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HELLO, MY NAME IS KATH CURRY AND I AM THE DEAN OF THE TRADES COLLEGE.

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The Trades College is dedicated to the delivery of apprenticeship, pre-apprenticeship, post-trade, skills recognition and other programs tailored to industry needs.

Through our employer engagement, we have redesigned our approach to apprenticeship training. We offer flexible learning delivery options and new assessment practices including task-based projects. Bringing together competencies into projects means higher quality, complex training that develops skilled job-ready graduates.

The Trades College construction program is based at our Sunshine campus; home of the brand new 544 million state-of-the-art industry training facility. This 6 Green Star rated building is an example of environmental design excellence, incorporating the latest renewable energy, water preservation, solar design and temperature technologies to reduce VU’s carbon footprint.

Whilst Sunshine is the hub of our College for engineering and construction, we continue to offer construction courses at our outer campuses and our service industry courses in the city.

The Trades College is positioning itself as a leader in research, policy and practices that will transform future apprenticeships and trades training.

We hope you enjoy reading all about our staff and student success stories in this edition of Industry Talk.

The Trades College is pleased to announce a new partnership with Stanley Black & Decker, a global provider of hand and power tools of the construction, manufacturing and woodworking industries. Stanley Black & Decker have generously supplied the College with a range of new hand and power tools and will also provide sponsorship of our upcoming student awards. The Trades College would like to acknowledge their significant contribution and welcome further investments from industry into the skills development of our future workforce.

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VICTORIA UNIVERSITY’S $44 MILLION TRAINING CENTRE OPENED FOR BUSINESS IN EARLY 2013 AT THE SUNSHINE CAMPUS TO EDUCATE A NEW GENERATION OF TRADES PROFESSIONALS.

The impressive Construction Hub consolidates the University’s heavy trade courses including carpentry, bricklaying, and furniture-making. Teachers combine training in traditional hands-on workshops with interactive videos in high-tech labs so students can learn in their own way, at their own pace. The new building has also enabled us to bring together the other trades such as plumbing and electrical to help construct the transportable homes built as part of the Live Works Program.

Funded by the federal government’s Education Investment Fund, the training programs are designed to meet the booming demand for building and construction skills in one of Australia’s fastest growing regions.

The six-green-star-rated building is also a showcase of the environmentally-friendly technologies now transforming Australia’s traditional trades. Constructed with sustainable building materials that use the latest techniques in renewable energy and water conservation, the building itself is a teaching tool for students as they learn to construct with modern environmental design, sustainable materials and emerging technologies.

Located on Phoenix Street, Sunshine – just off Ballarat Road – the new Construction Hub is also headquarters for the University’s new Trades College, a reinvigoration of Victoria University’s vast range of trades training.

Victoria University’s Trades College courses — which include pre-apprenticeships, apprenticeships, post-trade and vocational training for secondary school students — is aimed not only at novices but also at existing workers looking to upgrade their skills, including their language, literacy and numeracy skills.

The new Construction Hub is expected to deliver training to more than 7000 people over the next five years — substantially boosting and up-skilling the workforce for the hard-to-staff construction and building sector.

Trades College Director of Training Peter Jacobson says the new facility demonstrates Victoria University’s ongoing commitment to trades training.

“The new Construction building at Sunshine is an innovative facility for skilling and reskilling today’s building and construction workforce for the green and emerging technologies of the future.”
VICTORIA UNIVERSITY APPRENTICE JACOB HOSKIN WAS AWARDED THE INTERNATIONAL CULINARY SCHOLARSHIP AT THE FONTERRA "PROUD TO BE A CHEF" GALA DINNER HELD AT EZARD IN FEBRUARY 2013.

The Fonterra “Proud to be a Chef” program has been designed to recognize and reward the potential shown by the best and brightest Australian and New Zealand apprentice chefs. The annual program receives hundreds of applications. Each applicant is evaluated on their demonstrated passion and commitment to food servicing, as well as their goals, aspirations and an original recipe.

The 32 finalists enjoyed three days of master classes learning and developing new skills under the guidance of Australia’s best chefs.

Jacob, a third year Victoria University apprentice who studies at the Sofitel Academy and works at Neilsons in Traralgon, was surprised when his name was announced as the winner. Jacob said he was overwhelmed to be awarded such a unique opportunity and was proud to be showing the world what Victoria’s apprentice chefs have to offer the culinary industry.

Jacob captivated the judging team with a delicious original recipe for Crispy Scaled Barramundi with Avocado Mousse, Verjuice Butter, Radish and Wild Sea Vegetables. Jacob was also named Australia’s top apprentice chef at the 2011 Australian Culinary Federation awards.

Fonterra Proud to be a Chef Co-ordinator, Carolyn Plummer, said this year’s competition was close and that the innovation and enthusiasm of the participants was outstanding.

“Fonterra is proud to support these bright Australian and New Zealand apprentice chefs and offer them this unique opportunity to enhance their careers and learn from some of the industry’s top icons.”

Fonterra is a global leader in dairy nutrition — the preferred supplier of dairy ingredients to many of the world’s leading food companies. Fonterra is also a market leader with consumer dairy brands present in Australia/New Zealand, Asia/Africa, Middle East and Latin America.

The Academy Sofitel has an exclusive relationship with Victoria University to deliver the Advanced Diploma of Hospitality and the Certificate III in Hospitality (Commercial Cookery) in a way that is unsurpassed in industry and education.

INNOVATION IN TRADES EDUCATION

TRADES EDUCATION IS ENTERING A NEW PHASE.

VU’s Trades College is expanding the student and industry focus of its blended learning delivery, creating an embedded innovative teaching and learning practice that fosters strong learning outcomes.

Blended learning integrates technology and traditional teaching; the delivery method encourages flexible learning with a repertoire of engaging and powerful technology tools. The program is designed to take theory out of the classroom to deliver a new portal of learning.

While the concept of integrated e-Learning has been promoted at VU for some time, the digital connection in the new Construction Hub at the Sunshine Campus has accelerated the implementation.

As part of the new Sunshine Construction Future project, technology and smart systems have been installed in all the learning areas of this new facility. The high tech classrooms sit beside the workshop areas ensuring a seamless transition in learning from theory to practical.

The e-Learning environment encourages self-paced flexible learning. Students can review and revise lessons at their own pace in their iPhone, iPads or the touchscreens installed in the workshops. Students will be able to play videos of the technique demonstration on demand and as many times as they like without impacting their classmates learning.

“This is an exciting development,” says Stephen Varty, Director Innovation and Engagement at the Trades College. “We are offering creative and engaging practical demonstrations, consistently aligned to current industry practice, that students can review anytime and anywhere”.

e-Learning provides opportunities for dynamic and responsive approaches to skills development. This creative thinking is being embedded into trades learning. VU research fellow Stefan Schutt has developed video game-style technology for use in the Trades College’s Certificate II in Building and Construction. The three-dimensional program, TradeSim, simulates a construction site. The students have to identify workplace hazards using the computer program.

The Trades College technology team is working towards an e-Learning profile for all trades courses.
WORLD PLUMBING DAY CELEBRATIONS

Victoria University’s plumbing team pooled resources with the Plumbing Industry Climate Action Centre (PICAC) to ensure that World Plumbing Day was celebrated in style at an industry Careers Expo and Apprentice Skills Competition.

World Plumbing Day (WPD) is an international event initiated by the World Plumbing Council to highlight the important role plumbing plays in the health, safety and sustainability of our community.

The secondary school and college students attending explored the possibilities and opportunities of a plumbing career. The Trades College team were on hand to discuss the range of vocational education courses on offer and provided a small sample of what the industry can offer with “try a trade activity.”

Existing apprentices showcased their plumbing and mechanical services expertise in an Apprentice Skills Competition. Five VU apprentices put their training to the test in a half day skills competition with Dylan Di Martino from Paul Di Martino Plumbing, taking second place in the intense conditions.

Peter Turner, a Trades College Operations Manager, is enthusiastic about VU’s involvement in the WPD events “This is an opportunity for some of the most talented apprentices in the plumbing industry to demonstrate their skills. It’s great for future students to see quality trade skills in action.”

If you are looking to gain an apprenticeship in the plumbing industry, become a licenced plumber, run your own business or manage plumbing projects, Victoria University has your training options covered. We encourage you to contact our team to arrange a personal chat about your trade study at Victoria University.

TRADES COLLEGE RE-ENGINEERING INDUSTRY TRAINING

VICTORIA UNIVERSITY (VU) HAS PARTNERED WITH ALCOA AUSTRALIA ROLLED PRODUCTS (ALCOA ARP) TO PROVIDE A NATIONALLY ACCREDITED TRAINING PROGRAM FOR MAINTENANCE STAFF AT THE POINT HENRY PLANT IN GEELONG.

The VU training will prepare Victoria’s manufacturing sector for a high skills future, create an internal succession plan for Alcoa ARP and allow employees the opportunity to gain nationally recognised qualifications. Employees will be able to progress into a Diploma of Engineering specifically designed for Alcoa ARP on completion of their Certificate IV apprenticeship in 2014.

Alcoa ARP maintenance employees have previously selected their professional development from diverse training sources. As a result of the partnership with VU, the 52 fitters and electricians who have committed to the program will receive training to up skill and cross train to meet the skills and knowledge needs for Alcoa ARP.

The program will be centred around Alcoa’s site specific issues, maintenance needs and their internal procedures to ensure relevance in what is being delivered and assessed. Alcoa ARP and VU are establishing a dedicated training hub that will have a fully functional onsite training room incorporating an additional computer room with access for the candidates’ to utilise for their respective research projects, giving VU the opportunity to utilise any down time in maintenance by rolling out training at short notice.

Victoria University’s Jan Burton manages the VU-Alcoa ARP project and is based on site at the Point Henry plant. Jan has an extensive career in implementing Industrial training programs, including the delivery of training to over 300 staff on the EastLink Freeway project.

“As a new training concept for engineering, I am very excited to be putting my mark on this project. Alcoa ARP is a multinational company who are extremely focussed on up skilling and providing promotional opportunities for their employees. This project will be tailored to meet the demanding requirements of Alcoa ARP’s ongoing business strategies. I am very much looking forward to working with Alcoa ARP’s supervisors, enrolled candidates and their very supportive, HR Training Specialist, Katrina Hayes. Everyone is extremely focussed and excited about this joint venture. This project has all the markings of a valuable partnership arrangement with great industry outcomes.”

Jan will be combining her industrial engineering training experience with the university’s competency based approach to ensure the training program is being delivered on site as it would be on any VU campus.
**VU Apprentices triumph at Builders Industry Awards**

VICTORIA UNIVERSITY STUDENTS LIAM GARDINER AND BLAKE JOBSON WERE NAMED TWO OF THE STATE’S BEST APPRENTICES AT THE 2013 MASTER BUILDERS ASSOCIATION’S APPRENTICE OF THE YEAR AWARDS.

Liam was named Carpenter Apprentice of the Year and Blake was awarded Joinery Apprentice of the Year, as well as the Metropolitan Apprentice of the Year.

More than 600 hundred of apprentices from every corner of the state are considered for the prestigious awards, which recognise emerging talent in the building and construction industry.

“As a team we are so proud of Liam and Blake” says Peter Jacobson, Director of Training at Victoria University’s Trades College. “They are both committed to being the best they can be in their respective fields. These awards recognise not only their hard work and skills, but also the commitment of our teaching team to provide quality and industry-relevant training.”

For Liam Gardiner, the awards are validation of a career change. The 31-year-old became a carpenter after working in hospitality for many years. “Carpentry is a great industry, I fell in love with the trade instantly” he says.

“I enjoy working with my hands and creating something to be proud of. I have started my own business and I am working towards my Master Builders License and plan to advance into property development. This award acknowledges my skills as a successful tradesperson.”

Blake Jobson is working in the family business and the succession planning has begun. Blake will take over the business when his father Alan retires later this year.

“Blake is the personification of what an apprentice and tradesman should be” says Michael Hick, his Carpenter and Joinery Teacher. “He is a diligent worker, solution orientated. He gets in there to get the job done, to the highest standard.”

Victorian Minister for Higher Education and Skills Peter Hall presented major awards at the event, which drew 800 industry representatives and guests to Etihad Stadium.

Victoria University has a strong and continuing commitment to the trades sector. Its Trades College focuses on delivering industry-relevant apprenticeships and pre-apprenticeships as well as skills recognition and training, while VU trades’ students are consistently recognised for industry awards and in skills’ competitions.


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**Plumbing Students Receive Prestigious Awards**

VU TRADES COLLEGE APPRENTICES HAVE ONCE AGAIN FOUND SUCCESS AT THE MASTER PLUMBERS AND MECHANICAL SERVICES ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA’S 106TH GOLD MEDAL AND TRAINING AWARDS RECOGNISING EXCELLENCE IN THE PLUMBING AND MECHANICAL SERVICES INDUSTRIES.

Mark Thistlewhite received the City West Water Environmental Award and Katherine Lipic received the Rose Curtis Award for outstanding female apprentice.

“This award encourages women not just to continue in the plumbing trade, but to excel” says Katherine. “I really appreciate the generosity of the VU team in sharing their knowledge and skills and am taking full advantage of every learning opportunity available. I am fortunate to be in a business that values the knowledge I am gaining as an apprentice and supports me in my training.”

Both have come to the plumbing trade as mature apprentices. Personal drive and determination have been fundamental to their successes to date.

“What you put in is what you’ll get out” says Mark. “The environmental courses are an eye opener, the new skills, technology materials and training are amazing and I’m taking all the learning opportunities available. Being able to put into practice the latest environmental initiatives gives me a point of difference from colleagues who have been in the trade for 20 years.”

Daren James, Acting Education Manager, Trades College, values the contribution mature apprentices make to the classroom, “The balance, experience and attitude they bring lifts the performance of the whole class.”

VU offers both pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeships in Plumbing. More information on plumbing training options at VU is available by contacting our team.
AUStrALiA’S gOt TALENTeD TRaDES!

IN A WORLD OF TALENT COMPETITIONS, THE INTERNATIONAL WORLD SKILLS BIENNIAL COMPETITION IS THE OLYMPICS OF VOCATIONAL AND EDUCATION TRAINING AND THE PLATFORM FOR AUSTRALIAN TRADIES TO SHOWCASE THEIR TALENTS.

Apprentices and trainees have the chance to compete for titles and bragging rights in up to 50 trade and skill categories, in this biennial competition. The contestants will battle through three stages; starting with the regional events in 2013; progressing to the national event in 2014 and the ultimate opportunity, participation in the global competition in 2015.

Fabian Guseli, a medal winner at the 2012 National Competition, has made the most of the advantages offered to the World Skills contenders. “Through WorldSkills, I travelled to other cities, met many fellow apprentices from all parts of Australia and made great friends. I gained invaluable experience, confidence and awareness in my industry which has allowed me to further my career far quicker than I anticipated. I would highly recommend every apprentice gets involved!”

This is an extended learning experience and a chance for employers to showcase the skills of their apprentices. The benefits of participation are recognised by the industry and their ongoing support is vital for the success of the event. One of Australia’s most respected interior construction specialists, Schiavello is enthusiastic about the competition, “This is an opportunity to further their [the apprentices] careers.” Says Director Joe Schiavello “They receive additional training and supports that fast tracks their skills and creates a confident skilled employees”

“Employers should be encouraging their employees to take part” says Westside Joinery’s Steve Bulman, a long-term supporter of the competition. “Industry shouldn’t be searching for skilled high achievers, we should be creating them. The apprentices have a great opportunity to take their skills to the next level and boost their confidence. Exposure to the countries best trainers and the opportunity to represent Australia in Brazil 2015 isn’t a bad target to aim for!”

If you have a skilled member of your team who is under the age of 23, enjoys a challenge and looking for an awesome experience, sign them up for WorldSkills 2013.

For further information about the competition, please contact Diane Debrincat via email diane.debrincat@vu.edu.au

AN OLDER STYLE HOUSE IN ALBION HAS A NEW LEASE ON LIFE AFTER BEING CONVERTED WITH THE HELP OF VICTORIA UNIVERSITY STUDENTS INTO AN ECOLIVING CENTRE FOR THE WEST.

The EcoLiving Centre showcases how community members can save money on water and power and reduce their costs of living as well as their impact on the environment.

At the Official Opening of the Centre on 14 June 2013, Victoria University’s Acting Vice Chancellor, Professor Duncan Bentley, said, “Victoria University is committed to improving our environmental sustainability performance across all our campuses and fostering education for sustainability in our teaching, learning and research.

“VU’s Trades College implemented a Sustainability Learning and Behavioural Change program which involved approximately 100 students from the Trades College completing most of the carpentry, electrical, cabinet making and even engineering works.

“These pre-apprentice and apprentice students have been exposed to valuable new renovation and sustainability retrofitting skills that are not traditionally taught in their respective trades.

“In addition, the experience they have gained from working on a real live-works project, for the community, has improved their trade skills and understanding of the building industry.

“The University is striving to be a leader in knowledge exchange with business, government and the community and the EcoLiving Centre has brought all three levels of stakeholders together to promote environmental sustainability.”

The EcoLiving Centre was opened by The Minister for Environment and Climate Change, Ryan Smith, and made possible through a partnership between Brimbank City Council and Victoria University with support from the Victorian Government Sustainability Fund, which provided $300,000 towards the retrofit and community education.

The facility was also launched with a Community Open Day on Saturday 22 June 2013, to officially launch the EcoLiving Centre to the community.
SUNSHINE CAMPUS: TRADES COLLEGE TOUR

03 July 2013, 1.15pm – 2.30pm
10 July 2013, 1.15pm – 2.30pm
17 July 2013, 1.15pm – 2.30pm
24 July 2013, 1.15pm – 2.30pm
31 July 2013, 1.15pm – 2.30pm
07 August 2013, 1.15pm – 2.30pm
14 August 2013, 1.15pm – 2.30pm

Join us for a first hand look at our new state-of-the-art training facility.

Every Wednesday, Sunshine Campus is hosting a tour of the new Trades College facilities. This is a great opportunity to learn how to start your career in carpentry, plumbing, bricklaying or in many other trades, as well as to ask questions about the courses you are considering.

Meet some of your future teachers and find out what to expect at Victoria University.

The Trades College is focused on the delivery of apprenticeship, pre-apprenticeship, skills recognition and other programs tailored to industry needs. Our programs are highly regarded by industry for their innovative approach to skills development.

We offer the following programs at Trades College Sunshine Campus:

- Bricklaying
- Carpentry
- Electrotechnology
- Engineering — fabrication and mechanical
- Furniture making
- General construction
- Joinery/Shopfitting/Stairbuilding
- Plumbing
- Sign industry.

We will have experts from our trade programs available to discuss the best study pathways to secure your trade career. Come and find which trade career suits you!