



South West VETlink Inc Newsletter

From the Office of the Executive Officer



What an exciting and busy first half of the year we have had! I have been out and about meeting as many of our stakeholders as possible and I know that James and Lynda, our Project Officers have done like-wise. I'd like to thank everyone I have met so far for the welcome I have received, not only to the position as Executive Officer, but also to the region. It's such a diverse and beautiful area and I'm loving getting out and about and seeing as much as possible.

As you will read throughout this newsletter, our office has been extremely busy, not just having photo's taken with local "Pollies", but also undertaking a range of activities to ultimately support the youth in our region. To mention them all would take too long but you can read about a few of them here. The work doesn't stop yet

though! As you can also read we have quite a bit coming up or ongoing throughout the year. Don't forget to register for the South West Career Practitioner's Conference - a first for the region! We'd love to make this an annual event so your support is greatly appreciated! And we'd still like to hear from you if you have a project or idea that you'd like to explore further.

In April, South West VETlink held our Annual General Meeting. On behalf of the Board and staff, I'd like to sincerely thank outgoing Chairperson Bruce Matthews. Bruce has chaired our Board since inception and has been a great leader and supporter of South West VETlink. Greg Slavin has accepted the role of Chairperson and Barry Alfievich is our new Vice Chairperson. Brent Steere continues as Treasurer and the following people make up the remainder of the board; Angela Ansell, Mark Browning, Peter Fitzgerald, Raelene Harris, Kerry Mather, Bruce Matthews, Joshua Slee, Peter Stone and Ernie Turpin.

From our office to yours, get comfortable - and warm - and enjoy this term's newsletter.

Warm regards,

Donna

Upcoming Activities

Professional Development

A QUESTION OF LITERACY

Would you like to be able to counsel your VET students more effectively and help address literacy issues which surface in the VET students you teach?

ATTEND A FREE WORKSHOP AT MANEA SENIOR COLLEGE ON THURSDAY AUGUST 6TH

10 am - 2.30pm

Learn how to use a CD-based resource developed in 2008 to help non-literacy specialist VET trainers better understand literacy issues. Find out how to address these issues more effectively in your training programs and help trainees with literacy difficulties.

SOUTH WEST CAREER PRACTITIONERS' CONFERENCE

ABBEY BEACH RESORT BUSSELTON 17TH SEPTEMBER 2009

FREE TO ALL PRACTITIONERS

Does your school or organization foster a career development philosophy?

Attend the **South West Career Practitioners' Conference**, a one day professional development



opportunity for practitioners to network and exchange career development practices and philosophies. The conference will provide several keynote addresses and a range of breakout sessions focusing on aspects of career development. For further information and updates, keep an eye on our website; www.southwestvetlink.wa.edu.au under the "Upcoming Events" section.

Student Activities

FUTURE POSSIBILITIES YOUTH CONFERENCE

SEPTEMBER 11TH SANCTUARY GOLF RESORT BUNBURY

10AM - 2PM

The Future Possibilities Youth Conference is an exciting event for all Year 10, 11 and 12 students at risk of not making a successful transition from school into further education and training and/or employment. All education support students, students with disabilities and students at risk of disengaging will benefit from the new format. The conference aims to better prepare these students for life after school by conducting workshops to motivate and inspire students to prepare for their future.

CHEF FOR A DAY

Bunbury 7th August &

Margaret River 14th August

We are happy to announce that "Chef for a Day" will be held at Margaret River Education Campus (MREC) and Bunbury Regional College of TAFE again this year for Year 10 and 11 students that are actively interested in pursuing a career in Hospitality/Commercial Cookery and are considering applying for School Apprenticeship

Link (SAL) Food Trades next year. If sufficient applications are obtained from the Warren Blackwood District, the SAL Food Trades program will be run at MREC in 2010.

The purpose of this day is to give students a taste of the learning environment at TAFE, opportunity to try their hand at food preparation and cooking on the day and the chance to talk to Chefs from the local area. Students will be making their own lunch under the excellent tuition and guidance of TAFE's very own Chef Amanda Smith.

The day has been made possible by South West Regional College working in partnership with South West Vetlink to host this Careers Project, to promote SAL Foods and Hospitality Careers. So please, only nominate students to attend that have a genuine interest in this pathway.

South West VETlink will be providing a bus to collect students from and return students to Busselton for this day (collection points to be advised). Students from other areas will be required to arrange their own transport to MREC or Busselton. Once there, all costs are generously funded by South West VETlink for a fun-filled foodie's day!

Please support this event and ensure SAL Food Trades continues to be the successful program that it is for the budding Chef's in your schools, into 2010.

SOUTH WEST VET AWARDS

Now in its 3rd year, the South West VET Awards will be back on the 27th October at the Bunbury Regional Entertainment Centre.

Nominations in a range of categories are now open. Information on the new application process has been sent out to all schools via email. If you would like further information or a nomination form, please contact our Office on 9751 4333 or visit the downloads section on our website; www.southwestvetlink.wa.edu.au

Congratulations



Donna Wroth (left) Executive Officer of South West VETlink presented a 'cheque' to Steve Bullied (centre) Principal of Bridgetown High School with the help of Lynda Spencer (right) Project Officer for South West VETlink

Bridgetown High School has been successful in achieving funding for an "Adopt a School" program. Thanks to the efforts of Stuart Ashbil and Marie Perrier a group of their students will be travelling to take part in an International River Health Conference to be held in Canberra in October this year. They secured the funding because the project objectives fit well into the Adopt a School program which involves forming partnerships with local business or industry in order to produce the presentation for the conference. Good luck at the conference to all those involved.

South West VETlink Inc Newsletter



Students from the Bridgetown District High School's Blackwood River Sustainability Project.



The Hon Brendan Grylls MLA Minister for Regional Development congratulates Lynda Spencer from South West VETlink for their success in receiving funds from the Royalties for Regions South West Regional Grants Scheme.

South West VETlink, on behalf of the Disabilities Focus Group was successful in our application for funds from the Royalties for Regions Grants Scheme to assist in financing the Future Possibilities Youth Conference. This event is co-funded by South West VETlink, National Disability Coordination Officer Program and South West Development Commission and will be held on September 11th at the Sanctuary Golf Resort.



Troy Buswell MLA for Vasse (left) visited the South West VETlink Office to congratulate the team on being successful recipients of a South West Royalty for Regions Grant.

Ongoing Activities

CAREER FEASTS

This project aims to assist the School Parents & Friends and Parent bodies to support an environment that builds on the relationships between parents, Industry and students.

South West VETlink will fund up to \$300 per school to help coordinate a networking opportunity that encourages an informed transition from a school environment into the workplace or career choice of the student.

ON-LINE EMPLOYER DIRECTORY

This directory enables schools from all regions to access updated information about employers who have completed the Structured Workplace Learning induction process.

Information collected includes a willingness to take students with disabilities, willingness to take year 10 students, the main area of work experience they can offer and the preference for weekly or blocked placements.

The trial has been completed and the results are currently being assessed. The directory should be working at full capacity by the beginning of next year.

ON-LINE LOG BOOKS

Development of these books commenced in 2008. They are currently being trialed by a group of students undertaking work place learning. The trial will be evaluated and the resource will be modified as required and available for general use in 2010.

CAREER CIRCUIT

A number of schools have taken advantage of our assistance to organise career talks in their school for their TEE bound students. We have accessed local people who are working in Professional careers to come in to the school to talk to students about their own career path.

WORLD OF WORK

These excursions are to provide an opportunity for year 10 - 12 students to visit industries in their local areas to experience some hands on activities where possible.

Completed Activities

AUSTRALIAN CAREER DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

Six participants completed the two and a half day training program. The facilitator, Robbie Freia was excellent and the training facilities at Combined Team Services were extremely comfortable.

The course was easy to follow and the assignments were well explained.

The one on one assessment procedure worked extremely well.

CERTIFICATE IV IN TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT

South West VETlink facilitated two "Certificate IV in Training and Assessment" workshops in Term 2. The two day facilitated Recognition of Prior Learning workshops for teachers were conducted in Preston and in the Vasse / Blackwood regions.

South West VETlink Inc Newsletter

18 people completed the two day course and are well on the way to achieving their certificate.

Alison Hilton from National Corporate Training facilitated both training sessions and from all accounts the participants went very well.

BUNBURY CAREERS EXPO

Local students from Bunbury and surrounding regions travelled to Bunbury to participate and experience the South West Careers Expo on Wednesday June 24th hosted by Bunbury Catholic College.



Students at the Expo visiting South West VETlink's stand

Career, University and Industry Expos are a fantastic opportunity for young people to gain career, vocational and educational information first hand from exhibitors.

Bunbury Catholic College and South West VETlink undertook the task of providing some of the many features offered in an expo environment to students and their families. South West VETlink supported the expo through funding under the Careers Advice Australia initiative which seeks to help young people move through school and into further study, training or work. Businesses, industry, education and community organisations were on hand to present information and career

options to students and parents from schools in Bunbury and surrounding regions.

Participating exhibitors included Chamber of Minerals & Energy, Worsley Alumina, BHP Billiton, Alcoa, Verve Energy, Main Roads, Australian Brick & Block Laying Training, Building & Construction Industry, Police Force Recruiting, Defence Force Recruiting, Hospitality Group Training, Edith Cowan University, University of Notre Dame Australia, University of Western Australia, Murdoch University, Curtin University, St Thomas More College, South West Regional College TAFE, The Apprenticeship & Traineeship Co, Forrest Personnel Inc, St John Ambulance, Jobs South West, and South West VETlink amongst others.

BLUE CARD SAFETY TRAINING

This project subsidised (in conjunction with available BCITF subsidies), schools wishing to attain Blue Card 'Worksite' Safety Awareness Training for students. Blue Card 'Worksite' Safety Awareness Training (and the associated BCITF subsidy program) is specific to students who will be exposed to construction 'work sites' as part of their Work Placement or Work Experience programs.

On 8th of May 2009, 40 participants from Margaret River Senior High School, Busselton Senior High School, Cornerstone Christian College and Donnybrook District High School attended and completed the training session in Margaret River.

PARENTS AS CAREER PARTNERS

In partnership with Jobs South West, South West VETlink funded

evening workshops to encourage parents to participate in their children's journey to find a career. They were conducted at Busselton, Collie, Bridgetown and Manjimup. Feedback from the small school campuses especially was positive.

DEEWR News

BEYOND 2009

The Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) recently announced changes to Transitions programs for Australian youth. An information session for existing providers was held in Perth in June to outline these changes.

Local Community Partnerships, Regional Industry Career Advisors and National Industry Career Specialists will be consolidated into a new **School Business Community Partnership Brokers** program (SBCPB).

The SBCPB providers will broker strategic, sustainable partnerships between schools and the community - including business, industry, community organisations, parents and families - to improve educational outcomes and support young people to stay engaged in learning.

While there are no guidelines available as yet, information is available on their website under the Youth Attainment and Transitions page www.deewr.gov.au/Youth/YouthAttainmentandTransitions

South West VETlink is committed to the youth of our region and will be actively pursuing tender opportunities under the new arrangements.