

Submission Number: 31
Date Received: 19/01/09



Australian Government

Australian Technical College - Adelaide South

**“Building
Australia's
future workforce
today”**



Australian Technical Colleges Vision

Students fill skills gap



TRAINING: Students Scott Pechover and Liam Nolan with Anthony Kibel and Jim Fenoughy

FRANCES STEWART

DEVELOPING our ability to address the state's skills shortage by taking on students from Australian Technical Colleges. Our company that has discovered the benefits of taking on school-based apprentices. REDARC Electronics. Managing Director Anthony Kibel has taken on two students through the Australian

Technical College Apprenticeship program in a strategy to achieve business growth. "It's about to close a barrier to new and skilled people and from our experience the Australian Apprenticeship program is a great way to proceed." he says. Funded by the Federal Government, the Adelaide Skills program allows Year 11 and 12

students to be employed and trained alongside their traditional education. College Principal Jim Fenoughy said he was working with a range of industries. "We are already partnering with a number of South Australian businesses to award and engineer, electro technology and the building and construction industries."

ATC-AS, Australian School based Apprentices with their employer REDARC Electronics

Industry based, industry led from development of curriculum to final employment- serving both local and national needs

- **Relational model** that supports and recognizes employability, pastoral care and career development skills gained through work
- **Higher end training** resulting in greater workforce sustainability. The delivery of Certificate III trade training maintains a rigorous training programme to complete the South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE) qualification.

Why have Technical Colleges?



Hands-on learning pays off

ARE you a parent with a teenager who doesn't know what they want to do after leaving school, or a young person in Year 10 who is struggling in a traditional school learning environment. Jarrod Jonker, in Year 11 last year was such a student.

While Jarrod was enjoying school, he really wanted a more hands-on learning environment to start an apprenticeship.

"I heard about the (Australian) Technical College from family friends. I am a very hands-on learner and it looked like it would be a great way to complete a trade-related SACSE, gain support and kick start my apprenticeship, all at the same time." Jarrod says.

Since beginning at the college this year, Jarrod has been living his

dream. An important first step was to try a trade to determine his trade choice.

Following this he has been doing his trade training in metals engineering, working on various SACSE projects that go towards his SACSE and undertaking work experience.

His hard work paid off and he picked up a mechanical engineering school-based apprenticeship with CHC Helicopters.

CHC Helicopters operations include on and offshore oil and gas support, emergency medical services, search and rescue and police helicopters.

The business operates 20 twin engine helicopters and employs a permanent workforce of about 300.

The Australian Industry Group predicts the shortage in trade skills will result in more than 170,000 skilled people leaving the industry in the next five years, to be replaced

- Pressing shortage of trades people
- High record of young people disengaged with main stream schooling
- By combining senior schooling with learning a trade, the college assists in the successful transition from school to work

Jarrod Jonker, CHC Helicopters

Pathway profile of Sam Fuller

All qualifications ticked off

By JANE DEAN

FISH PORT: A young teenage Sam Fuller. Finishing Year 12 was important even though he wanted to get into a trade.

"I just wanted to have that on my resume as a qualification," Mr Fuller said.

"You never know if you'll meet it later in life and it can open up more opportunities."

The 16-year-old former Hailsham Cleeve Hill school student school at the end of Year 12 he attended Salsburgh Technical College. But viale South (A20-10) last year. The Christchurch based college allowed him to combine Year

12 with his subjects with trade training and dual work, and to complete his SACE.

For Mr Fuller, the choice was all.

"Being at the college taught me a lot and it was good to get to try all the different trades," he said.

"You do carpentry, plasterwork, electrical work and spend a week

in each subject, and it's only you have to do and then apply for apprenticeships."

Mr Fuller found electrical work to be his calling and started looking for apprenticeships through AFED Group Training. He was one of the best students

to walk through the doors of the college, and graduated in February 2007, and is now in his second month on an apprentice electrician with Borden Automation Services.

His work involves installing industrial automation systems, carrying out maintenance, troubleshooting and repair work.

"I just love the industry - it's got great pay and when you're qualified there's lots of places you can go all over Australia and the world," he said.

"I have a lot of interest in it. The thing is here, all the guys help me out if I get stuck and the staff I meet to train."

Electrical apprentice Sam Fuller.

Last Year I gained an Australian School based Apprenticeship in an electrical trade. Prior to finding my apprenticeship, I tried a number of other trades prior to finding the one that I most enjoyed.

Through my studies at the college, I gained valuable skills in theory and practical applications. I enjoyed the practical aspect of the SACE and I could see how it related to my trade choice, and how I could use it on the job. I received great mentoring at the college, this helped me to maintain a balance between my on-the-job and off-the-job training while undertaking my SACE.

I graduated last year (2007) achieving both SACE and first year training competencies. I am now a second year apprentice working on exciting projects such as the local Desalination pilot.

The future looks bright!



Flexible and innovative approach combining work and study

What is unique is that the college exists for industry and is led by industry.

- The combination of academic studies, trade school, entrepreneurial and life skills with practical employment we believe produce a love of life long learning in young people that could be at risk of being disengaged from a mainstream school.
- Employers are consulted on the most workable model for them and the College endeavors to meet their needs.
- Flexible timetables, and work place arrangements mean that students are not missing out on school time while at work.

Overview of Year 11

(part of two-year programme)

Preparatory Program Feb- June	ASbA July to Dec
<ul style="list-style-type: none">· College induction· Try A Trade to determine trade choice· Pre Vocational training· Learning Plan· Industry and trade learning· Workplace projects· Structured work placements· Mentoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none">· ASbA· Induction week with employer· Transition from 2 to 4 weeks blocks structured workplace learning or ASbA· Regular contact & meetings with mentor· SACE and trade training

Overview of Year 12

Australian School-based Apprenticeship transitioning to full time work

- Transition from 5 week work blocks to 4 day working week, 1 day SACE and 2 x2 week trade training block
- Regular contact & meetings with mentor on worksite and at college
- Transition into full time apprenticeship towards end of third semester
- ASbA should graduate with SACE, and completed majority of first year training competences, which will depend on timing of ASbA training contract signed

Future Pathways model

Apprenticeship Pathways

- Engineering – Fabrication
- Engineering – Mechanical
- Electrotechnology
- Construction
- Commercial Cookery
- Automotive Mechanical Technology

Post Trade Pathways

- Engineering Technician
- Design Draftsperson
- Project / Production Manager
- Quality Assurance Technician
- Manager / Supervisor
- Small Business Owner

TAFE Pathways

- Diploma in Engineering
- Diploma in Building / Building surveying
- Diploma in Building Design & Technology
- Other diploma programs including Business, Information technology, Management, Hospitality etc.

University Pathways

- Bachelor of Technology / Engineering
- Bachelor of Civil Engineering
- Bachelor of Mechanical & Manufacturing
- Bachelor of Building
- Bachelor of Electrical, Mechatronics, Electronics, Communications etc.

Trades offered

- Building & Construction
- Electrotechnology
- Metal & Engineering
- Automotive
- Commercial Cookery

Apprenticeships streamlined

By Janine Martin

Josh Edwards has his heart set on carpentry and, at just 18, is well on his way to nailing his dream.

Earlier this year, Josh signed up for the new school-based apprenticeship program through the Australian Technical College in South Adelaide.

The first few months of the course, he said, were spent covering base work at the college and at work placements before beginning an apprenticeship at Don Wake Building in August.

"It's a great pathway to a trade and, once I finish my school year, I will move on to a fulltime apprenticeship," Josh said.

"The course has also enabled me to build my base of contacts and network."

Inaugurated in April, the concept enables potential school-based apprentices to complete their South Australian Certificate of Education while gaining practical work experience – all geared at making transition from a school environment into the workforce smoother.

Robert Harding, Housing Industry Association executive director for SA and the Northern Territory, said: "Traditionally, the education component of an apprenticeship was purely trade-



Eighteen-year-old Tobias Scheid from the inaugural program has been signed on for a school-based carpentry apprenticeship with SA builder Rivergum Homes.

related but Australian Technical College school-based apprentices receive a higher level of education, allowing them to complete a degree later on, which was unheard of in previous Australian school-based apprenticeships."

While the Australian Technical

College in Adelaide is following the SACE curriculum, subjects have been modified to show students how to apply the concepts in the working environment.

Mr Harding said that with SA's booming economy, the demand for skilled tradespeople would continue to soar and in turn the need for effective training programs for apprentices.

"The construction industry's skills shortage is fuelled by an ageing workforce and the growing number of infrastructure projects, and will only get worse over the years if we do not change the way we train young people in the state," he said.

Local businesses such as Hughes & Hero Engineering, Showtrek Productions, Vortrak Construction, Aluco Aluminium Construction and mechanical engineering firm Watson Fitzgerald & Associates were the first companies to take on school-based apprentices from the college.

"The combination of professional training and practical experience prepares students for the real world, which is exactly what is needed to increase the number of skilled and educated tradespeople in Australia," Showtrek director Steve Conroy said. ■

**Tobias Scheid ATC-AS
2007 Apprentice of the Year**

Industry benefits

- Industry input direct into trade training
- Focused personal and professional development with the ATCs creates better business growth for the future
- ATC addresses skills shortages; the mentoring received by students promotes lifelong trade based careers with the benefits of year 12 completion
- Employers have a flexible model that suits their work needs

Student benefits

- Motivated and encouraged students want to complete both Year 11 and 12
- A trade qualification + Year 12 provides exciting career pathways and opportunities
- Students see the relevance of Maths, Science and English as they use it in their trade
- Students have the benefit of trade focused learning, and earning money as a part time employee

The core of the ATC-AS is developing young people for great careers

College linked with industry

Industry Advisory Boards for each industry sector – building & construction, electrotechnology, metal & engineering and automotive

Industry skills boards

Industry Associations

Large Employers e.g.; BHP, Hills Industries, One Steel, MTA

SA Training Awards finalist 2008



- **VET in Schools
Excellence Award**
-Equal runner up
- **Australian School
based Apprentice**
-Year 12 female
Engineering student
State runner up

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