

Tailoring to the trades

THERE'S a buzz in the air in Adelaide's southern suburbs following the recent arrival of a new vocational style of education targeted specifically at senior secondary students.

In what is regarded as a departure from the norm, Marcellin Technical College, at Christies Beach, is leading the charge in securing school-based apprenticeships and training specific to student areas of interest towards SACE studies.

While traditional trade areas of construction, metal fabrication, automotive and electro-technology are featured, the college this year is branching out into emerging professions, such as business studies, horticulture, hospitality/cookery and animal studies.

The business studies component, to be run in conjunction with the Australian Institute of Management, is fast developing a reputation as the only provider delivering tailored business training at secondary level in this format.

This means that students potentially could finish Year 12 with a Certificate III under their belt, or have gained necessary credit in pursuing employment or a pathway to further study at tertiary level.

Recognising not all students are academically inclined, the former Australian Technical



SECURE: Australian Technical College student Jarrod Jonker working on a main rotor hub for a Bell 412 helicopter at CHC Helicopters.

College (Adelaide South), now part of Catholic Education SA, provides students with individual mentoring.

Principal and chief executive Jim Fenoughty said more than 100 young people from the southern area had secured either full-time or part-time apprenticeships during the college's first two years of operation.

"A number of our students have been award winners, including the prestigious Most Outstanding School-Based Ap-

prenticeship Award," he said. "We offer a program that allows students to start a chosen career and qualification from Year 11 and simultaneously complete SACE.

"This approach has really struck a positive chord with students, parents and employers."

Mr Fenoughty said the college was playing a vital role in meeting growing demand for skilled trades.

"As a matter of strategy, we are

actively positioning our college and designing our programs and courses to assist in meeting the national demand for a skilled workforce," he said.

"Marcellin Technical College is providing a relevant hands-on education, which is backed by local trade and industry.

□ **Inquiries:** Marcellin Technical College, ph 8186 9700, online at www.mtc.sa.edu.au, or visit the college during office hours at the corner of Mander and Beach roads, Christie Downs.

Tiling skills can provide a handy income

THE tiling industry provides a rewarding career, a steady workflow and opportunities for travel in South Australia and interstate.

The the industry, like many of the building trades in the state, has a shortage of skilled workers.

Paul Johnson said he wanted to become a tiler because he liked to work with his hands and perform a variety of jobs.

He said it also would give him the chance to earn good money when he became fully qualified.

Paul is a second-year apprentice signed up by Maxima Group Training and works with host employer Sabcal Tiling.

He is one of two apprentices Sabcal Tiling is hosting through Maxima Group Training.

Sabcal Tiling co-owners Pat Calvanese and Tino Picariello said that taking on an apprentice was the best way for them to pass skills and knowledge on to the next generation of tilers.

Mr Calvanese believed that hiring an apprentice through a Group Training Organisation, such as Maxima, had given them access to apprentices that had been pre-screened for suitability to the job and their business.

"Taking on apprentices means we can train and mould them to provide the high-quality service expected of our business," he said.

"When they complete their apprenticeship with us and are fully qualified, we contract them to do work for us and can be confident that the work will be of the standard we expect."

□ **Inquiries:** If you want to complete an apprenticeship in tiling, or a number of other vocations, contact Maxima Group Training on 8340 7766.

