Messenger Press: Southern Times, December 8, 2010. Page 17.

ROLE MODEL: Happy Valley's Laura Priest is the first female to win Marcellin Technical College's Apprentice of the Year Award Picture: Roger Wyman H0322405

Sparking interest in trades

HONOUR | BRETT CLARKE

HAPPY Valley's **Laura Priest** has become the first female to win Marcellin Technical College's Apprentice of the Year Award.

Ms Priest, 18, was presented with her award at the college's graduation ceremony late last month.

"I had no idea. I was really surprised," the electrical apprentice said.

"It's really exciting and is a great encouragement for me to keep going."

The college opened in 2006 as a school for Year 11s and 12s to finish their education while completing the first year of an apprenticeship.

Ms Priest, formerly of Reynella East High School, said the theory behind the technical college was one she supported.

"Lots of kids (who undertake apprenticeships) drop out of school early, and if they change their mind later, they don't have Year 12 to fall back on," she said.

"So it works because it keeps people in school."

College principal **Jim Fenoughty** said Ms Priest was a "great contributor" and he hoped her win would pave the way for more female enrolments at the school.

"There's a little bit of a perception in the community and in the industry that is resistant to girls in traditional trades," he said.

Mr Fenoughty said the school's new animal studies and hospitality programs should also attract more girls and ease the imbalance which had 174 males and just eight females enrolled in 2010.

Ms Priest has now entered the second year of her apprenticeship with Siemax International.

"I knew what I wanted to do pretty early, so when I saw the school I took the opportunity," she said.

"When I started off, I was a little bit unsure because I was a girl in the trade, but I love it now."

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COUNCIL OFFICE HOURS

ONKAPARINGA Council offices and libraries will be closed over the Christmas and New Year periods. Libraries and offices will close on Friday, December 24, at 3pm and reopen on Wednesday, December 29. They will close again from Saturday, January 1, reopening on Tuesday, January 4. Rubbish, recycling and green waste collections will take place as normal in the festive season.

❑ **For after-hours emergencies, call 8384 0622.**

FESTIVE CELEBRATION

A CHRISTINGLE service will be held at McLaren Vale's Anglican Church as part of Christmas Eve celebrations. The children's custom, which originated from Germany in 1747, involves using oranges, candles, ribbons and dried fruit to create a symbol which represents the meaning of Christmas. The orange represents the world, the ribbon the blood of Jesus, the candle Jesus' light and the dried fruit the four seasons. The service will be at 90 Main Rd on Friday, December 24, from 6pm. Christmas carols will follow.

KUITPO WINERY SALE

FAMILY-OWNED Kuitpo winery K1 by Geoff Hardy will hold its fourth annual Tractor Shed Wine Sale at Tynan Rd from 11am to 5pm this weekend. Sparkling, white, rosé and red wines, including cleanskins, bin ends and export wines, will be available from $60 a dozen. Food showcasing Adelaide Hills and Fleurieu Peninsula produce will be available.

❑ **Details: k1.com.au**

COMMUNITY FORUM

THE Northern Community Forum will hold its last meeting for 2010 in Aberfoyle Park on Monday, December 13. The group meets to discuss local issues at the community centre, 1 Jessica St, Aberfoyle Park, from 7.30pm to 9.30pm. The first meeting of 2011 will be held on Monday, February 21.

❑ **Details: Paul Campbell on 8322 1857 or campbellpbd@bigpond.com.**

TWILIGHT WINE-TASTINGS

MCLAREN Flat's Shottesbrooke winery will host twilight tastings later this month. The tastings will be on offer at the Bagshaw Rd vineyard from Sunday, December 26, to Thursday, December 30, between 2pm and 7pm. Food will also be available at the Currant Shed restaurant manned by 2008 Chef of the Region **Kerryn Oates**.

❑ **Details: shottesbrooke.com.au.**

FOOD CLUB TO MEET

THE Food Experience – Adelaide's newest food club – will hold its next event at d'Arry's Verandah, part of d'Arenberg winery, Osborn Rd, McLaren Vale, next month. Award-winning chefs **Nigel Rich** and **Peter Reschke** will serve a three-course lunch on January 16. The club connects SA food lovers with a passion for good restaurants and who want to build their culinary knowledge.

❑ **Bookings: thefoodexperience.com.au.**