

HORTICULTURE TRAINING

Course bears fruit

By Chantelle Kroehn

MCLAREN Vale grape-growers and a local training college are joining forces to boost the number of young people entering the grape and wine industry.

From next year, Marcellin Technical College at Christie Downs will offer a horticulture program that includes placement at southern vineyards.

Marcellin principal **Jim Fenoughty** said students would learn practical skills, such as pruning, welding and irrigation.

"We're looking for people who want to be part of the viticulture industry as well as complete their SACE," Mr Fenoughty said.

About 10 McLaren Vale growers have expressed interest in offering placements at their vineyards, with more expected to put up their hands in coming weeks.

John Petrucci, of Petrucci Vineyards, said the industry would benefit from an influx of younger, skilled workers.

"A lot of the growers are getting older and their children may be choosing not to get involved in the industry," he said.



GROWING: Petrucci Vineyards' John Petrucci, Marcellin Technical College principal Jim Fenoughty and Jim Zerella, of Zerella Vineyards.

H0305082



Although there were benefits to employing temporary workers during vintage and pruning, it was important also to have long-term workers who were across all aspects of the grape and wine industry, Mr Petrucci said.

Since its creation three years ago, Marcellin Technical College has helped 150

southerners gain apprenticeships while completing their SACE.

Mr Fenoughty said the college's aim was the same as that of the *Southern Times Messenger* Don't Be A Drop Out campaign, which encourages more students to stay in education or training.

An information session on new courses will be held at Marcellin Technical College, cnr Mander and Beach roads, Christie Downs, on Wednesday, August 25, from 5.30pm.

stM To RSVP, call 8186 9700.

An advertisement for credit cards. It features a close-up of a credit card terminal with buttons and a screen. The text "Credit Card" and "Interest" is visible on the screen. Below the terminal, the text "WHO'S CREDIT MAKE" is written in large, bold, yellow letters. At the bottom, there is more text: "With all their comp... penalty fees, cash a... be a bad idea. So is... upfront? Cashies of... from \$50 to \$1,000".