Building the workforce to meet the economic and community needs of Western Australia
In this edition...

*Training Matters* tells the story of Peter Coghlan, a TAFE graduate who was inspired to join the Allied Health industry after surviving a traumatic accident.

Read about the floristry lecturer who’s become a National Interflora Judge and a chef who won bronze at the WorldSkills Australia national competition.

We share photos from the Muresk Institute Open Day and announce the winner of Muresk’s inaugural Dog versus Drone competition.

Catch up with the latest news about the State Training Board, the Adult Migrant English Program and what’s happening around the state at TAFE.

All this and more in this edition of *Training Matters*.

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Training Matters is published three times a year by the Department of Training and Workforce Development and distributed to training practitioners, employers, registered training organisations, industry stakeholders, Government and industry leaders.

**TITLE**: Training Matters
**SCIS NO**: 1362924  **ISSN**: 1448-5400 © Department of Training and Workforce Development 2010

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Cover: North Metropolitan TAFE graduate Peter Coghlan has an incredible story to share.
John Forrest is anything but green

South Metropolitan TAFE horticulture lecturer John Forrest’s lifelong passion for turf has seen him honoured in a book.

Produced by the Department of Sport and Recreation, the book Grass Roots features 40 Western Australians who are the unsung heroes behind the sporting industry.

As the grandson of a professional golfer and son of a golf administrator it was no surprise to see John enter the profession, but nobody foresaw that he would become an expert on the greens, the fairways and all that lies beneath.

After leaving school at 16 John became an apprentice golf course greenkeeper. He retained his passion for the turf and worked for over 20 years as a lecturer at South Metropolitan TAFE’s Murdoch campus. Hundreds of students have benefitted from his expertise in soil nutrition and native fauna.

“I just love it and I enjoy my job,” says John.

“I like the problem solving aspect of it. I also love to see apprentices who have come through and end up running a place like a golf course or become a professional turf manager at a club or oval. That’s the most satisfying part of my job.”

Following the book launch, we caught up with John for a quick Q&A.

How do you feel about being included in this book?

Surprised, I thought I was just doing my job and being involved in an industry I have a passion for. When you look at the other people in the book it is flattering to be considered amongst such a well-qualified group.

What job/piece of work have you been most proud of?

Being involved with Hartfield Golf Course in Forrestfield. It has come a long way and is now an example of what can happen when you preserve your environment as part of presenting a high quality, testing golf course. The golf course superintendent and most of his staff have been through the TAFE training system so there is a close connection.

What advice do you give to people looking to maintain a luscious lawn?

There are four simple factors, oxygen (to the roots), light, nutrition and water (evenly). Do not scalp it. The leaf provides the food for the plant from photosynthesis. The golden rule is to never remove more than a third of the leaf in one cut.
Cabinet maker makes final cut

South Regional TAFE graduate Nick Johnston has been selected for the Skillaroos, the team of 18 students who will be representing Australia at the WorldSkills International competition in Abu Dhabi in October 2017.

Nick’s specialist skill is cabinet making – the manufacture of free-standing and built-in furniture using wood as the sole or main material.

He is currently completing a Certificate III in Cabinet Making apprenticeship, working at Studio Milton in Dardanup and studying at South Regional TAFE.

South Regional TAFE Managing Director Duncan Anderson congratulated Nick on his inclusion in the team.

"Being selected as a Skillaroo to compete on an international level is an incredible achievement," he said.

"Nick has always been an outstanding student – he was our South Regional TAFE Student of the Year in 2016 and has been named as a finalist in the WA competition. We are extremely pleased that he will represent South Regional TAFE and his trade.

"Nick has trained exceptionally hard for this opportunity," said Fiona Johnson WorldSkills state manager for Western Australia.

"He has a great support team. Joe Estermann, his mentor and trainer, was presented with a Hall of Fame trophy in 2015 at a WA medal ceremony in recognition of the work he does to support WorldSkills and Paul Milton, his employer, was a WorldSkills competitor himself. If anyone can break the recent jinx for Australia in this category, Nick can."}

Shop window on the world of VET

More than 200 secondary school students from across the Goldfields region descended on Central Regional TAFE’s Kalgoorlie Campus to attend the annual Trades Information Expo this June.

The popular expo gave visitors an opportunity to learn about numerous trades and industries including engineering, automotive, child care, construction, hospitality and hairdressing.

Coordinated by Central Regional TAFE in partnership with the Department of Education, the event opened its doors to the general public for the first time this year. Attendees heard from a range of speakers including lecturers, VET coordinators, employers and support agencies.

This year the organisers focused on encouraging attendees to see not just the training choices out there, but also the support agencies available to help them such as Headspace, Worklink, Australian Apprenticeship Support Networks and the Aboriginal Workforce Development Centre.

Central Regional TAFE’s Kalgoorlie Apprenticeship and Traineeship Unit coordinator Louise Metzke said the expo was an ideal opportunity for students to find out what vocational training can offer.

“"The interactive sessions gave attendees time to walk around and speak to industry professionals and current students directly and discover what they can expect in their chosen profession,” she said."
Salmon census

Developed in response to community interest, a new research project run by North Regional TAFE is helping provide students with industry learning experience and supporting tourism in Broome.

Training Manager Jeffrey Cooper shares the latest on the project to tag and study Threadfin Salmon in Roebuck Bay, Broome.

How did this project come about?

We identified a community desire to better understand the Threadfin Salmon population in Roebuck Bay. This species is incredibly popular in Broome and an iconic draw card for tourists to the region. The Threadfin Salmon has also been identified as a key species in the newly formed Roebuck Bay Marine Park. This project involves the students and community answering important questions about the population dynamics of this iconic species and addressing management outcomes of the Marine Park Plan.

How have the students been involved so far?

The project is at pre implementation stage and students have been involved in determining the project design. Students, Yawuru Rangers and Broome Fishing Club members will then be involved in the implementation, and post assessment stages of the project.

Students involved in the project span across Aquaculture and Fisheries Management courses and apply their skills and knowledge in sustainability, stakeholder communication and consultation, leadership, teamwork, sampling, planning and fisheries management. Lower level students apply skills in fish handling, tagging, record keeping, communication and teamwork.

With all of our research programs we look at what is needed by the community and industry and then integrate training activities into these programs. This provides students with contemporary and relevant learning experiences, while enabling us to contribute to local industry and the community.

When do you expect you’ll be able to start tagging?

Semester two is when we would envisage the broad scale implementation of the program will occur. We have completed our initial research and students have developed the procedures for the implementation of the tagging exercise. We are using cutting edge technology that, to our understanding, has not been implemented in Australia on this scale yet. It’s very exciting, but we need to ensure everything is perfect before rolling it out. This also includes communication and stakeholder engagement.

What are you hoping to achieve through the project?

The project has the primary objective of determining the movements and behaviours of Threadfin Salmon in Roebuck Bay. However the project can also shed additional insights into the population size and growth of Threadfin in the bay while also understanding traditional Aboriginal knowledge, recreational values, and community amenity relating to this iconic Broome fish.

Jeff’s colleague, Hatchery Manager Anthony Aris, with a 140cm Threadfin Salmon prior to release.
Traineeship lights up career path for Sofie

A traineeship is a great way to enter the workforce by combining practical work experience with structured training. Sofie Bosevski was nearing the end of her studies at Mount Lawley Senior High School when she began exploring the possibility of starting a school based traineeship in business. Six years on, she is forging ahead in her role at North Metropolitan TAFE and recommends traineeships as an ideal way to kick start a career.

What was the traineeship you chose? How old were you?
In Year 11 I completed a Certificate II in Business before completing the Certificate III during Year 12.

How did it work?
The school based traineeship program was run by the Public Sector Commission. To gain entry into the program, I was involved in many meetings and interviews. Once accepted, I was allocated to Central Institute of Technology (now North Metropolitan TAFE). Over an 18 month period, I was transferred to different work sections of the Institute. This helped me gain experience in a variety of the academic and administrative areas, expand my knowledge and grow a professional network.

What made you choose a traineeship?
As a teenager, I decided university wasn’t for me and I knew I wanted to be in the workforce. When I reached Year 10, my parents and I started to research what options I had for Years 11 and 12. My school career advisors suggested the business school based traineeship. This seemed like an incredible opportunity and I decided to apply. When I received the phone call informing me I had been accepted into the traineeship I was so excited and couldn’t wait to start my new journey.

What was good about choosing a traineeship?
This traineeship allowed me to study, work and graduate from school simultaneously. I was exposed to the ‘adult working world’ early on, so as a young girl I matured quite quickly. For students who don’t know what they want to do when they finish school, I think doing a traineeship is a fantastic opportunity to gain experience and help determine which career path is best for you.

What happened when you qualified?
Following graduation, I was offered a full time position at North Metropolitan TAFE as an administration assistant. I have now been at North Metropolitan TAFE for six years and because of my traineeship I have been offered many acting positions and permanent transfers in the organisation. I have worked in areas such as IT, academic systems, PA to the executive director, marketing and events and I am now an administration coordinator in the health and nursing portfolio.

Rewind to the 15 year old me, I wouldn’t have imagined that I would be in the position I am today. I worked very hard throughout my traineeship program but the hard work paid off and I will be forever grateful.

^ Administration Coordinator Sofie Bosevski was offered a full time position at North Metro TAFE after completing her school based traineeship.
Muresk helps Aboriginal students to enter the workforce

A group of students who recently completed a Certificate II in Rural Operations at Muresk Institute have already been snapped up for work by Greening Australia.

Greening Australia is a not for profit organisation which has received funding support from the Commonwealth Government to target bio diversity outcomes.

The successful students have come through the Kadadjin Boodja Bidi (Caring for Country) program which is a partnership between Muresk and the cultural organisation As One Nyitting.

The program focuses on learning through connections with the land and provides students with the opportunity to learn about their role as cultural leaders. Before starting this program, all students complete training with As One Nyitting called the Koorlangka Dreaming, Cultural Pride and Cultural Leadership program.

The students attended Muresk for a week once a month for 12 months, learning about livestock, machinery and conservation land management.

Muresk Institute General Manager Prue Jenkins said she was delighted Muresk Institute could help contribute to the success of the program.

"The course has been specifically designed so that each participant can learn how to care for country, in a practical and outdoor learning environment," she said.

"The students now get to put their knowledge into action by working with Greening Australia on a variety of land rehabilitation projects in the Avon Valley region.

"I’m thrilled the program has been successful and that students are already finding paid employment as a result of the course."

Muresk has already started training the next group of students from As One Nyitting. A graduation ceremony and official welcome to the new group has been conducted at a cultural site by elder Trevor Davis. The site was developed by the students and shows the six seasons of the Noongar calendar.

Adult Migrant English Program

Enhanced flexibility and support for students is just one of the outcomes of changes to the Adult Migrant English Program.

The program also gives training providers increased flexibility and innovation by allowing them to choose a curriculum that best meets their student’s needs.

North Metropolitan TAFE, South Metropolitan TAFE and South Regional TAFE have successfully won the tender to deliver the program in their respective areas.

North Metro TAFE Managing Director Michelle Hoad said she has no doubt they will continue to successfully deliver this program over the next six years and continue to provide important training opportunities to all migrants and job seekers.

The program is available to all eligible permanent visa holders who are 18 years of age or over and who do not have a functional level of English language proficiency.

For more information about AMEP programs available in your area visit education.gov.au.
The learning styles of Generation Z and their impact on teaching practices was one of many engaging discussions held at the 2017 Training Providers Forum.

Organised by the Department’s sector capability branch, the Training Providers Forum attracted 350 vocational education and training professionals in person and online via webinar.

Featuring a panel that included a student and one of the world’s leading thinkers around educational innovation, the engaging Generation Z debate showed just how far the world has moved on from the old world of chalk and talk.

The panel fielded questions from delegates regarding the challenges of modifying learning practice in response to Generation Z characteristics.

Tegan Mossop, the 2016 WA Trainer of the Year, uses a range of innovative teaching practice in her role teaching skills to students in remote Aboriginal communities.

"There are countless ways to engage this generation. Physical activity, competition, scavenger hunts, arts, problem solving and the list goes on forever," said Tegan.

"The key is that it needs to be edgy and engaging. We need to spark the interest of these young people who are quite easily bored. For Generation Z, the learning environment needs to reflect their world and their needs. The teacher is no longer the sacred provider of all information because Google is. The teacher is the facilitator guiding the students to learn through experiences."

Modern technology and its usefulness for training featured heavily in the debate.

"A generation of students is now here who are in many ways much more technologically sophisticated than..."
Morena Stanley spoke about managing
and responding to risk.

VET consultant Claire Werner presented on achieving
quality outcomes for trainers and students.

The VET student perspective was
illustrated through presentations
from three WorldSkills state and
national medallists.

Dusti-Lee Franchi, Sallie Brittain and
Thomas Pratt were all gold medallists
in the 2015 regional competitions
and brought home medals for
Western Australia at the WorldSkills
Australia National Competition in
October last year.

The winners revealed how their
WorldSkills journey became a life-
changing experience following last
year’s success.

A lunchtime presentation by Rod
Camm focused on lifting the standards
of tertiary education. Covering the
key roles of industry, regulators and
government, it was an honest and
often humorous presentation about
what needs to be done to raise the
bar in the VET sector.

The event provided work experience
for Diploma of Events and Advanced

Diploma of Television Broadcasting
students from North Metropolitan
TAFE, and for a jazz ensemble
provided by WAAPA. The band was a
fitting, mellow finale to a hectic and
full program.

The plenary sessions, presenter
PowerPoints and several of the
workshops are now available as PD
resources. Please contact
pd.sector.capability@dtwd.wa.gov.au
for further details.

Delegates enjoyed the longer one
day format, with almost 100 starting
the day at the forum breakfast
and a similar number staying on
to network with colleagues in the
evening. Fitting more into one day
but maintaining the same day price
for delegates resulted in a very cost
effective professional development
event for the VET sector,” said Sector
Capability Manager, Janice Calcei.

The forum’s format was revised
this year with delegates
resoundingly positive about the
switch to a one day event and a
refocus on the VET practitioner.

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VET consultant Claire Werner presented on achieving
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WorldSkills speakers with DTWD’s Fiona Johnson (L-R) Sallie Brittain, Dusti-Lee Franchi
and Thomas Pratt.

Training Accreditation Council Secretariat
Morena Stanley spoke about managing
and responding to risk.
As he arched up his head struck the jagged underside of a kerbstone. Peter thought he was fine, all too familiar with the knocks and scrapes that came with being a brickie. What he didn’t know was the blow had started a massive brain stem stroke. Within hours he was placed in an induced coma, and awoke three days later with Locked in Syndrome and total quadriplegia. All he could move was his eyelids.

Facing some of the most arduous and challenging rehab you can, this North Metropolitan TAFE graduate has since become the first person in Australia with that condition to recover and begin working in the Allied Health industry.

Before that fateful day Peter had already conquered a significant health challenge. While still in the UK, Peter was forced to leave the army following a battle with Hodgkin’s Lymphoma. Peter had to switch careers and joined the construction industry before emigrating to Perth in 2003.

Peter was a fit and active 33 year old, building a new life with his former wife Jade. The first clue everything was not ok after the incident was the drive home from the day’s work.

“I stopped and bought a mocha and as the assistant handed me the change I couldn’t see his hand. He had to place the change in mine. My vision then came back and I went home. I felt really tired and decided I should lie down for a bit. I woke four hours later and my face was

Miracle man’s third career

The phrase ‘life can change in an instant’ is something Peter Coghlan knows better than most. In March 2011, Peter was helping a friend lay underground pipes when a simple back stretch changed everything.
beginning to go numb. I felt vague, couldn’t walk properly and told visiting friends that I thought I was having a stroke,” said Peter.

His friends drove him straight to Joondalup Hospital Emergency Department. Collapsing into a wheelchair and losing consciousness rapidly, Peter’s family were concerned the initial perception was it was just another intoxicated young guy in the waiting room. He credits his sister as the person who saved his life.

“Vicky banged on the counter and shouted ‘I want a doctor for my brother right now’ as loud as she could,” said Peter.

Wheeled straight through for a scan, the last thing Peter remembers is saying simply... ‘I’m very frightened.’

When he woke from his coma Peter realised he could not move or speak. The only way Peter could communicate with his carers was through an alphabet board. Blinking appropriately for the right letters was an exhausting process and he was often forced to sleep after struggling through just a sentence.

"I remember the very first word I spelt out was ‘shorts’ because I was so sick of being naked!” joked Peter.

The next few months saw Peter determined to recover. For example, he began by getting his wife to leave a pillow at his feet every time she left. He would then spend hours willing his limbs to move it to get his quad muscles going. It took three weeks to get any movement at all.

Next was the goal of standing up. It took three months.

"The staff there were simply amazing. The way they help you get through every day and try to make you laugh or smile when you are at your lowest point in life was incredible.”

It was during his rehabilitation at Shenton Park that Peter first thought that if he recovered he wanted to work in the health industry and do everything the medical support staff at Shenton Park had done for him. Peter’s speech pathologist David Harrison suggested he consider Allied Health training which would enable him to work as an assistant to therapists and physiotherapists.
Feeling constantly like he didn’t belong in hospital, the desire to get home drove everything Peter did.

"Every day I said to myself that I would not go to sleep until I can’t do anymore, until I had absolutely no energy left. Even if I had a tiny bit left at the end of a day I would do stretches in bed."

Remarkably, Peter walked out of hospital six months and one day after his accident.

Then of course he did what anyone would do. He started a blog, wrote a book, started learning guitar, began volunteer work, went on ABC radio, re-learnt how to ride a bike and headed back to college!

Determined to re-join the workforce, Peter enrolled at North Metropolitan TAFE and completed a Certificate III in Allied Health at the Joondalup campus.

Having never even used a mouse before, Peter had a technical learning curve to master in combination with the academic program.

"The TAFE lecturers were incredible. They went out of their way to help me. They sat me down and helped me with my assignments and often took the time to re-interpret assignment questions to help me fully understand."

Qualifying in early 2017, Peter began voluntary work at Community Vision in Kingsley. To his delight he was soon offered part time work and now spends his days helping others.

"I want to do so much now. All that time lying on my back unable to speak or move has left me determined to do everything I can," he said.

"It’s funny you know – when I was in the army and construction I was known as ‘ave a chat’. Then fate came along and the next thing I was paralysed with Locked in Syndrome and couldn’t even move my tongue."

Well it’s safe to say that ‘ave a chat’ is back.

To read more about Peter’s story visit petercoghlan.com.

The TAFE lecturers were incredible. They went out of their way to help me. They sat me down and helped me with my assignments and often took the time to re-interpret assignment questions to help me fully understand."

^ Peter proudly shows off his Certificate III in Allied Health Assistance
Stepping Stones program making big strides in literacy and numeracy

According to ABS data almost 44 per cent of Australians have low literacy and numeracy skills. This equates to more than 7 million people. It’s an alarming statistic, but Gosnells PCYC is achieving great results with a specialised program for young people struggling with their literacy and numeracy.

Project Stepping Stones is a certified basic numeracy and literacy program for Year 11 and Year 12 students that are disengaged from mainstream education. Delivered in partnership with the Department of Education and Centacare Employment and Training the program also encourages behavioural change in participants. The small classes provide tailored training to give students the necessary skills required to progress into the workforce or further training.

A graduate of the program, Kye Allen, gave his views on why so many school students were struggling with literacy and numeracy on SBS’s show Insight last year.

Kye’s personal struggle was a result of domestic unrest at home and caused him to miss a lot of school. As a result, Kye began falling behind his peers and was unable to catch up. “My reading wasn’t that good and my writing was bad but it’s been better since I got here,” said Kye.

Gosnells PCYC Centre Manager Jackie Abbott stressed the collaborative element and ability to adapt to the needs of the individual youth was key to the program’s success.

"With the support of our valued partners we are able to adjust and modify current teaching methods to ensure youth are catered for. This is extremely important for the success of our students as all students have been critically disengaged from mainstream education for a substantial period of time and the majority of our students come from disadvantaged backgrounds."

Kye’s dream of becoming a chef was realised when he was signed up for an apprenticeship with a local restaurant near the end of 2016. He also still hopes to join the army when he is old enough and believes he now has the skills to achieve this other lifelong dream. ^

^ Kye Allen is following his dreams of becoming a chef after graduating from the Stepping Stones program
Developing an inclusive and diverse workforce

As a global mining company with a history of more than 50 years in Western Australia, Rio Tinto understands what is required to develop the talent of an inclusive and diverse workforce in order to meet the challenges of the dynamic mining industry.

Rio Tinto’s commitment to inclusion and diversity begins at the top. Chief Executive of Rio Tinto, J-S Jacques said “an inclusive culture and diverse workforce delivers superior performance by engaging people, leveraging their different perspectives and retaining the best talent.”

This is evident through their Aboriginal Training and Support traineeship program. The program partners with mine sites, corporate, rail and marine divisions to recruit, develop and support Indigenous employees with training and employment pathways that lead to permanent and sustainable employment. In 2017, all participants averaged a six month tenure on the program before successfully transitioning into full time, permanent roles.

Rio Tinto also supports programs offered in the Pilbara by the Graham (Polly) Farmer Foundation, the Wirrpanda Foundation and Clontarf as a means of preparing future Rio Tinto Iron Ore employees with job ready abilities in non-skilled, semi-skilled and skilled roles. In 2017, Rio Tinto partnered with Central Regional TAFE to fund 10 Aboriginal scholarships across the three campuses; Geraldton, Exmouth and Carnarvon.

Rio Tinto’s graduate program is another enabler of diversity. Manager Learning and Development, Dick Servin said in order to create long-term sustainability and effectiveness of Rio Tinto’s programs the emphasis needed to be on a holistic approach where diversity scholarships were part of the internship, vacation work and mentoring programs, supported by a dedicated team whose focus was on managing the end-to-end development experience.

“Supporting the learning needs of an inclusive and diverse workforce requires a proven strategic mechanism. At Rio Tinto, the learning and development function is underpinned by the Learning Management Framework which supports the end to end management of all the business’ learning,” Mr Servin said.

“From working with the business to define the potential learning need through to developing the approach and delivery of the training and finally to the administration and quality assurance elements of the function, this framework is vital for a consistent, quality, fit-for-purpose approach to how our learning needs are managed.”

In 2016, Rio Tinto Iron Ore (WA) won ‘Best Learning Organisation’ at the Australian Institute of Training and Development National Training Excellence Awards and the Western Australian framework has subsequently been adopted globally by the Rio Tinto business.
The Skills West Expo will take place 18–20 August and entry is free to the public. The event is once again being supported by the State Government and promises to deliver three pavilions packed full of ideas and pathways for those interested in skilled careers.

Major state employers, such as the WA Police, Department of Health and Department of Defence will be recruiting and there will be plenty of help on hand for those wanting advice or seeking to develop their career prospects through training.

The event is under new management with Kym Jones Exhibitions and Events and they are looking to bring a fresh take to a tried and tested format.

"We are keen for visitors to enjoy a broad range of experiences at this year’s show," says Event Director Kym Jones.

We have plenty of hands on activities for visitors to try and a suite of professionals to provide career advice and help with essential job skills such as resume writing.

TAFE will be exhibiting under its TAFE Choices banner, with a stand and activities designed to cover a broad range of interests, including a full size outside broadcast unit and BOOM radio broadcasting live on air throughout the event.

The Department of Training and Workforce Development’s Career Centre will also be providing guidance and directions on how to get the skills needed for that dream job.

Over the course of the weekend visitors can watch the WorldSkills Regional Competitions live as the best apprentices from around the state battle it out for top honours.

On Friday, VETiS competitions in Automotive, Bricklaying and Wall and Floor Tiling will take centre stage. Then on Saturday the open competitions will continue with experts in refrigeration, construction and automotive running complementary Try’aSkill activities as the competitions unfold.

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For those with more of a creative leaning, there will be plenty of activity, with massage and beauty therapy just two of the very popular activities for visitors to try.

Doors open at 9.00 am on the Friday, which is traditionally Schools Day and the Expo runs until 4.00 pm on both Saturday and Sunday. For more information, visit skillswestexpo.com.au.

^ Jeweller Jason Nesbit demonstrates his skills

^ Jennifer Newby works on her jewellery creation

^ Beauty technician Natasha Webster puts the finishing touches on her model
Muresk showcases the new age of agriculture

Dogs racing drones, Moojepin mutton stew and driverless tractor demonstrations were just some of the highlights of recent events at Muresk Institute.

In May, Muresk welcomed hundreds of people through the gates for the annual Muresk Institute Open Day and inaugural Dog versus Drone competition.

The open day was an opportunity for visitors to speak to training providers and industry representatives about careers in the agricultural industry. Central Regional TAFE, Charles Sturt University, Murdoch University, SCOPE Training, South Regional TAFE and Wide Open Agriculture were all on hand to answer questions from potential students.

Muresk General Manager Prue Jenkins said she was delighted with the turn out and the amount of interest in the courses on offer.

"At Muresk we have a range of courses available from a four day project management course to a six month Certificate III in Agriculture to a one year Certificate II in Veterinary Nursing," she said.

"The agricultural industry is really transforming and it’s great to be able to showcase the variety of career opportunities to potential students as well as the new techniques and technologies used in the sector."

WA Food Ambassador Don Hancey attended the open day and wowed the crowd with samples of his delicious Moojepin mutton stew. Mr Hancey sourced the mutton from the Moojepin Farm near Katanning and spoke to visitors about the benefits of sourcing locally grown products.

Students from As One Nyitting, an Aboriginal cultural organisation, worked with Mr Hancey and served up a variety of sausages including beef bush tomato and mountain pepper leaf chipolatas, served with mini damper rolls.

Visitors also enjoyed farm tours, a petting zoo, a vintage car display, an art exhibition and a range of demonstrations on drone technology, working sheepdogs, horse hoof care, sheep shearing and low stress cattle handling.

Prior to the open day, Muresk hosted its inaugural Dog versus Drone competition. Twelve students from six Western Australia secondary schools were selected to compete in the trials and pilot a drone through an obstacle course on the Muresk oval.

Sam Watson from UAV Resources gave the students piloting lessons before they were given their ‘wings’ and allowed to tackle the course.
More than 100 students from Guildford Grammar School, Margaret River Senior High School, Kelmscott Senior High School and the WA College of Agriculture in Cunderdin, Narrogin and Morawa came along to support and cheer on their classmates.

Ben Farrell from Guildford Grammar School completed the course with the fastest time, an impressive 18 seconds, winning two drones, one for himself and one for his school.

Ms Jenkins said the event was a unique and fun way to showcase the role technology plays in modern farming, while also exposing students to a state of the art agricultural learning environment.

"At Muresk we’re passionate about changing the perception of farming and agriculture," she said. "Drones, for example, are used today to monitor crops and even move cattle from one paddock to another. We wanted to explore the role of technology with students in an engaging and exciting way and open up some young minds to the possibility of a career in agriculture."

Muresk Institute hopes to make the Dog versus Drone competition an annual event. For more information about Muresk courses and events visit dtwd.wa.gov.au/mureskinstitute.
Following 15 years in the industry and two years of dedicated preparation and training, South Metropolitan TAFE lecturer Clement Lee has received a prestigious Interflora judge’s badge.

"Becoming a national Interflora judge has been one of the highest achievements and privileges in my floristry career," Mr Lee said.

"It took two years to complete the training process which included public speaking, 100 plant identifications, flower conditioning and maintenance and researching the elements and principles of design."

Interflora is one of the largest floristry organisations in the world, hosting their own state, national and international competitions.

Clement made his judging debut at the Interflora Australia Cup Competition at the Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show earlier this year.

He awarded marks to competitors for their workmanship, degree of difficulty, colour and design shape and balance. As he often says to his students, it’s about "originality, flair and impact."

Mr Lee hopes to continue learning in his new position and looks forward to sharing the experience with his students.

"I believe you never stop learning. There’s always someone who will..."
have a new idea or technique you haven’t come across before.

"It gives me satisfaction when I can share and pass on my skills and knowledge to my students."

Clement started at South Metro TAFE as a floristry student in 2003, winning his first state competition the same year.

He started doing floristry demonstrations and workshops across Australia and overseas and in 2006 returned to South Metro TAFE as a lecturer.

"I love the designing and construction element of floristry. Seeing the final results is always the most enjoyable moment and the satisfied feeling you get after you’ve worked hard towards something and it turns out exactly how you had imagined."

For readers thinking of having a go at creating their own floral designs, Clement has a few quick tips.

"The selection of materials is very important, almost like you’re cooking. You need to decide what the overall look or taste you are trying to achieve is.

"Always have a ‘bride’ in your design, the flower or colour that’s in charge. After that you have to focus on the movement and line of the flowers – a bit like hair styling!"
WorldSkills chef’s career on the rise

WorldSkills winner and flourishing chef Sallie Brittain thought she might become a nurse or accountant when she was younger but is delighted she opted for hospitality.

competed in WorldSkills at the start of his career.

"Both my father and my lecturer persuaded me to give it a go and I managed to win gold in the south west regional competition. I was so excited and realised immediately that I wanted to compete in the nationals the following year."

Last year was an extremely busy year for Sallie. The final year of her apprenticeship saw her training for 12 months while working full time. She also began a Certificate IV in Patisserie which brought a further evening of TAFE study and training every spare moment she had.

Sallie had the foresight to realise that to be competitive at the WorldSkills nationals she would need to broaden her skills and experience. So throughout the year she would travel to South West Regional TAFE’s Margaret River campus for additional training. She also volunteered at many of the events occurring in both Perth and the South West region.

After three years at the brewery it was time to move on. Towards the end of 2016 Sallie was offered a full time position at Market Eating House, one of the best restaurants in Bunbury.

Now Sallie is being invited to speak at conferences and share her training success story with others.

"WorldSkills has given me so many opportunities and introduced me to some amazing people. I would highly recommend this to anyone who is studying a trade of any type. Even if students only compete in the regional competitions I am confident they will get so much beneficial knowledge and experience from it."
State Training Board – new vision, new look

The McGowan Government’s Plan for Jobs initiative and strong focus on job creation will see Western Australia’s State Training Board front and centre in the drive to ensure vocational education and training meets the skill requirements of the State.

The Board is the peak industry training advisory body to the Minister for Education and Training in WA. It provides high level expert advice to the Minister on matters relating to vocational education and training.

Minister for Education and Training Sue Ellery said revamping the State Training Board and industry training councils was an election commitment for the government.

"A robust training sector is essential to our jobs plan and the Board is a key player, providing a direct link between industry needs and government economic direction," she said.

Jim Walker, Chair of the State Training Board said the Board is ready to deliver.

"There has never been a more important time for training in Western Australia. The Board is committed to fostering strong partnerships with industry, employers, unions, peak bodies and government to identify training and skills needed by WA industries for WA jobs," he said.

Through comprehensive consultations, the Board will ensure that local businesses, both in Perth and the regions, will have a greater say in what is needed from the training sector in order to support employment opportunities.

The State Training Board’s new website include an online service for the establishment and variation of apprenticeships and ‘Have your say’ – an online tool for industry, businesses and employers to have input into the future direction of VET in WA.

See the new website: stb.wa.gov.au.
Reconciliation through action

Demonstrating the Department of Training and Workforce Development’s commitment to celebrating Aboriginal culture and heritage and continuing to work towards Closing the Gap on Aboriginal disadvantage, the Department launched its new Reconciliation Action Plan 2017–2019.

This is the Department’s second RAP and promotes continued engagement with Aboriginal partners and includes original artwork by staff member Nate Stuart, who works at the Perth Aboriginal Workforce Development Centre.

"I wanted to picture reconciliation in action through the frontline service of the Aboriginal Workforce Development Centres, located across nine diverse regions of Western Australia. Although they’re only one aspect of the Department, I believe it’s through this service that the Department can best express its commitment to reconciliation, by providing real opportunity and helping develop relationships and respect between Aboriginal communities of WA and the Department," said Nate.

The Department’s RAP can be viewed on its website dtwd.wa.gov.au.

Epic expo

Students from Karratha and neighbouring communities have learnt about the wide range of career pathways and training opportunities available to them at Karratha’s annual career expo.

More than three thousand people attended the Karratha Career Central: Reach Your Peak event organised by the Empowering People in Communities Career Centre.

Sixty businesses attended, showcasing a variety of careers from floristry to engineering to army cadetships.

EPIC Workforce Development Coordinator Teagan Brown said this year’s event focused on the diversity of work available locally.

"The theme of this year was diversity in terms of understanding all the businesses that make up this town. Yes, there is still mining and yes it’s fantastic but we have florists, we have hairdressers, we have visitor centres and we have a lot of tourism and hospitality that’s really important to us."
Aware of the universal popularity of baking, a lot of hospitality graduates opt to extend their skill set by gaining additional qualifications in retail baking. North Metropolitan TAFE hospitality lecturer Nathan McMurdo said the course was popular with industry professionals wanting to round out their skill sets.

"In the retail baking courses we get learners from other areas of hospitality wanting to gain additional skills in the baking area. When I was qualifying as a chef, I felt I didn’t have enough skills in pastry, cakes and desserts so I did a course to get further qualifications," he said.

"Everybody wants to produce that amazing gateaux with creative garnishing, but as they progress through our course they soon learn that amazing things can be achieved with only two ingredients. "North Metropolitan TAFE has structured the retail baking course into five distinct areas, complementing industry requirements within these areas. As our student’s journey through the five areas they soon understand each area is just as important as the end gateaux."
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