



INDUSTRY INFO

AUGUST 2007 / SEPTEMBER 2007

www.theapprenticeshipfactory.com.au

The Apprenticeship Factory Annual Awards Night

The Apprenticeship Factory is gearing up for this year's Annual Awards Night. The date has been set for **Friday 5th October 2007** and the venue for this year is the **GV Hotel in Shepparton**.

To be eligible Apprentices and Trainees must have been employed within the period of 1 July 2006 and 30 June 2007 **. Trainees must have completed at least 3 months of employment in the category in which they have been nominated. Apprentices must have completed at least 6 months of employment in the category in which they have been nominated. A Winner and Runner-up will be awarded for each of the nominated categories with an overall winner awarded for both Apprentice and Trainee of the year.

***Nominations outside this timeline will be considered on merit*

The Categories this year are:

- Best Apprentice in 1st Year of Trade.
- Best Apprentice in 2nd Year of Trade.
- Best Apprentice in 3rd Year of Trade.
- Best Apprentice in 4th Year of Trade.
- Best Australian School-based Apprentice
- Best Trainee Certificate II Level
- Best Trainee Certificate III or IV Level

Nomination Forms have been sent to all Host Employers and are **due** back to The Apprenticeship Factory by **5pm on the 10th August 2007**. This is a great opportunity for your apprentice or trainee to gain the recognition you feel they deserve.

For further information regarding The Apprenticeship Factory Awards Night please contact Cathy Moyle on Ph: (03) 5832 3334.



2006 Trainee of the Year – Rachael Creighton

More Money For Apprentices

Many apprentices will receive more money under a Government bill introduced into parliament. They will receive \$2000 over the first two years of their training, but will have to be under 30 and undertaking an apprenticeship in a trade experiencing a skills shortage. The money, known as the Apprenticeship Age Top-Up, will be paid in four \$500 amounts every six months of the first two years. Part time and school based apprentices will receive \$500 a year over four years.

Promoting Group Training

The CEO of The Apprenticeship Factory, Don Clutterbuck and TAF Operations Manager, Bridie Gildea have recently met with both Senator Fielding, Family First Party, and Minister Sharman Stone to promote Group Training and Apprenticeships in the Federal environment.

Both Senator Fielding and Minister Stone showed genuine interest in the VET Sector and the work of Group Training and welcomed the ideas put to them for the future.

Seymour Jobs & Career Expo

The Inaugural Seymour Jobs and Career Expo was held on 6th June 2007. More than 600 students, jobseekers and young people from the Seymour region came to find out about career pathways, training options and employment.

There were over 40 exhibitors from areas as diverse as SP Ausnet, Master Builders Association, Australian College of Hair & Beauty, Health & Community Service providers, Kilmore Hospital, the Equine Industry, Defence Recruitment and many more.

Attendees were also provided with interactive displays by many of the exhibitors where visitors participated in activities and discuss aspects of the career or pathway area they are investigating.

Along with the many interesting exhibitors there were exciting industry Guest Speakers including the RSPCA and Lou the Wonder Dog, The Master Builders Association, and the 'Nutty professor' from Latrobe University speaking about science careers and the Pharmacy Industry.



Next years expo is already earmarked for Wednesday 4th June 2008!!

For further information please contact Christine Cox or Carmen Fifield from The Apprenticeship Factory's Seymour Office on Ph: (03) 5799 0338.

Work Related Stress

Organisations are continually developing Human Resource strategies to engage and retain staff. The "health" of any workforce is critical to retention and productivity, yet is one of the most difficult areas to measure and assess. The facts below indicate the extent to which workplace stress affects individuals:

- 4 out of 5 people experience work related stress
- Almost 80% of people believe that stress is inevitable
- 83.5% of people feel that work stress has a moderate, high or massive effect on their lives outside of work
- Only 31% of people feel that they are handling stress

Hot Off The Press From The NCVER

Apprentices and Trainees: December Quarter 2006, Summary - NCVER

This publication provides estimates of apprentice and trainee activity for the quarter ending 31 December 2006. An apprentice or trainee is a person undertaking vocational training through a contracted training arrangement.

For a copy, go to: <http://www.ncver.edu.au/publications/1793.html>

By 2012 Today's Teens Will Rule

Who is citizen 2.0? More powerful and influential than generation X and Y, harder for business and government to reach and a spearhead for workplace change, Citizen 2.0 is already subverting established business practice and will be a major force by 2012.

Citizen 2.0 is today's teenager, born in a connected world, accustomed to rapid change and possessing unique information-age skills. Citizen 2.0 will challenge any organisation selling products, services or ideas in the future.

Today's teens often do many things at once; simultaneously watching YouTube, doing homework and talking on the mobile is a snap. They are seasoned internet researchers and they share themselves, their thoughts, hopes and creative product with the world.

When we do snare Citizen 2.0 as a customer, we had better make doing business a good "experience". Citizen 2.0 will expect harmonised instant service and highly tailored solutions.

Citizen 2.0 the consumer is one thing, Citizen 2.0 the employee presents other challenges. They will be the first group to have a full digital history online. Everything they ever posted is still out there, good and bad. From time to time, this will haunt them and their employers.

The sooner we prepare for and get to know Citizen 2.0, the better our chance of flourishing beyond 2012.

The Education Show

The Exhibition Centre is the location of 'the education show', being held on the 14th and 15th of August and targeted at 'fresh ideas' for teachers, schools and individuals regarding education and career.

There will be over 100 exhibitors with:

- the latest resources, technology and services for pre, primary and secondary schools
- information on career development and teaching opportunities

And also seminars on:

- a national curriculum
- innovation in education
- achieving a high performing school
- effective use of ICT
- resources for VELS
- anti bullying programs

To get your free pass, log on to www.educationshow.com.au or email team@resourcesforcourses.com.au.

Extra Daylight Savings Time

Victoria, NSW, South Australia, Tasmania and the ACT will have harmonised Daylight Saving Time arrangements from 2008, reducing confusion and creating additional daylight saving time days.

Premier Steve Bracks this week announced that commencing April 2008, Victorians will benefit from 28 extra days of Daylight Saving Time each year meaning more daylight hours after work and school. "The new arrangements will give Victorians a full six months of Daylight Saving Time, and give people extra time to spend outdoors at the end of their working day," Mr Bracks said. "Victorians will be able to enjoy an extra four weeks of Daylight Saving Time to spend with their families and friends and enjoy sporting activities. "The new consistent daylight saving zone will reduce confusion and complexity, particularly for tourists and businesses."

13 Skills Stores To Be Established Over The Next 3 Years

Skills stores are an initiative under the Victorian Governments skills agenda. They provide free professional advice and information to members of the public about vocational education training. They also provide people with an initial assessment of their existing skills, and referral to training organisations for recognition of prior learning which may give credit against a qualification.

Skills Stores can assist young people looking for employment, a new step in their career or personal development. They will also provide a point of reference for school careers advisors.

For more information, visit: www.education.vic.gov.au/sensecyouth/careertrans/skillstore.htm.

Victoria Raises School Leaving Age

Victorian students will have to wait an extra year until they are 16 before they can quit school, under new laws which came into force earlier this month.

The state-government lifted the school leaving age from 15 under the Education and Training Reform Act 2006. The new laws will also guarantee a place in a TAFE Institution or other public provider for young people up to the age of 20 who have not completed Year 12 or its equivalent.

Skills Minister Jacinta Allan said lifting the school-leaving age would better prepare students for life after school. "By raising the minimum school leaving age to 16 and giving young Victorians up to the age of 20 a guaranteed place at TAFE, we are encouraging students to further their education and contribute to society in a meaningful way," she said.

Staying On Track

This year 34,409 students from over 500 schools completed the survey 'Staying on Track'. The survey found that:

- 90.9% per cent of all students (government and non government schools) who applied were offered a place at university
- 8.1% took up an apprenticeship or traineeship – this represents a 2.4 percent increase from 2003
- 33 per cent of VCAL students have taken up apprenticeships or traineeships, compared with 8.1 per cent for the overall Year 12 completer cohort.

Engineering Essay Competition

Engineers Australia, Victoria is running a free student essay competition for all year 7 to 10 secondary school students as part of Engineering Week in Victoria.

The competition aims to encourage students in the world of Engineering and foster a greater appreciation of the profession. Entrants are required to respond to the following question: **How does Engineering help you care for the environment?**

Forklift Safety

Forklifts are used in many workplaces and have caused serious injuries and even deaths. Significant hazards include falling loads; tipping or turning over; mechanical failure; and collisions including striking people. Victorian employers have a general duty of care to provide a safe workplace as far as is reasonably practicable under the Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004. Mobile plants, such as forklifts, are also covered by the Plant Regulations. Employers also need to remember that:

- Keys should never be left in forklifts and that;
- All operators must be licensed.

It is important to consult with safety representatives, forklift operators and other relevant employees on the management of forklift safety. The manufacturer's instructions and information on the operation and maintenance of forklifts should be followed. The Victorian WorkCover Authority website has useful information on forklift safety, to find out more visit http://www.workcover.vic.gov.au/vwa/home.nsf/pages/so_forklifts.

Labour Force – June Key Points

TREND ESTIMATES (MONTHLY CHANGE)

- EMPLOYMENT increased to 10,454,500
- UNEMPLOYMENT decreased to 468,500
- UNEMPLOYMENT RATE remained at 4.3%
- PARTICIPATION RATE remained at 64.9%

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED ESTIMATES (MONTHLY CHANGE)

EMPLOYMENT

- increased by 2,500 to 10,459,800. Full-time employment decreased by 34,300 to 7,495,400 and part-time employment increased by 36,900 to 2,964,400.

UNEMPLOYMENT

- increased by 8,100 to 472,000. The number of persons looking for full-time work increased by 4,400 to 330,600 and the number of persons looking for part-time work increased by 3,800 to 141,400.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

- increased by 0.1 percentage point to 4.3%. The male unemployment rate increased by 0.1 percentage point but the rounded estimate remained at 3.9%, and the female unemployment rate increased by 0.1 percentage point to 4.8%.

PARTICIPATION RATE

- decreased to 64.9%.

Some Inspiration

"While you teach, you learn:

- *Based on the words of Seneca The Younger*

"Everyone gets butterflies - the trick is getting them to fly in formation"

- *Source Unknown*

"Life is not about how fast you run, or how high you climb, but how well you bounce"

- *Source Unknown*

"If you really want something in this life, you have to work for it – now quiet; they're about to announce the lottery numbers!"

- *Homer Simpson*

If you can find a few spare minutes in the day it's worth checking out these sites...

<http://www.thetimemovie.com/>

<http://www.thetroubletreemovie.com/>

And Last But Not Least...

Arinocdcg to rencet rsearh, the hmuan brian is plrectfey albe to raed colmpex pasasges of txet cainontng wdors in whcih the lrettes hvae been jmlbued, pvioedr the frsit and lsat leetrts rmeian in teihr crcerot piotsons.

The fcat taht you are ridenag tihs now wtih reaitvle esae is poorf of the thoery.

To find out more go to: <http://www.businessballs.com/scrambledwords.htm>