at the recent state awards of the Australian Furniture Association (AFA).

Sam Eyre took out top honours in the Certificate II in Furniture Making Award, with a contemporary style dining table he designed and handcrafted. Osake Fukushima's hard work received an honourable mention in the Certificate III in Cabinet Making division.

"These guys created outstanding furniture pieces," says Peter Jacobson, Head of School, School of Construction Industries, "Our teaching staff has played a great role in developing

the talent of these young men. We congratulate all involved"

Sam's entry was nominated for the 2012 The Australian Furniture of the Year Awards which took place in July.

AFA was established to promote the profitable growth, competitiveness, innovation and export readiness of all Furnishing and Allied Industry participants. The association holds annual awards for industry training to recognise those students within the furnishing sector who demonstrate commitment, innovation and outstanding achievement.

APPRENTICESHIP AWARDS

Schiavello was announced Employer of the Year and apprentice Fabian Guseli, studying at Victoria University, was awarded Apprentice of the Year for offsite construction (joinery) at the Master Builders 2012 Apprentice awards held in early May.

Fabian was awarded best over the entire course for offsite construction (joinery) based on his skills and ability to master his trade with a mature approach and excellent communication and leadership skills.

Fabian also won a WorldSkills bronze medal at the national trade competition held in Sydney in August.

Schiavello was awarded the Employer of the Year, Brian Fitzmaurice Memorial Award for a contribution to training and apprenticeships.

The company's onsite training facility for their 50 carpentry and joinery apprentices was set up to provide more flexible, relevant and responsive training. It also improves the connection between on and off the job training with a solely dedicated onsite teacher, Nick Del Grosso, provided by Victoria University.

"It's great to be formally recognised for our commitment to skills development. Setting up a dedicated onsite training facility provides our apprentices with a first-class fully equipped workshop and access to a wide range of machinery and technologies which enhances the apprentice learning experience," Managing Director, Peter Schiavello says.



Apprentice of the Year - Off-site Construction (Joinery) - Fabian Guseli with Darren Doggett from the Australian Shop and Office Fitting Industry Association, who sponsored the joinery award.

Photo courtesy of Master Builders Association of Victoria.

ON THE FRONT COVER

The Victorian WorldSkills team is shown pictured on our front cover shortly before their trip to Sydney and the national trades competition. Two students studying at Victoria University won medals. Fabian Guseli and Justin Gauci won bronze medals for Joinery and VETiS (VET in Schools) Construction respectively. Victorian contestants won 11 medals in total: four gold, two silver and five bronze.

WorldSkills is a cycle of competitive events allowing young Australian apprentices and trainees from the Vocational Education and Training (VET) sector to compete

for recognition and titles in up to 50 trade and skill categories. By participating, competitors represent their employer, their local community and gain the opportunity to enhance their career.

The regional competitions were held in 2011 at Victoria University. Successful participants from this year's finals could go on to compete internationally and represent their country in 2013.



The VU students competing in WorldSkills.

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