

Enrolments

Defying national trend

CHRISTIE Downs' Marcellin Technical College has an apprenticeship completion rate of 98 per cent, almost double the national figure of 48 per cent, as disclosed by the Federal Government's apprenticeship taskforce.

Marcellin offers a two-year school-based apprenticeship program in the common trades and some other specialist disciplines.

The taskforce identified areas requiring improvement to the apprenticeship scheme nationally, including a lack of support, rate of pay and standard of training. Marcellin Technical College principal Jim Fenoughty believes a large part of the answer is in students' preparation for an apprenticeship.

"Most students embarking on an apprenticeship leave formal secondary education from Years 10 upwards, not knowing what to expect in an apprenticeship," he said.

"A school-based apprenticeship on the other hand is a great introduction to trade training and the world of work. There are no surprises for our students. When they start their apprenticeship they know what to expect. Our curriculum is purposefully designed to include lifestyle skills, work hardening, relationship



SKILLED: Jarrod Jonker at work at CHC Helicopters.

Picture: Neale Winter H0339750

building and work ethics." Marcellin Technical College allows students to try a number of trades to assess aptitude and interest, aiming to minimise the risk of a student being a poor fit in a trade before embarking on an apprenticeship.

Former Marcellin Technical College student Jarrod Jonker is now doing his third-year apprentice-

ship with CHC, the world's largest helicopter services company. This year the company sent him to California for some training on a rescue hoist assembly for 10 days, a remarkable achievement for the 18-year-old McLaren Flat resident.

CHC workshop manager Trevor Nash said he was pleasantly surprised by the skill level of the former Marcellin student.

"We see positive prospects in apprenticeship programs with Marcellin Technical College, because we understand what exactly they are doing and how they train tradesmen," he said.

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Corner of Mander and Beach
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Bold initiative good news for animals

THIS year Marcellin Technical College welcomed its first class of students enrolled in the Animal Studies program.

The college, known for its technical trade training, is offering Animal Studies to meet local demand for education in this area.

Marcellin Technical College offers a two-year program in a number of subject areas combining the South Australia Secondary Education Certificate (SACE), nationally accredited training to certificate level in a vocation of choice, and assistance with employment which includes apprenticeships and traineeships.

College Principal Jim Fenoughty said: "We take great pride in doing what we can to address the local skills shortage. There are many jobs working with animals but not a lot of education and training for these roles in the southern area."

Potential careers include animal welfare workers, RSPCA animal protection officers, pet shop salespeople, wildlife park attendants, zoo keepers and veterinary nurses and attendants.

Year 11 student Elise Whelan is doing her placement at Cleland Wildlife Park and enjoying hard, but important work with animals.