



back to school

Strong job prospects for tech graduates



POISED FOR SUCCESS: Year 12 hairdressing student Toni-Lee Kokolls, 17 of Andrews Farm.

Northern Adelaide school leavers completing Year 12 with their SACE and a school-based apprenticeship under their belt have strong local employment and training prospects according to St Patrick's Technical College industry relations manager, Mr Jim Montgomery.

The latest figures released by the college show that of the 89 students who graduated in 2010, more than 75 per cent secured full time apprenticeships with local employers. A further 25 left before completing Year 12 to take up a full time apprenticeship.

"Business confidence among local employers appears to be on the rise with students placed with local automotive, building and construction, engineering, plumbing and electro-technology firms", said Jim.

"Many local firms are still experiencing a skills shortage and recognise the value of taking on apprentices and developing their skills within the business.

"In particular, local manufacturing and construction seem to have bounced back quickly over the past few years.

"Our results prove the value of pre vocational trade training and a trade-focused SACE, which provides tangible and tailored outcomes for students."

Business Development Manager at St Patrick's, Mr Patrick Kelly, believes it is this aspect of the College that makes it such an appealing prospect for students and employers alike.

"Unlike other schools that offer trade training as only part of what they do, at St Patrick's trade training is all that we do", said Mr Kelly.

"Every student at St Patrick's undertakes a trade training course featuring a unique and highly specialised SACE curriculum developed in consultation with local industry and competencies from accredited Certificate I and II training packages.

"This means that every teacher, every member of the administration team, every board member is 100 per cent focused on supporting every student to achieve an apprenticeship outcome."

St Patrick's still has limited vacancies in its automotive, building & construction, commercial cookery, electro-technology, hairdressing, metals & engineering and plumbing courses for this year. Students who are about to start Year 11 or 12 and are interested in starting their trade career in 2011 are encouraged to contact the College on 1300 765 384 to make enquiries.

Applications for 2012 are already being accepted.

In the south, Marcellin Technical College takes on major South Australian trades, unique training as well as development of employability skills, resulting in 95 per cent of students successfully achieving an apprenticeship at the end of Year 12, said principal Jim Fenoughty.

"With the SACE, we have achieved 100 per cent completion over the past three years. Over the last four years, 95 per cent of the students have commenced an apprenticeship," he said.

"The other five per cent mostly secure full-time employment. We have had students in certain trade areas, for example, who now work

in retail in that trade area. They acquired specific knowledge and skills that were useful in those areas. Some students go back to mainstream to re-evaluate their career pathway."

This year Marcellin Technical College introduced three new and unique programs – viticulture, animal studies and apprentice jockeys.

"All these programs offer opportunities where there is a growing demand in that particular industry," he said.

"We have developed a partnership with the winemakers and grapegrowers in McLaren Vale.

We provide a course in animal studies through TAFE SA and we have an arrangement with Thoroughbred Racing SA, through the apprenticeship academy at Morphettville, where the apprentice jockeys complete their training through TAFE, but continue their contextualised SACE through Marcellin Technical College".

According to Mr Fenoughty, employers who work with the college in apprenticeship programs are pleasantly surprised that students from the college can communicate well, are punctual, show initiative, develop teamwork and are generally work-ready.

The college has established a partnership with Flinders University to allow certain students direct access to university courses on the principal's recommendation. Students are also able to continue their apprenticeship and complete their training through MTC Training, which is a Registered Training Organisation and a part of the College campus and leads to a Certificate III qualification in their chosen trade.

School Open Days/ Tours 2011

Catholic school open days and tours already scheduled include:

Blackfriars Priory School
Open Day – March 29, 3-7pm
Principal's Tours
First Thursday each month at 9am.

Cardijn College
Open Night – March 1, 5.30-8pm
Principal's Tour – March 2, 9.30am

Christian Brothers College
Principal's Tours – February 22 & 23

Kildare College
Principal Tours
February 12, 11-12noon
March 1, 6-7pm
March 28, 10-11am
April 6, 6-7pm
May 11, 6-7pm
May 28, 11-12noon
June 18, 11-12noon
June 29, 10-11am
August 6, 11-12noon
August 15, 10-11am
September 3, 11-12noon
September 19, 6-7pm
October 24, 6-7pm
November 22, 10-11am

Loreto College
Summer Open Day – Feb. 27, 2-4pm
College Tour – March 2, 9.15am
Toddler Tour – May 9, 9.15am

College Tours
Tuesday May 31, 9.15am
Saturday June 4, 9.15am
Winter Open Day – August 7, 2-4pm
College Tour – August 10, 9.15am
College Tours
Tuesday November 8, 9.15am
Thursday November 10, 6pm

Mary MacKillop College
Principal's Tours – 9am
Tuesday March 8
Thursday May 12
Open Day – Sunday March 6, 1-3pm

Marymount College
Principal's Tours
Friday, March 4, 9am
Tuesday, May 3, 2pm
Friday, August 26, 2pm.

Mount Carmel College
Open Day – March 16, 4:30-7:30pm

Nazareth College
Early Childhood Centre – Open Day
Saturday March 19, 9.30-11.30am
Primary Campus – Open Day
Wednesday March 16, 9-11am
Secondary Campus – Open Day
Wednesday March 23, 4-7pm

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Enfield
Open Day – Sunday March 6, 1-3pm

Rostrevor College
Open Day – Sunday March 6, 1-4pm
Headmaster's Tours
Tuesday March 22, 9.30am
Tuesday March 24, 4.30pm
Thursday June 9, 9.30am
Tuesday August 30, 9.30am
Thursday October 27, 9.30am

Sacred Heart College Middle School
Principal's Tour – March 2, 9.15am

St Aloysius College
Open Day – February 28, 6-8pm

St Mary's College
Principal's Tours
Tuesday March 1
Thursday, May 19
Tuesday August 9,
Thursday, October 27

St Columba College
Open Evening – May 18 – 4-7:30pm

Key dates

- February 18 – March 13 – Fringe Festival
- March 9 – April 24 – Lent
- March 14 – Adelaide Cup public holiday
- March 17 – St Patrick's Day
- March 25 – April 1 – Come Out Festival
- April 17 – 24 – Holy Week to Easter Sunday
- April 25 – Anzac Day public holiday
- May 1 – Beatification of John Paul II
- May 27 – June 3 – National Reconciliation Week
- June 13 – Queen's birthday public holiday
- July 3 – 10 – NAIDOC Week
- August 8 – Saint Mary MacKillop feast day
- August 7 – 14 – National Vocations Week
- August 13 – 21 – Science Week
- August 20 – 26 – Book Week
- August 28 – World Refugees and Migration Day
- September Catholic Charities Appeal month
- September 26-29 inclusive – Catholic Schools Music Festival
- September 21-23 – National Catholic Education Conference, Adelaide Convention Centre
- September 21 – International Day of Peace
- September 25 – Social Justice Sunday/Awards for Excellence for Secondary School students
- October 3 – Labour Day public holiday
- October 17 – First anniversary of Canonisation of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop
- October 23 – World Mission Sunday/International Day for the Eradication of Poverty
- November 11 – Remembrance Day
- November 27 – First Sunday of Advent
- December 1 – World AIDS Day
- December 10 – International Human Rights Day