

INDUSTRYTALK

FOR EMPLOYERS, APPRENTICES AND TRAINEES

JANUARY 2014 | TRADES COLLEGE



**VICTORIA
UNIVERSITY**

MELBOURNE AUSTRALIA

DEAN'S ADDRESS



Welcome to Victoria University's *Industry Talk*, a newsletter for employers, teachers and industry to share Trades College updates.

We are proud to be launching into 2014 with unique and innovative learning opportunities for pre-apprentices, apprentices and post-trade students in Bricklaying, Cabinet Making, Carpentry, Electrical, Engineering, Hairdressing, Hospitality, Joinery, Make-up, Plumbing and Sign Industries.

Inspired by the environmental credentials of the Construction Hub, our state-of-the-

art training facility at our Sunshine Campus and to reduce VU's carbon footprint, I am delighted to advise that *Industry Talk* is going digital. We will be publishing our next edition electronically. To continue to receive our regular updates, subscribe online vu.edu.au/industry-talk

We hope you enjoy reading about the success of Trades College students and staff in this edition of *Industry Talk*. We welcome your stories of how VU has helped in your success.
Kath Curry, Dean, Trades College.

APPRENTICESHIP SUPPORT UNIT

Apprenticeship Support Unit (ASU) is a central service for VU's apprenticeship and traineeship enquiries.

Trish Martin, ASU Co-ordinator, and her team have been working to consolidate information held across the different colleges to ensure a quick and easy experience for all clients. From sign-ups, training plans, completions and incentive payments, ASU is the information hub for apprenticeship centres, apprentices, trainees and their employers.

We understand trade hours are flexible so we have a message service where you can leave your details and all calls will be responded to within 24hrs. For traineeship and apprenticeship information contact us on 03 9919 7000 or trades@vu.edu.au

Do you have additional information you would like the Apprenticeship Support Unit to provide? Drop us an email with your suggestions at trades@vu.edu.au

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TERM 1

27 January – 4 April 2014

WORLD PLUMBING DAY

11 March 2014

SUNSHINE CAMPUS TOURS

Wednesdays 1–2.30pm

GOING DIGITAL

We will be producing our next edition of *Industry Talk* electronically. You will need to subscribe online vu.edu.au/industry-talk to continue to receive our *Industry Talk*. You can also stay in touch between newsletters with



[facebook.com/tradescollege](https://www.facebook.com/tradescollege)



twitter.com/VUTradesCollege

TRAINING DIRECTOR AWARDED FELLOWSHIP TO UNDERTAKE RESEARCH IN BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION



Peter Jacobson, Director of Training, Trades College has been awarded the 2013 International Building and Construction Fellowship.

The fellowship was awarded through a competitive national process that included an interview by a selection panel. The panel consisted of the fellowship sponsor, industry representatives and members of the International Specialised Skills (ISS) Institute.

The scholarship is a joint venture between the Construction and Property Services Industry Skills Council (CPSISC) and the ISS Institute.

The ISS \$12,500 Fellowship promotes the acquisition of higher-level skills and an appreciation of international best practice in the Australian building, construction and property services industries.

It is intended to examine innovative approaches that demonstrate potential benefits for, and application in, Australia.

Peter aims to reinvigorate in the Australian building and construction industries through the study of apprenticeship education practices across Europe, particularly Germany who has a high participation rate in apprenticeships.

Peter's research will also contribute to the University's ambition to become a centre of excellence for vocational education, and identify new ways to optimise the Construction Hub at the Sunshine Campus.

"It's fantastic news and I'm very excited that VU will gain more recognition for its trades programs," says Peter. "This will be a good opportunity to see how student mentorship models in trades training and retention strategies are done in other countries, and what we can learn from them."

CREATIONS OF THE NIGHT



Students of Victoria University's Diploma of Specialist Make-Up Services showcased their extraordinary skills as they transformed volunteer models into characters from movies, books and their imaginations at VU's bi-annual *Night of Notables* held at Southbank's Showtime Events Centre in December.

The *Night of Notables* is part of the graduation process for students completing the year-long Diploma program. VIPs and industry guests mixed with friends and families of students to marvel at the creativity and talent of the students as they exhibited their graduating projects.

This year, 65 students created the likes of Marie Antoinette, Nanny McPhee, Amy Winehouse, The Joker, an Avatar, and Sleeping Beauty, among many other well-

known fictional, historical and real-life characters.

Students spent hundreds of hours to create every aspect of their characters, including fashioning wigs, constructing prostheses, designing costumes, and applying body and face make-up.

Liana Milne, 23, originally from Traralgon, won this year's Specialist Make-Up Student of the Year for her leadership, teamwork, creativity and skills. She also received awards for best wig and the industry award (sponsored by Kryolan Professional Make Up) for her extravagant creation of a fairy-floss-like pink-haired Marie Antoinette.

"VU's specialist make-up course has been amazing," says Liana. "I didn't know anything like this existed before I enrolled, but it was exactly what I was looking for."

The teachers are all from industry and have great contacts."

The Encouragement Award for a 'rising star' went to Tessa Di Pietro whose character was Alice in Wonderland's White Rabbit.

The biannual awards evening was sponsored by Kryolan Professional Make Up, Apprenticeships Melbourne and The Co-Op Bookshop.

VU's Diploma of Specialist Make-Up Services equips students with the range of specialist skills required for a future as a make-up artist be it photographic, theatre, period, special effects, television, film or fashion. It is the only make-up course in Australia to encompass fashion and the arts.

STUDENT IN PROFILE TAKING THE PLUNGER

Mature-age apprentice Mark Thistlewhite decided to leave cooking for plumbing and hasn't looked back.

"At 16, I was a head chef at a small seafood restaurant in England. I moved to Australia in 1996 to work as a chef at Crown Casino.

As a kid I always wanted to be a plumber, and in 2011 I began an apprenticeship with Auscool Air Conditioning and Mechanical Services.

My VU training has been fantastic. The staff are skilled, knowledgeable, experienced and ready to help.

I won the City West Water Environment Award at the 2013 Master Plumbers Gold Medal and Training Awards after completing all 10 green plumber courses offered by Master Plumbers.

I have a real passion for the environment and green plumbing is all about that. The environmental courses were an eye-opener to the new technology and materials available."



Mark Thistlewhite is passionate about green plumbing.

SUPPORTIVE SPONSOR

Kryolan Professional has a long relationship with VU and became the primary sponsor of the 2013 *Night of Notables*, the biannual skill showcase of Diploma of Specialist Make-Up Services students.

"The *Night of Notables* is a chance for us to get involved and give back to the students who work so hard throughout the year" says Anita Caffyn, Sales and Marketing Director Kryolan Australia.

"It is a fantastic opportunity to see the talent of the students, network within the industry and have a good night out. Victoria University is one of the leaders in make-up education and we love to show our support by sponsoring this event."



Anita Caffyn and Scott Caffyn, Kryolan Australia.

RAW SUCCESS FOR LIANA



Outstanding determination helped Liana Milne become an award-winning make-up artist and hair designer.

"I've loved doing make-up and hair since I was young, but I never thought of it as a career until I started my course. Now I've discovered my passion.

I've always been interested in vintage style and glamour. I was lucky enough to get a job working alongside vintage make-up artist and hairstylist Candice De'Ville, and I bring that look into what I create. I also love high fashion and admire Vogue Italia's inspiring photo shoots, make-up and hair designs.

Everyone at VU was very supportive. I suffer from Chronic Fatigue Syndrome and haven't been able to complete a course since high school. It meant so much to be able to complete my Diploma – and coming away with so many awards was a bonus.

My goal is to be involved in high-fashion runway productions overseas – my dream job would be working on a catwalk show for John Galliano."

Liana Milne won last year's Specialist Make-Up Student of the Year, the industry award for best wig and was awarded Make-up Artist of the Year by RAW Melbourne.

BUILDING TEACHER TO BRING HOME GREEN RETRO KNOW-HOW

Trades College Carpentry and Joinery Teacher Michael Hick is heading off to the northern hemisphere to investigate the latest in green retrofitted building products.

The Trades College teacher at Sunshine Campus was awarded a 2013 Higher Education and Skills Group Overseas Fellowship Victoria ahead of applicants from across Australia (Victorian Category).

Valued at \$13,000, Mr Hick will use the money to travel to the US and the UK, and bring home what he learns so that new and innovative green building practices can be incorporated into VET (Vocational Education and Training) training at VU. The next generation of local builders will then have the latest knowledge to create more sustainable and energy efficient dwellings.

"Being selected for a fellowship is a wonderful feeling," says Mr Hick. "As is being given the chance to investigate sustainability and retrofitting on an international platform.

"It's a topic that has really started to take over the way I think about building practices;



Michael Hick is incorporating green building practices into VU's training packages.

to work towards a more sustainable and environmentally friendly building industry."

There is limited knowledge in Australia on sustainable retrofitting and Mr Hick aims to find the best products and practices available that can be transferred to the Australian building and construction industry at minimal cost and time.

He will look at retrofitted items such as windows, doors and cladding as well as investigate new building techniques for the installation of walls, roofs and floors in both residential and commercial buildings.

"I am hoping my findings will help VU become a leader in sustainable building practices."

Mr Hick's fellowship application was backed by Australia's Construction and Property Services Industry Skills Council and Sustainability Victoria. These organisations believe Mr Hick's fellowship has the potential to drive innovation and change through the use of sustainable practices and products, and assist Victorians to be more energy efficient and reduce their carbon footprint.

TRADE SKILLS GLITTER WITH GOLD

Victoria University Trades College students won 9 gold medals in the 2013 Regional WorldSkills competitions – known as the Olympics of vocational training.

The day long competitions provided almost 50 VU students with the opportunity to showcase their passion and talent in fields ranging from beauty care to welding.

VU's Trades College has long hosted regional competitions, which this year included six other training organisations from Melbourne and country Victoria.

Kath Curry, Dean, Trades College, says the competition is testament to what can be achieved through innovative approaches and close links to industry.

Beauty category Gold medallist Lauren Karman says "The day was full-on. I was

very nervous. I had to familiarise myself with new products and I was surprised when I won."

Gold medallist in Bricklaying, Michael Tran says the competition taught him about time management. "I was under the pump to build a free-standing wall and I did it in less than four hours."

"You can get lost in your day-to-day work" says Steven Di Berardino, winner of the Joinery category. "The good thing about the competition is that you can prove to yourself that you've got the skills."

All regional gold medallists are eligible to compete in a three-day WorldSkills National competition in Perth in 2014.

Gold medallist in Heavy Fabrication-Welding Darren Barnes says he's keen to go to Perth and test himself against Australia's best trainees and apprentices.

"Imagine winning the nationals and then winning the internationals" says Carpentry Gold medallist James Brettel. "You could put 'Best in the World' on your CV."



The 2015 International WorldSkills Competition will be held in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

TIME TO RECRUIT YOUR 2014 APPRENTICE?

Did you know you can now access candidates who have met the industry benchmark and are ready for an electrical apprenticeship?

The CEO, of E-Oz Energy Skills Australia, Bob Taylor explains "The idea of the National Apprentice Register was to remove the uncertainty from taking on an apprentice."

"We know that the 40 per cent or so of electrical apprentices who drop out typically do so because they were not ready for the challenges of an apprenticeship in the first place.

"So by creating the Apprentice Register we were aiming to allow employers to easily hand-pick a great candidate, who has been deemed ready for an apprenticeship."

To access the list of quality candidates to interview, register on-line at www.energiseoz.com.au/



managing apprentice progression

VU'S UNIQUE APPROACH TO APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING

VU's commitment to apprenticeship training is demonstrated by our significant investment in TradeApps; a unique, modern and flexible approach to trades training.

We've enriched how our students learn by transforming their learning experience into clusters of task-based projects, which results in higher quality and industry relevant training. Students can learn and be assessed on campus, on site at their workplace or on-line, in a training mix that suits both student and employer.

Course delivery for apprenticeships is negotiated with the employer, with up to 100% assessment offered in the workplace. The traditional model of trade school is now just one of many options available for apprenticeship training.

This dynamic partnership for skills development between the apprentice, employer and the VU team allows for the flexible delivery of an apprenticeship. For more information on our apprenticeships please contact our Apprenticeship Support Unit on 03 9919 7300 or trades@vu.edu.au

SGA ENGINEERING TRAINS ITS APPRENTICES AT VU

SGA Engineering, a thriving business that designs, manufactures and erects more than 1000 tonnes of structural steel a year, relies on its capable and flexible workforce to respond to a wide range of customers and projects from metal art furniture to customised builders' lintels.

General Manager, Ben Wooding views apprenticeship training as an integral part of developing his workforce, and ensuring the Melton-based business is competitive now and well into the future.

"SGA is currently training its five apprentices at Victoria University because of the high standards of equipment, workshops and reporting procedures, as well as the quality of the training and our company's good rapport with teaching staff", says Ben.

Through continuous conversations, apprenticeship learning is balanced between the workplace and the campus, and tailored so that employers and teachers can work in partnership to monitor and support student progress.



Ben Wooding and apprentice Justin Buttigieg.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT HIGHLIGHTS

Need a qualification for building registration?

If you are currently working in the building industry, this is the opportunity you have been waiting for. Take the next step and learn the skills to run your own building business!

The Certificate IV in Building and Construction (Building) course is a nationally recognised course that provides the qualifications required to apply for your registration. It's not always an option to take time out of your work day to plan for your future, so our Certificate IV in Building and Construction is run after hours with classes running at night and Saturdays.

Become a registered electrical contractor

Are you operating a business as an independent contractor? Then this course is a must! Designed to introduce business principles and practices to licensed electrical tradespersons, you will be able to seek registration as an Electrical Contractor with Energy Safe Victoria (ESV) on completion of the course.

RSA Certification

Before you pour your first beer or mix your first drink you are required by law to complete an approved Responsible Service of Alcohol (RSA) program. We offer a government-certified, industry-approved course where you will learn the essentials of alcohol service.

TO ENROL OR OBTAIN FURTHER INFORMATION PHONE 9919 7000 OR EMAIL TRADES@VU.EDU.AU

POWERING UP SPARKIES' CAREERS

Innovative workplace learning opportunities at Victoria University's Trades College are giving electrical apprentices a powerful start to their careers.

The challenge facing electrical apprentices is that to become a qualified electrician they must gain skills often unattainable in their current workplace. Working exclusively in one electrical industry – domestic, commercial or industrial – usually means there is limited opportunity for cross-skilling across the three specialisations.

To overcome this, the Trades College's electrical apprentice training includes working on large 'real-life' projects. Apprentices gain the practical work experience on projects not accessible through their employer.

This not only gives them the extra skills they need to gain their trade certificate, but enhances their employment options after graduating.

Second-year electrical apprentice Luke Twentyman is employed at the North Laverton site of NHP Electrical Engineering Products.

"At work I have my own workstation and build electrical circuits," says Luke. "But to get fully qualified and earn more money, I need to be able to do all types of electrical work. The VU practical training gives me the experience I can't get at work."

Twentyman and his classmates have been applying their domestic electrical skills to

transportable houses produced by VU's carpentry apprentices. Under the guidance of teacher Stan Borysiewicz, the electrical apprentices install the internal wiring and data cabling for the houses, which are snapped up by buyers across the state.

"A number of our electrical apprentices are working in large industrial and manufacturing industries," says Stan. "We work closely with their employers to ensure they gain the domestic electrical experience necessary to complete their apprenticeships. Working on real projects means higher quality, complex training that develops skilled job-ready graduates."

VU's Trades College also offers flexible learning options and new assessment practices.



Second-year electrical apprentice Luke Twentyman at work on a transportable houses at Sunshine Campus

STUDENT IN PROFILE SPECIALIST EFFECTS

Specialist make-up student of the year Julie Giuricin has been working behind the scenes of King Kong – The Musical.

"When I first finished school I wanted to do something creative but I took a different path. I worked at several jobs to support my family but realised I wanted a challenge in life and to do something that pushed me.

I learned a lot more than I expected in the VU course including character creation,

wigs, prosthetics, costumes and make-up effects. The knowledge, skill and talent of the VU teachers is impressive.

The highlight of the course was the 80 hours work experience. VU has many industry contacts that benefit student placements.

Working on King Kong is intense but incredible. I am so blessed to work with people of this calibre. If you impress one person, it can lead to many opportunities."



Julie Giuricin puts her training into practice backstage at King Kong.

FULL THROTTLE



Milwaukee's Tom Mathiesen congratulates prize winner Christopher Agnew.

The clouds may have been dark but the bikes still flew high in the sky when the ShowTime FMX Team landed at Victoria University's Sunshine Campus late in 2013, courtesy of team sponsor Milwaukee Tools.

The Showtime FMX Team is the most experienced freestyle motocross team in Australia, averaging 250 national performances a year. Students and staff were thrilled by the aerial exploits of Freestyle Moto X legends Kain Saul and Brad Burch as the pair put on a gravity defying exhibition of skill.

Trades College students had the opportunity to showcase their own skills in a drilling competition. It was trade against trade as students competed for a \$460 Milwaukee Tools hammer drill/driver kit. Carpentry student Christopher Agnew powered through the heats to win the eagerly sought after prize.

A big thank you to Milwaukee Power Tools for bringing the team to Sunshine Campus.

VICE-CHANCELLOR AWARDS: OUTSTANDING KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

The Trades College team received the Peak Award at the 2013 Vice-Chancellor Awards for outstanding engagement and collaboration with state and local government, industry and community groups to establish the first EcoLiving Centre in Melbourne's West.

THE RILEY FRENCH AWARD

The Sign Department annually commemorates Riley French, a former apprentice who tragically lost his life in a car accident in 2006. The 2013 Riley French Award was given to Nick Farr, an apprentice who reflects the qualities that Riley showed a willingness to learn, dedication to his craft and the ability to have a laugh. Riley's family continue to support this award with a donation that is matched by the Trades College.



A LONG FIRE SEASON FOR ROBBIE

VU carpentry teacher at Sunshine Campus Robbie Greaves has been spending a lot of time lately putting out fires. Robbie is a volunteer fire fighter and a longstanding member of the Hoppers Crossing CFA as well as the Deniliquin RFS (Rural Fire Service) in western NSW, where he has family.

When the horrific bushfires in NSW's Blue Mountains got out of hand last October, Robbie put down his tools and headed off to help put those fires out. Placing his own life at risk, he helped save a few towns around Lithgow and perhaps a few of the locals' lives.

There were more fires to put out leading up to Christmas, and then during January's 40-plus degree heatwave he was back in NSW, this time fighting scrub fires in the outback.

"Last year, the fire season started in October, and that's much earlier than usual," says Robbie. "And it looks like going right through to March."

Officially, fire fighters are not supposed to work more than a 12-hour shift. "But it's hard to walk away when a fire is still raging," he says.

Robbie's son Ricky – a carpenter like his dad – is also a member of the Hoppers CFA crew, and father and son are both often called out to fight the same fire. "But we always travel in different trucks," says Robbie. "In case something awful happens."

But it's not just bush and scrub fires they have to deal with. "Most of our CFA jobs are putting out house and car fires," says Robbie.

He says the University has been fantastic in giving him time off when he is called out, and his VU work colleagues back him up "one hundred per cent" while he is away. "My students even text me to see how I'm doing," he says.

In this year's Australia Day Honours list, Robbie was awarded the National Emergency Medal for his services fighting Victoria's Black Saturday fires in 2009.



VU carpentry teacher and fire fighter, Robbie Greaves.

JOINING FORCES TO DEVELOP SPECIFIC SKILLS

Schiavello, one of Australia's leading interior construction companies, has enjoyed a rewarding partnership with Victoria University, and in 2009, VU became their primary training provider for Schiavello's carpentry and joinery apprentices.

Schiavello is internationally recognised for its distinctive office fit-outs and the creation of highly intelligent office systems and furniture. The company employs close to 60 apprentices, including 40 training in joinery and carpentry.

"We believe in the apprentice system and we see our apprentices as an integral part of the Schiavello team. If we don't have apprentices we won't have tradespeople", says Director Joe Schiavello.

The Schiavello and VU training collaboration provides improved outcomes for the apprentices. VU's experienced staff have been able to incorporate the extensive knowledge based within Schiavello into the nationally recognised training program as well as utilising their industry connections to source significant off site experience for their students.



Every Wednesday, Sunshine Campus hosts a tour of its Trades College facilities. This is a great opportunity to learn how to start your career in carpentry, engineering, electrical, plumbing, bricklaying or in many other trades available at VU.

Meet our teachers, ask questions about the courses you are considering and find out what to expect at Victoria University.

The Trades College is focused on the delivery of apprenticeship, pre-apprenticeship, skills recognition, post trade 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 Sunshine Campus, Trades College:

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

Join us for a first-hand look at our state-of-the-art training facility. Experts from our trade programs will be available to discuss the best study pathways to launch your trade career.

**Wednesdays 1–2.30pm
Sunshine Campus
460 Ballarat Road, Sunshine.**

Book your place today.

Phone: 03 9919 7000

Email: trades@vu.edu.au

Register on-line vu.edu.au/trades-tour

Campus tours are also offered for our Werribee and King Street Campus.

Please contact us to arrange your tour

Phone: 9919 7000 or

Email: trades@vu.edu.au

CONTACT US

GENERAL ENQUIRIES

Phone: 9919 7000

Email: trades@vu.edu.au
vu.edu.au/trades

APPRENTICESHIP SUPPORT UNIT

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Email: trades@vu.edu.au
vu.edu.au/apprentices

SHORT COURSES

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