Advance TAFE

What is Advance TAFE?

We are the vocational and tertiary education hub of south-eastern Victoria, with two main campuses, plus specialist centres. Our vast region is renowned for the beautiful and extensive Gippsland Lakes, pristine beaches, rainforests and the alpine high country. We have a mild climate, vibrant towns and prosperous and innovative businesses. We offer terrific lifestyle options, with strong sporting, arts and cultural communities.

Our nationally renowned specialist education centres offer the kinds of facilities that other education providers dream about. Forestec is our specialist environmental, forestry and furniture design centre and is located in the incredible Gippsland bush, in one of the most diverse temperate forest ecosystems in the world. Seamec on the waterfront at Lakes Entrance boasts a deep-water berth and well-equipped laboratories, making it a hub for marine and maritime industry training that draws participants from all over Australia. Farmtec Education Centre is a working farm on the outskirts of Sale offering horticulture, agriculture and equine studies, including popular courses in organics. Farmtec also allows students to learn how to operate the latest automated irrigation systems.

Our main campuses at Bairnsdale and Sale have a wide range of higher education and vocational facilities, including commercial kitchens, trades centres and university programs, which combine on-campus classes with the latest in online and video-conferencing technology.

From the first beginnings of vocational and adult education more than 100 years ago at the Bairnsdale School of Mines and the Sale and Bairnsdale Technical Schools, through to the creation of the current East Gippsland Institute of TAFE in 1986, our mission has remained the same.

We believe that every individual and enterprise in the community has a right to educational opportunity at a time and in a place and of a form appropriate to their expectations, needs and capabilities. To date, we are the only Victorian TAFE Institute to be recognised as an outstanding RTO, awarded ‘Gold’ status for training excellence under the Australian Quality Framework Excellence Criteria. We were awarded Victorian Large Training Provider of the Year in 2006 and we continually rank among the highest in the state for student, client and staff satisfaction.

What is Advance TAFE’s role in the community?

As a regional higher education and training provider, we are actively committed to supporting and promoting the community’s economic, cultural and social development.

Commitment to regional development
To remain competitive locally and globally, regional communities need successful businesses with a workforce that is well-trained and able to adapt quickly to change. We see our role as helping those businesses thrive within their communities.

As a business in its own right, Advance TAFE is a major employer, a key consumer of goods and services, an ‘importer’ of students, and an earner of ‘export’ income.

We take an active role in regional development and have representatives on key regional development forums, including:
Community support
Our students are involved in a wide range of community initiatives, which have recently included: 30-hr rideathon for the Wheels4Life charity, the Metung and Lakes Longest Lunches, Landcare plantings, Biggest Morning Tea events, Photography competitions and exhibitions, and supporting a local sportswoman on her quest for a world title.

At our G-tec campuses, this commitment flows through into a curriculum which is designed to foster in our younger students a sense of community spirit through a program of activities in support of nominated charities.

We sponsor junior football and netball in the North Gippsland Football Netball League, and we have recently sponsored an award in the Young Hospitality category at the East Gippsland Regional Tourism Businesses Association.

Artbank
Our acquisitive art program promotes Advance TAFE’s emerging artists through the collection and showcasing of art. An annual fund has been set up to purchase commissioned projects and/or acquisitions of artworks generated by Institute students or staff.