TVET Talk

TVET Talk is the regular newsletter for staff and internal stakeholders of TVET Australia. TVET Talk seeks to promote communication among staff by the sharing of news and items of professional and personal interest.

The primary aim of the newsletter is to foster a team culture in which collaboration and open working relationships are valued.

TVET Talk welcomes editorial submissions from all staff.

Malcolm’s Minutes

Launch of the business partnership between TVET Australia and the Transport and Logistics Industry Skills Council

From left: Mr Geoff Gwilym, CEO, Transport & Logistics ISC; The Hon Andrew Robb AO, MP; Mr Malcolm Goff, CEO, TVET Australia; Ms Patricia Neden, TVET Director and Deputy Secretary, OTTE; Mr Robert Adams, Chair, Transport & Logistics ISC.

ACPET and TDA National Conferences

During the next four weeks, Australia’s peak provider associations, the Australian Council for Private Education (ACPET) and TAFE Directors Australia (TDA) will hold their annual national conferences.

The 2007 ACPET National Conference will be held in Perth at the Burswood Conference Centre from August 23 to 25 with the theme of this year’s conference “Private education and training: knowing reality, realising potential, crossing frontiers.”

On September 24 and 25, TDA will hold its annual national conference in Melbourne at the Exhibition Centre. Titled “Reframe – Refresh – Fresh Start,” the conference will provide a forum for a number of high-profile speakers to explore new understandings of the growing and changing role of TAFE.

These are key conferences on the VET calendar and TVET is proud to be supporting both associations.

TVET to support the ITSE Star Rating Scheme

TVET will take on the role of supporting the Institute for Trade Skills Excellence (ITSE) in administering the implementation of its Star Rating Scheme.

The Star Rating Scheme is aimed at recognising and rewarding outstanding trade teaching areas within RTOs. This is an exciting project and one which TVET is most pleased to be providing support.

TVET’s services have been engaged for an initial period of nine months.

TVET Staff Planning Day

A TVET Staff Planning Day will be held on Friday, 7th September and involve all members of staff in planning and reporting against respective business units. The day will provide an opportunity for staff to share ideas, workshop strategies and discuss issues in an open and collaborative forum.

Each General Manager will provide a progress report on the performance of their unit’s business plan and the TVET 2007-2009 Strategic Planning Framework.

Staff planning days are an important feature in TVET’s corporate culture. The workshops provide staff across all business units with information and insight into the day-to-day operations, performance and achievements of each business unit. It is intended that these teambuilding exercises provide staff with an important sense of ownership as well as an opportunity to meet new staff.
Just for fun, an exam will be administered at the end of
the day to assess every staff member's attentiveness
throughout the day and their level of knowledge of each
business unit's operations!!!

Staff Appointments
As the National Audit and Registration Agency (NARA) business unit continues to
progress, a number of new staff have been appointed. The most
recent staff appointments in this area include Mr Brian Kendal, NARA National Manager and Mr Simon Hitchick, NARA National Client Manager.

Staff appointments to the team working across the ITSE
Project include Mr Neil Black, Relationship Consultant, Ms Ruth Cohen, Coordinator, and Ms Jocelin Walker. Ron Mazzachi from NCVER has also joined the TVET team to offer support for the ITSE Star Rating Scheme. He will take on the role of moderation and quality assurance for the evaluations.

New STAFF Profiles
Meet TVET's most recent recruits

NATIONAL AUDIT AND REGISTRATION AGENCY (NARA)

Brian Kendal, National Manager
Brian has recently been appointed as the National Manager with NARA and
commenced work with TVET on 7 August 2007.

Brian has over 15 years experience as a senior manager in both government and non
government agencies and has worked extensively in Australia, Asia, the Pacific, Africa and the
Middle East.

He comes from a background in aviation and international consultancy where he gained
experience both as a regulator and a provider of regulated services. He also has relevant
experience in human resource management (including vocational education and
training) and quality assurance.

Simon Hitchick, National Client Manger, NARA
Having been appointed as National Client Manger for
NARA, Simon will be working with Auditors and Registered
Training Organisations to provide effective and consistent audit and registration services.

After growing up on a farm
in the Central West of NSW, Simon moved to the ACT on
completion of high school and worked in the hospitality
industry for ten years in various
roles.

Simon's VET sector experience began as a hospitality trainer
where he developed skills and experience in administration and
management of training programs and the AQTF. Simon relocated to Sydney
as a regional manager for a
Registered Training Organisation before joining St John's Ambulance (NSW) as Training
Development Officer.

Most recently, Simon has managed the commercial training operation across NSW and
been a part of the quality assurance team overseeing the implementation of AQTF and
ISO within St John (NSW).

Simon's formal qualifications include an Advanced Diploma in Business Management and
Diploma in Training and Assessment.

Maintaining the link to his hospitality background, Simon's hobbies include wine tasting and
good food. He plays touch football, enjoys the movies and
having joined the mortgage merry go round, now spends
much time looking at things to buy for his apartment.

INSTITUTE FOR TRADES SKILLS EXCELLENCE (ITSE) PROJECT

Neil Black
Neil joined TVET on a part-
time basis in August 2007
after recently retiring from
full-time employment after a
35 year career in technical
and vocational education and
training. He commenced as a teacher of agriculture and
horticulture and then
held various leadership and
management positions,
including his final 15 years as an
Institute Director in TAFE NSW.

Neil is passionate about
pursuing excellence and on
three occasions between 1999
and 2005 the institute Neil
headed won the NSW Large
Training Provider of the Year
award. In 2004, the North Coast
Institute also won the Australian
Large Training Provider award.

In the January 2007 Australia
Day Awards Neil was honoured to
receive the Public Service
Medal for his outstanding
contribution to education.

Neil is married to Pauline and
they live in beautiful Port
Macquarie on the NSW North
Coast. They have two adult
daughters who no longer live at
home and two adult miniature schnauzers who still do! Neil and Pauline deliver Meals on Wheels and Neil was recently elected to the local management board.

Neil is also a member of the Xanana Vocational Education Trust Development Group which is involved in helping to develop a sustainable vocational education system in Timor-Leste (East Timor). He tries to play golf twice a week and apart from "a lack of putting skills" his handicap is currently 14.

Ruth Cohen

After several years in adult literacy and teacher training in TAFE, Ruth joined the Faculty of Education at UTS developing courses and teaching industry trainers, TAFE teachers, community and Aboriginal educators. She held a number of senior roles at UTS, including Head of Department (HRD) and Head of School (Adult Education).

Ruth's experience includes international projects in Japan and Mexico, international conference planning, research and writing, and developing adult education projects. She worked with the national technical system in Mexico on teacher training and curriculum development, and more recently with private providers of technical training in Mexico.

As a resident of cosmopolitan Bondi, Ruth has a choice of many cuisines. However, for sheer enjoyment her favourite venue is the Concert Hall of the Sydney Opera House, especially for performances of the Australian Chamber Orchestra for the property industry across Australia.

Ron Mazzachi

Ron is a Principal Project Consultant with NCVER in Adelaide and was previously Manager of the Data Collections and Analysis Branch which collates and analyses Apprenticeship and Vocational Education and Training statistics. Over the last year he has been involved with reviewing and redevelopment of the AQTF particularly the Excellence Framework.

In the past he has also provided independent reports on the performance of a number of the State and Territory Registering and Course Accrediting Bodies in their implementation of the AQTF Standards which were first introduced in 2001.

Ron lives in Adelaide with his wife and two post teenage boys and is foreseeing the prospect of soon joining that growing rank of 'empty nesters'.

He and his family are all keen bush walkers and have travelled extensively in Australia and also overseas in pursuit of the 'open trail'. He still loves to drive his 1985 Nissan Urvan Campervan which has clocked up over 250,000km mainly going from one National or Forest Park to another.

When not walking Ron can be found amongst other things on his home computer digitising over 8,000 family film slides and negatives dating back to the 1950's and over 150 hours of family home video taken since 1984. It goes without saying that Ron is a self classified computer nerd who has no hope of redemption!

Jocelin Walker

Jocelin has joined TVET as part of the ITSE Project team.

Jocelin's recent work experience has been as a client relationship manager for a small conference company in the superannuation, funds management industry. Regularly traveling with up to 100 delegates to various locations in Australia and abroad to educate institutional investors on how to invest Australia's superannuation funds.

She has recently finished a degree in International Business focusing on economics and Japanese and will more than likely go back to do honours or masters in due course. Prior to returning to Australia to study she worked for Japan Airlines as London based cabin crew after a year and a half living in Japan, working as a golf caddy.

Born and bred in Brisbane with no real desire to move back on a permanent basis, she does visit family and friends in Brisbane, on the Sunshine and Gold Coasts and Byron Bay quite frequently.

She is happy to be on board and looks forward to working with TVET.

QUALITY AND RECOGNITION

Margo Couldrey, Consultant

Margo has a long term connection with the NQC and its predecessor the NTQC including leading the secretariat and coordinating NTQC work while at ANTA and managing the interim secretariat for 9 months after ANTA's closure until the establishment of TVET Australia.

Margo's current work includes:

- Working for DEST in supporting the implementation of the AQTF 2007
- Working for Innovation and Business Skills Australia to coordinate the continuous improvement of the Training and Assessment Training Package
- Working as part of a consultancy team for the COAG Skills Recognition Taskforce to achieve mutual recognition of licences in the property industry across Australia.

Margo will be working with TVET to shape papers and briefing materials for the NQC on a range of issues including the Transnational Quality Strategy and its implications for NQC work.

Her interests include travel (she always has a trip planned), reading, movies, English Premier League (an avid Arsenal fan) and a lifelong battle to master other languages (German and Spanish). Margo's favourite place is always a beach.

OFFICE OF THE CEO

Graham Foster, Director, Systems Development

Graham was born and raised in Fremantle, and naturally supports the Fremantle Dockers in the football, although his oldest child, Nicholas, supports the Eagles or Richmond - "depending on his mood" suggests Graham.

After commencing university studies with a major in Accounting and Finance, Graham realised that Accounting was not for him and he focused his studies on Information Technology. On completion of his tertiary studies, Graham started lecturing at Challenger TAFE in the area of Computer Science.

He then moved into a web application development role to assist the TAFE in analysing and reporting information. In 2005, he was appointed Director, Information Systems at Challenger TAFE.

In his role with TVET, Graham will manage the development and coordination of software solutions across the organisation to support business operations.

Graham is married to his wife, Jane and has two children - Nicholas (5) and Daniel (2).

TVET BUSINESS SERVICES

Manish Shroff, Web Developer

Manish's childhood was spent in Kuwait, where he lived with his family for 18 years. He completed his secondary education in Kuwait and then moved to India, where he obtained a Bachelors Degree in Information Technology from Mumbai University in 2004.

After completing his undergraduate studies, Manish worked with Reliance Energy Ltd in India as a software developer for a year where he was required to build an
application for a mobile device that Reliance Energy could use to send customers their energy bills via text messages. He then decided to pursue further education in Australia and obtained a Masters Degree in Information Systems from RMIT University (Melbourne) in June, 2007.

Manish has joined TVET Australia as a web developer. In this role, he is developing the website and back-end applications for the National Audit and Registration Agency. His aspiration is to learn about the business side of IT and eventually move into a role as a business analyst.

Manish is a huge cricket fan and plays for the Brunswick club during the cricket season. He also loves to sing and participate in jam sessions over the weekends with his mates.

TVET Australia and Transport and Logistics Industry Skills Council New Initiative

On June 28, The Hon Andrew Robb, AO, MP, Australian Minister for Vocational and Further Education officially launched a landmark cooperative agreement between TVET Australia and the Transport and Logistics Industry Skills Council.

The agreement provides for close collaboration between the two organisations in the marketing, sales and support for professional development provided for Australian Government funded training resources supplied for the transport and logistics industries.

Speaking at the launch, Minister Robb announced that the agreement will facilitate better access to 400 quality training resources for all practitioners and organisations involved in training for these industries.

“The demands in terms of new skills and skills updating are a key to the future of the transport and logistics industries. “Access to high quality, relevant training resources is an essential requirement in meeting these skills’ needs,” said Minister Robb.

At the commencement of this year Malcolm Goff, CEO, TVET Australia and Geoff Gwilym, CEO, Transport and Logistics Industry Skills Council, agreed to identify initiatives that offered opportunity for collaboration and further improvement in the quality of training for the transport and logistics industries.

The resulting collaborative approach utilises the strengths of each organisation and provides for sharing of revenue and costs. It will also facilitate further investment by TVET Australia and Transport and Logistics Industry Skills Council in the future development of teaching and learning resources and associated professional development initiatives.

“I congratulate all those involved at TVET Australia and the Transport and Logistics Industry Skills Council in developing this agreement.

“It demonstrates in a tangible way the benefits that can come from relationships between key players in the National Training System,” said Minister Robb.

NARA Progress:
Key Milestones

Progress is on track for NARA to commence operation on 2 October 2007. As with any new initiative there are a number of key milestones which need to be passed for this to happen. These include:

- NARA Policies and Procedures to ensure NARA’s compliance with the AQTF 2007 Standards for State and Territory Registering Bodies and the National Code of Practice for Registration Authorities and Providers of Education and Training to Overseas Students 2007 draft documentation has been prepared and provided to the NCVER for an independent review.

- IT Support and Infrastructure TVET is on track in terms of the systems development needed to meet NARA’s business processes, with major IT installations to be completed as part of the office fit-out programme. Negotiations on changes to the NTIS are in progress with DEST and staff training on IT systems and databases will commence in September.

- Auditor Contracting the tender for NARA auditors closes on 24 August and TVET has been surprised at the level of interest amongst parties indicating their intention to respond to the tender. Assessment of applications will occur in early September. Moderation activities with NARA auditors are scheduled for late September, prior to any required audit activity by NARA.

- Audit Model the audit model approved by the TVET Board for NARA has been finalised and is posted on the TVET website http://www.nara.tvetaustralia.com.au/audit_model

- Fee Schedule the NARA fee schedule has been approved by the TVET Board and is also available on the TVET website (http://www.nara.tvetaustralia.com.au/fee_schedule) and separately in this folder.

- Communications TVET is preparing a range of communication materials to support the new NARA operations. As material is finalised and approved by TVET it will be progressively available on the TVET website and distributed to all stakeholders.

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Royce Standish

Position: General Manager, TVET Product Services (A2R)
Holiday Destination: Ireland, London & the Swiss Alps (June/July)
Highlights: Sunset in the Swiss Alps and the views from high in the Zermatt valley

Sunset in the Swiss Alps

Augustbordpass - used by travellers, armies & pilgrims for centuries

Lunch stop amongst the rocks

High in the Zermatt valley
David Symonds

Position: Manager, Quality & Recognition
Holiday Destination: Vietnam and China (July 07)
Highlights: Cruising around the picturesque waters of Halong Bay, throwing an anchor overboard and going for a swim in the clear, warm water; Mixing with the locals on public transport between destinations; The beautiful terraced rice fields of Longji; The karst formations in and around Guillin and Yangshuo in southern China; The imposing statement that is the Great Wall of China.
Nigel Raines

Position: Manager Public Relations and Corporate Marketing
Holiday Destination: Central Europe (June/July)
Highlights: Travelling through Italy, visiting ancient places, enjoying the sunshine and lazing on beautiful beaches off the Adriatic and Mediterranean coasts.
The Three Sons

Three sons left home, went out on their own and prospered. Getting back together, they discussed the gifts they were able to give their elderly Mother.

The first said, “I built a big house for our Mother.”

The second said, “I sent her a Mercedes with a driver.”

The third smiled and said, “I’ve got you both beat. You remember how Mum enjoyed reading the Bible? And you know she can’t see very well any more. I sent her a remarkable parrot that recites the entire Bible. It took Elders in the church 12 years to teach him. He’s one of a kind. Mum just has to name the chapter and verse, and the parrot recites it.”

Soon thereafter, Mum sent out her letters of thanks: “Milton,” she wrote to one son, “the house you built is so huge. I live in only one room, but I have to clean the whole house.”

“Gerald,” she wrote to another, “I am too old to travel any more. My eyesight isn’t what it used to be. I stay most of the time at home, so I rarely use the Mercedes. And the driver is so rude!”

“Dearest Donald,” she wrote to her third son, “you have the good sense to know what your Mother likes. The chicken was delicious!”

TVET Talk Editorial Submissions

TVET Talk wants to hear from you! Have you recently seen a film or show that you would like to review and have published? Would you like to promote a charity event that your family or friends are involved in? What about sharing that joke you heard in the TVET tearoom? Whatever it is, we want to hear from you!

Email your stories, jokes, recipes, photos, comments and feedback, professional items, and any publishable gossip to the editor.

nigel.raines@tvetaustralia.com.au

The editorial deadline for the October/November edition of TVET Talk is COB, Friday, 28 September.