



# NSW Training Awards 2022

**Be Recognised**

Sydney Town Hall | 16 September 2022





2022 NSW TRAINING AWARDS



The Department acknowledges all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people whose customs have allowed the nurturing of the country where we work and live as modern-day Australians. We recognise the strength in their continued connection to culture and traditional lands from across NSW.

We pay our deepest respect to the Elders, both past and present, who have maintained the knowledge of culture and paved the way for our youth to be the leaders of tomorrow.

*Ceremonies*  
WUPA Artist, Craig Layer

# Welcome

The NSW Department of Education is proud to present the 2022 NSW Training Awards. These awards recognise and reward excellence and outstanding achievements in vocational education and training.



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# Order of Proceedings

## Welcome to Country

**Yvonne Weldon**  
Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council

## Master of Ceremonies

**David Collins**  
Executive Director,  
Training Services NSW

## Address by

**The Hon. Alister Henskens**  
Minister for Enterprise, Investment and Trade  
Minister for Science, Innovation and Technology  
Minister for Sport  
Minister for Skills and Training

## Performers

**Australian Girls Choir**

## Awards Presentation

Vocational Student of the Year  
VET in Schools Student of the Year  
VET Trainer/Teacher of the Year  
School-based Apprentice/Trainee of the Year  
Encouragement Award  
Industry Collaboration Award  
Small Employer of the Year  
Large Employer of the Year  
Small Training Provider of the Year  
Large Training Provider of the Year  
Women in Trades  
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student of the Year  
Trainee of the Year  
Apprentice of the Year

# Message from the Minister



Welcome to the 67th year of the NSW Training Awards – our annual celebration of the outstanding achievements of the students, teachers, employers and training providers involved in our world class vocational education and training (VET) sector.

These awards recognise high achieving young learners building their careers through work-based training, as well as adult learners who are getting skilled for a new job.

The NSW Government is delivering more opportunities than ever before to help people get the skills they need for the jobs they want.

The JobTrainer program has enabled more people than ever to access free skills training with NSW leading the way with a range of speciality programs targeting skills shortages.

In addition, we have now commenced the Statewide rollout of Careers NSW. This is a website and in-person employment service that will ensure people are connected to the jobs and training they need.

We're also investing in cutting-edge models of training which bring together industry, universities and skills training through our new Institutes of Applied Technology.

The Training awards offer an opportunity to salute all our teachers who have guided students through VET courses that require a high level of commitment, discipline, and resilience. We also celebrate employers demonstrating innovation and change driven by VET.

To all the 2022 finalists, thank you for being champions of VET. Your recognition in tonight's ceremony is testament to your hard work and devotion to your area of skill. You will go on to be great ambassadors for VET and influencers in your respective industries and communities.

I congratulate you all on your outstanding achievements and wish you every success in your future careers.

## The Hon. Alister Henskens

Minister for Enterprise, Investment and Trade  
Minister for Science, Innovation and Technology  
Minister for Sport  
Minister for Skills and Training

# Acknowledgements

The NSW Department of Education would like to acknowledge the ongoing support, commitment and contribution that has led to the success of the 2022 NSW Training Awards. We acknowledge the many judging panel members from the regional and state selection process who dedicated their time and expertise to assess the entries and select the finalists and winners across the 14 award categories.

The Department also acknowledges the nine Training Services NSW Regional offices and associated regional vocational education and training incorporated committees:

- Central and Northern Sydney Training Services NSW Regional Office, and the Bay 2 Bay Sydney VET Promotional Committee Inc
- Hunter and Central Coast Training Services NSW Regional Office, the Hunter Central Coast Training Awards Committee
- New England Training Services NSW Regional Office, and the Greater Northern Skills Development Group Inc

- North Coast and Mid North Coast Training Services NSW Regional Office, and Skills NC Inc
- Riverina Training Services NSW Regional Office, and the Riverina-Murray Vocational Education & Training Committee Inc
- Southern & South Western Sydney Training Services NSW Regional Office, and the Southern & South Western Sydney Regional Development Committee Inc
- Western NSW Training Services NSW Regional Office, and the Western NSW Skills Development Hub Inc
- Western Sydney and Blue Mountains Training Services NSW Regional Office, and the Western Sydney Vocational Training Committee Inc
- Illawarra and South East NSW Training Services NSW Regional Office, and the Illawarra Vocational Training Committee Inc

The NSW Department of Education would also like to thank our 2022 Ambassadors, who were our NSW winners for 2021: Troy Harris, Megan

Cox, Chelsea McInnes, Adam Hansen, Gabriella Adeline, Erin Jacob and Ethan Zammit for their generous contribution to the NSW Training Awards Program.

Special acknowledgment is extended to:

- Training Services NSW and DOE volunteers
- Hospitality Students from Gymea Technology High School and Ingleburn High School
- TAFE NSW - Blacktown Campus for the event student volunteers
- TAFE NSW - Ryde and Hornsby Campus for the florist arrangements created by students undertaking Certificate IV in Floristry

We would also like to acknowledge the dedication and efforts of our event managers Marya Mourani and Clare Dawson.

# Partners

The NSW Training Awards gratefully acknowledges the generous support provided by the following organisations:

## Platinum Partner

**NSW Skills Board**

**Careers NSW**



## Gold Partners



## Silver Partners



## Bronze Partner



Apprentice  
Employment Network  
NSW & ACT

## Supporter



## Vocational Student of the Year

### Casey Fox



**Field of study** Certificate IV in Training and Assessment  
**Trained by** St George & Sutherland Community College  
**Employed by** St George & Sutherland Community College  
**Region** Southern & South Western Sydney

When Casey found herself out of work during the COVID-19 pandemic, she boldly used the opportunity to pursue a Certificate IV in Training & Assessment with St George and Sutherland Community College (SGSCC).

Casey was balancing a well-established career and being a stay-at-home mum before the pandemic put her job on shaky ground. Feeling unsure of herself and what her future held, Casey decided to undertake VET to formalise her experience into a nationally-recognised qualification. Casey reconnected with her love for learning during her studies with SGSCC, and was such an exceptional student that she was offered a permanent position with the college as a trainer.

Thanks to a supportive family and her bravery in undertaking further education as an older student and busy mum, Casey has received a formal qualification, an exciting career change, and a new lease on life.



### Mathew MacGregor



**Qualification** Diploma of Project Management  
**Trained by** Australian College of Commerce and Management  
**Employed by** The Disability Trust  
**Region** Illawarra & South East NSW

Mathew enrolled in the Diploma of Project Management with the Australian College of Commerce & Management (ACCM), offered as part of a training program through his employer, The Disability Trust.

Keen to develop his key strengths with a formal qualification, Mathew used these skills to contribute to helping improve efficiencies within finance team at The Disability Trust. Finding the VET approach to learning to provide great benefits, Mathew's course allowed him to apply what he learned almost immediately into his day-to-day role.

Mathew worked hard at The Disability Trust over the past 2 years to become a leader in his team, implementing processes, including an 'award interpreter' tool, to streamline the business and help reduce the workload on his busy colleagues.

"Personally, continuing my studies with this Diploma has helped me reignite my passion for studies, having given me a new buzz to continue and complete my other tertiary studies."



## Individual Awards

Supported by

### Sara Morgan



**Qualification** Certificate III in Captive Animals  
**Trained by** TAFE NSW  
**Employed by** Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary  
**Region** North Coast & Mid North Coast

Sara embarked on a Certificate III in Captive Animals through TAFE NSW and completed the practical component of her course with Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary.

Already a qualified Veterinary Nurse, Sara wished to expand her expertise to care for wildlife, as well as domestic animals. In pursuing her Certificate III in Captive Animals, Sara not only expanded the depth of her knowledge, but discovered her true calling. Working with zoo animals came naturally to Sara, who thrived during her time at Currumbin, and applied herself with passion to every task.

Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary were so impressed with Sara's exceptional abilities, dedication to the animals, and the incredible support she offered the Currumbin team, they offered her a permanent position as an Education Officer.

"I endeavour to continue to learn and grow as an employee at Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary and look forward to the years to come in my career."



# NSW Training Awards 2022

## Be Recognised

Congratulations and all the very best to the 2022 NSW Training Awards winners representing NSW at the Australian Training Awards on 18 November.

Follow their journey

[facebook.com/TrainingAwards](https://facebook.com/TrainingAwards)

[instagram.com/NSWTrainingAwards](https://instagram.com/NSWTrainingAwards)

[www.trainingawards.nsw.gov.au](http://www.trainingawards.nsw.gov.au)



## Catholic Schools NSW

Congratulations to the NSW Training Awards Finalists for 2022. You exemplify the benefits of Vocational Education and Training through your dedication and commitment.

Catholic Schools NSW (CSNSW) has a leadership role as the peak representative body for 599 Catholic schools across NSW, encompassing both systemic and RI/MPJP schools. Catholic education offers a diverse range of learning opportunities from pre-school to post-secondary schooling and operates right across NSW, from the inner city of Sydney to the bush.

Catholic schools have been an integral part of Australia's education landscape for 200 years and partner with families, government and the broader community in delivering high-quality education and training across NSW. Today, Catholic schools educate one in five children in NSW, with 255,000 students in our care.

The Catholic sector delivers Vocational Education and Training in Catholic schools through the nine Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) managed by the diocesan offices. The RTOs offer a broad range of Certificate I to Certificate III qualifications, with qualifications in Hospitality, Construction, Business Services, Retail and Information, Digital Media Technology, Automotive and Engineering being the most popular. Catholic schools engage with more than 13,000 students annually, with over 18,000 enrolments in a diverse range of qualifications to meet local industry needs. Over one thousand students are combining the first year of their apprenticeship/traineeship with their HSC. Our Trade Training Centres have been developed to provide state-of-the-art training facilities using the latest technology and techniques required by industry.



## VET in Schools Student of the Year

### Stella Cox



**Qualification**  
Certificate III in Health Services Assistance  
**Trained by** NSW Health  
**School** Strathfield Girls High School  
**Region** Southern & South Western Sydney

Whilst fulfilling her duties as Vice-Captain of Strathfield Girls High School, Stella enrolled in a Certificate III in Health Services Assistance with NSW Health.

Dedicated to completing the HSC, Stella saw VET in Schools as an opportunity to have the best of both worlds. VET allowed Stella to pursue an academic pathway, whilst benefiting from real-world experience and gaining a qualification in her chosen profession of nursing. Stella, the third-generation of her family to pursue a career in nursing, hopes to specialise in midwifery.

Despite the significant responsibility Stella has shouldered throughout her young life, of caring for her wheelchair-dependant mother, she is unstoppable. She has displayed wisdom, maturity and determination.

"I have allowed my caring journey to not define my life but to shape it and help me use my passion for caring for others to channel it into a lifelong and rewarding career in the community."

### Sophie Hobden



**Qualification**  
Certificate III in Health Services Assistance  
**Trained by** TAFE NSW  
**School** Tamworth High School  
**Region** New England

With a love of helping people, Sophie knew she wanted to work in health services. After Sophie's mother received a breast cancer diagnosis, Sophie expedited her learning, so she could provide her mum with the right care.

While Sophie was a student at Tamworth High School, she embarked on a Certificate III in Health Services Assistance through TAFE NSW. Sophie expanded her knowledge and gained invaluable skills. The Health Services Assistance course equipped Sophie with skills to help her mother and loved ones, while allowing her to plan for her future.

Having exposure to a wide-range of health services through VET, has also helped Sophie gain more clarity in which health areas she would like to work in.

"I'm passionate and completely believe in the TVET. It has changed my life, attitude, work ethic, motivation, career path planning, and given me greater insight into the theoretical and practical aspects of this field."

### Nathan Turner



**Qualification**  
Certificate III in Tourism  
**Trained by** TAFE NSW  
**Employed by** Taronga Conservation Society Australia  
**School** International Grammar School  
**Region** Central & Northern Sydney

Dedicated to turning his dream of working at Sydney's Taronga Zoo into reality, International Grammar School student, Nathan, embarked on a TVET course.

Nathan studied a Certificate III in Tourism with TAFE NSW, while interning at Taronga Zoo in the Tourism, Trade Sales and Contact Centre team; combining his love of animals, with his love of people. During his TVET, Nathan attended meetings at Tourism Australia and was present in meetings with international Tourism experts. He also played a part in communicating meaningful conservation initiatives.

At the end of his course, Nathan successfully applied and secured a permanent role at the zoo, as Guest Experience Officer with Taronga's Operations and Education teams.

"Being able to work with animals, contribute to conservation and learn about tourism has been incredibly interesting and rewarding, especially being able to do it at a world-renowned tourist attraction and world leading conservation organisation."



# VET Trainer/Teacher of the Year

## Jill Clayton



**Field of study**  
Agriculture  
**Employed by**  
Tocal College  
**Region**  
Hunter & Central Coast

As the Industry Traineeship Development Officer at Tocal College, Jill plays a pivotal role in preparing trainees for a career in the agriculture industry.

Within her role, Jill coordinates training in the areas of her expertise beef and dairy.

Early in Jill's career at Tocal College, she immersed herself in *Canvas*, the college's online learning platform. Becoming a proficient operator and champion for the use of *Canvas*, Jill encouraged Tocal College students and her co-workers to uptake the methodology. When COVID-19 forced the entire country into online learning, Jill's application to the *Canvas* platform paid dividends, putting Tocal College ahead of the curve, with already established training delivery and assessment framework. Allowing students to continue with their studies, while staff could meet new demands.

Amongst her notable achievements at Tocal College, a highlight for Jill was the development of a breeding program, using her industry expertise.



## Clint Giddings



**Field of study**  
Construction  
**School** Blayney High School  
**Employed by** Public Schools NSW, Wagga Wagga  
**Region** Western NSW

Clint is a well-respected teacher of Construction at Blayney High School, where he applies himself wholeheartedly to encouraging his students' success. Not only an outstanding teacher, Clint is an inspirational ambassador for Vocational Education and Training (VET).

Within his roles of SBAT coordinator and Careers Advisor at Blayney High School, Clint has worked closely with Skillset, a local recruitment and employment provider, helping improve and develop VET pathways for his students. Amongst Clint's many notable achievements, is devising and preparing a submission for his students to build a Construction Cottage training facility, under the supervision of a local builder, to improve Construction training delivery.

From conceptualising and delivering innovative learning initiatives to implementing meaningful changes and improvements to the delivery of VET, Clint is unmistakably exceptional in his role as a VET coordinator, making a positive difference in the lives of his students and the local community.



## Luke Smith



**Field of study**  
Electrical Safety Training  
**Employed by**  
Endeavour Energy  
**Region** Western Sydney & Blue Mountains

Beginning his career at Endeavour Energy as a Cable Jointer, Luke discovered a keen interest in the presentation of his first aid and safety training. So, when a position became available at Endeavour as a trainer, Luke went for it.

As a Senior Trainer and Assessor for Endeavour Energy, Luke is responsible for the training and assessment of over 1000 staff, in electrical safety.

Luke thrives in his role, displaying a passion for teaching and a natural ability to connect with his students.

Luke's dynamic qualities as a trainer were especially impressive during the COVID-19 pandemic, when he recreated his face-to-face training modules into a comprehensive online learning package. Luke's online program was so successful, it was sold to external organisations across the country.

Luke's commitment to his role has also allowed him to work on rewarding projects, such as helping under-privileged high-school students prepare for life after school.



MEGT is a not-for-profit organisation which has supported employers, apprentices, trainees, job seekers and students since 1982.

We have staff operating in every Australian state, providing you with local experts who are dedicated to meeting the needs of the communities in which they live.

MEGT helps businesses, apprentices and trainees get the most from the Australian Apprenticeships program.

Our focus is on delivering the highest standards of service in every aspect of our business. We are also committed to quality and ongoing improvement, reflected by our world-standard qualifications in areas such as data protection, quality management and cyber security.

Let MEGT help you grow your business today!

Call 13 6963



# School-based Apprentice/Trainee of the Year

## Tahli Gleeson



**Qualification** Certificate II in Agriculture  
**Trained by** Public Schools NSW, Tamworth  
**Employed by** Local Land Services  
**School** Merriwa Central School  
**Region** Hunter & Central Coast

When nearing the end of her schooling, Tahli wanted to choose a career she was passionate about. Farming and agriculture had always been a big part of Tahli's life and she accepted a role as a school-based trainee with Local Land Services while enrolled to complete a Certificate II in Agriculture qualification. Throughout her traineeship, Tahli was exposed to numerous facets of agriculture and farming, both practical and operational. Tahli displayed an outstanding work-ethic throughout her traineeship and a 'get it done' attitude, applying herself with gusto to both administration and practical farming tasks. Now with an expanded resume and her Certificate II qualification in-hand, Tahli knows that VET was a great career choice for her. "I now have further job qualifications and a supportive group of work colleagues and industry mentors to help me on my career journey to achieve my goal of working in agriculture."



## Teagan Nicholson



**Qualification** Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care  
**Trained by** ECTARC  
**Employed by** Dalmeny Long Day Child Care Centre  
**School** Narooma High School  
**Region** Illawarra & South East NSW

Teagan knew from an early age that she had a passion for teaching. Whilst in her final years at Narooma High School, Teagan embarked on a school-based traineeship with Dalmeny Preschool & Long Day Childcare Centre, whilst enrolled in a Certificate III in Early Childhood Education & Care with ECTARC. Teagan knew that VET would be a valuable stepping stone to reaching her dream career. During the course of her traineeship, Teagan was elected School Captain of Narooma High School. Not only did Teagan manage the complex task of balancing her traineeship commitments, school obligations and personal responsibilities, through her exceptional teaching competency Teagan completed her Certificate III qualification nine months early; an outstanding achievement. By choosing to use VET as a pathway to her career Teagan will finish high school, already holding a qualification, and look forward to pursuing both her diploma and degree in teaching.



## Individual Awards

Supported by MEGT

## Tara Vickery



**Qualification** Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care  
**Trained by** TAFE NSW  
**Employed by** Uralla Preschool  
**School** Uralla Central School  
**Region** New England

After becoming disengaged with her Year 10 education at Uralla Central School, Tara accepted a work-experience opportunity at the on-site preschool, Uralla Preschool. Tara enjoyed the work experience so much that she then began a school-based traineeship with the same preschool, whilst enrolled in a Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care at TAFE NSW. The hands-on style of VET greatly appealed to Tara, who throughout her traineeship grew in skills and confidence. Tara was suddenly able to clearly identify a vocation she loved and a pathway to achieving it. With the goal of becoming a kindergarten teacher, Tara is well on her way to a rewarding career in an area she loves. "During my training I have been overjoyed to share the interesting contrast between my textbook knowledge and example situations to what I witness in the workplace and how I handle those situations based on what I have learnt."



# Our Colourful Heroes of 2022

## Thank you to our amazing 2021 NSW Winners

### Top row (left to right):

Adam Hansen, Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Student of the Year  
 Megan Cox, Trainee of the Year  
 Erin Jacob, VET Trainer/Teacher of the Year

### Bottom row (left to right):

Troy Harris, Apprentice of the Year  
 Gabriella Adeline, Vocational Student of the Year  
 Ethan Zammit, VET in Schools Student of the Year  
 Chelsea McInnes, School-based Apprentice/Trainee of the Year

## Encouragement Award

The Encouragement Award recognises the challenges young people face in completing their vocational training, and the contribution they make to their organisation and local community. It is awarded to an apprentice or trainee who has shown great perseverance, overcome significant obstacles to undertake and be successful in their course, and is a worthy role model to others in vocational education and training.



## Apprenticeships Support Australia

**Apprenticeship Support Australia sends its congratulations to all the winners and finalists for this year's NSW Training Awards. You are all an inspiration to future generations of trainees and apprentices across all fields. Your hard work, dedication and commitment has been recognised and celebrated, as it should be!**

We are committed to delivering an outstanding service and support through the Australian Apprenticeship Support Network under the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations. With the support of the combined 60 years of experience from Business NSW, the Victorian Chamber of Commerce, and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Western Australia behind us, Apprenticeship Support Australia has been proud to help hundreds of thousands of apprentices find and keep employment with Australian businesses, gaining lifelong experience and helping to solve Australia's skills shortage.

We are passionate about our role supporting women in trades, and our role as major sponsor of the NSW Training Awards serves this passion. Over 15,000 of our 50,000+ current apprentices identify as female – a rate of nearly 30%. Apprenticeship Support Australia is proud to be able to continue this important work, empowering women into essential roles within Australia's employment network.

**Congratulations again to all finalists and nominees!**

## NSW Skills Board

**The NSW Skills Board warmly congratulates all the 2022 NSW Training Awards Finalists. We are proud of, and impressed by, the hard work and commitment you have shown in your studies.**

The NSW Skills Board provides independent and strategic advice to the Minister for Skills and Training and to the NSW Government on how to meet the training and skills development needs of individuals and industry in NSW.

Board members have been selected for the role because they have extensive knowledge and expertise in business, skills and education policy. Our members also have experience in education and training management, project and risk management, business and industry, government, economics, market operations and finance.

We engage and work with industry and employers to make sure the advice we provide to the Government captures the voice and experience of workers and employers. In our discussions with industry, we listen to feedback about how the vocational education and training system can best support them to build the skilled and adaptable workforce they need.

We listen to learners and ask about their experiences in vocational education and training so that we can learn how to improve and strengthen training and employment outcomes in NSW. We want to hear about learners' achievements and journeys and understand how we can improve the learning experience and employment outcomes.

We conduct research to gather evidence and insights into the skills and workforce challenges NSW faces so that training providers and policy makers can build new and effective responses. We want NSW to be at the forefront of innovative and effective skills development and training.

Once again, congratulations to all Finalists in this year's Awards. We hope that you enjoy your night.

**The NSW Skills Board** provides independent and strategic advice to the Minister for Skills and Training and to the NSW Government on how to meet the training and skills development needs of individuals and industry in NSW.

**Apprentice Employment Network NSW & ACT congratulates all the finalists in the 2022 NSW Training Awards**







Congratulations to the ten state finalists from TAFE NSW whose commitment to lifelong learning has seen them recognised in the NSW Training Awards.

tafensw.edu.au  
131 601



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## Congratulations to all Award Winners from AISNSW

The Association of Independent Schools of NSW would like to congratulate all NSW Training Awards Finalists for 2022. Each student has been nominated as a result of demonstrating excellence in the workplace along with outstanding personal attributes. We also congratulate each nominated business and RTO as these organisations make it possible for students to develop and enhance their skills and knowledge with a real-world application.

AISNSW is proud to be a Silver Sponsor of the NSW Training Awards in 2022.

The AISNSW RTO is a dynamic and growing RTO embracing a 'can-do' culture in partnership with schools, industry and other stakeholders. Our team supports schools and teachers and we go the extra mile to enable exceptional outcomes for students.



## Industry Collaboration Award

Supported by



The Casino Food Co-op and TAFE NSW working together to educate our future



### Collaboration by:

The Casino Food Co-op & TAFE NSW

The Casino Food Co-Op is Australia's largest meat processing cooperative and an industry leader, processing livestock in world-class facilities.

Recognising TAFE NSW as a leading provider of vocational training, in May 2018, The Casino Food Co-op formed a partnership with TAFE NSW to deliver training to The Casino Food Co-op staff, across a broad range of qualifications.

TAFE NSW was able to accommodate the needs of the business, by hosting training on-site at The Casino Food Co-op. The ability of TAFE NSW to offer this level of customised training, allowed much of the training to be delivered on-the-job, resulting in minimum disruption to the workforce, whilst increasing skill levels.

The success of The Casino Food Co-op and TAFE NSW partnership has been showcased with several other large food processing companies. This partnership model is now being used as a benchmark for training partnerships, which many companies are now adopting.



NSW Department of Education | 2022 NSW Training Awards

### LearnAbility



### Collaboration by:

METS & The William Inglis & Disability Services Australia

When the Macquarie Employment Training Services (METS), came together with The William Inglis Hotel, Warwick Farm to provide training and employment opportunities to students with learning difficulties or disabilities, they had no idea just how successful the program would be.

A greater than 90% completion rate has occurred through the LearnAbility program, and employment offered to participants.

The LearnAbility program was designed to help students into employment, and to satisfy the need to fill a skills gap in hospitality. To assist with this, targeted job roles were identified and appropriate units of competency were determined to match each role with suitable training, contextualised and customised for people with learning difficulties and disabilities. Since the program began, David has been able to share a video of the LearnAbility program, (filmed for METS) and in doing so has raised interest from the Accor Group globally.





## Small Employer of the Year

### Bright Beginnings Preschool & Early Learning Centre



The early childhood professionals at Bright Beginnings Preschool & Early Learning Centre provide the community of Maitland with high-quality education and care for children. Accompanying children on their journey of growth and development, the staff at Bright Beginnings enrich and inspire each child's development, whilst igniting their love of learning.

With 90% of educators completing training towards a higher qualification, the management team at Bright Beginnings provide staff with a dedicated Educational Leader, ensuring each team member has access to the support and resources needed to achieve their career and education goals.

Finalist's in the *Excellence in Early Childhood Education Awards for 2021*, Bright Beginnings was recognised in seven separate categories; a deserved acknowledgment of their tireless approach to continuous improvement.

The way in which Bright Beginnings approaches training is holistic. Fostering open communication, collaborative partnerships and providing quality tools and resources, whilst being proactive with staff wellbeing.



### LaserBond



The first to design, build and operate a commercial laser cladding system in Australia, LaserBond manufactures, repairs, reclaims and enhances the performance of high wear, critical metal components in a range of capital-intensive industries.

Taking a holistic approach to team development, LaserBond offers training covering practical skills, leadership, communication, emotional intelligence and staff wellbeing. Currently involved in training 14 apprentices at various stages of learning, in addition to two interns, LaserBond's commitment to training is clear.

Extending and expanding learning opportunities from every angle, LaserBond has set a high benchmark for training, with its considered and effective learning program. Leaving no one behind, this comprehensive program strives to support staff through every career level, from interns, right through to management.

LaserBond has recently opened itself up to offer work-experience program to local schools, giving students the opportunity to learn first-hand exactly what a career in the trade would be like.



### Morgan Engineering



Headquartered in Singleton since 1975, Morgan Engineering has grown from a small engineering shop to one of the most extensive in the Hunter Valley.

Supporting a culture of continuous improvement, Morgan Engineering in association with Gimbal Training, are responsible for the creation of a niche, apprentice training program that specifically deals with the requirement for line-borers on-site.

By developing this program, Morgan Engineering have reduced the need to hire sub-contractors, protecting their company culture and giving employees and apprentices the chance for career development, by increasing their skill-base and qualifications. Morgan Engineering have successfully developed a culture of active learning which ultimately improves productivity, staff engagement, employee retention, and customer satisfaction.

Focused on delivering a fast and reliable service using state of the art equipment, Morgan Engineering lives up to their motto: "we'll make it happen", delivering outstanding care to both their customers and their workforce.



## Large Employer of the Year

### Komatsu



Recently celebrating the company's 100th anniversary, Komatsu have spent the past century dedicated to its founding principles of quality first, technology and manufacturing innovation, global reach and people development.

Looking toward the next 100 years, Komatsu's focus will be on the industries they serve and transforming to the digital workplace of the future, through smart technologies, equipment and people.

In 2010, Komatsu Australia introduced its innovative apprenticeship scheme, the Apprentice Development System (ADS), to promote more "well-rounded" apprentices and trainees, who have the trade, life and people skills for satisfying long-term careers within Komatsu Australia and the broader industry. Since 2009, over 600 apprentices and trainees have participated in the ADS program.

Innovatively nurturing the next generation of tradespeople, Komatsu's Apprentice Development System, has set new national standards for the way industry trains its apprentices and trainees, and has become a benchmark for training nationwide.



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### Peter Warren Automotive



Based in south-west Sydney, Peter Warren Automotive (PWA) are a family-owned and operated automotive dealership group, dedicated to embedding a learning and development culture in their workforce.

A particular focus for the Peter Warren team, is the employment of apprentices, evidenced by the launch of the PWA D.R.I.V.E Academy in 2021. A unique partnership program delivered by TAFE NSW, the PWA D.R.I.V.E Academy was designed to nurture the development of apprentices and trainees, whilst embedding the brand culture of Peter Warren Automotive.

Even a global pandemic, couldn't stop the drive of PWA to invest in the training of their team. During the COVID-19 pandemic, PWA maintained their commitment to recruiting apprentices with 79 apprentices and trainees beginning with PWA in the 2021-22 intake period.

PWA is dedicated to creating innovative education, training and employment opportunities for both their workforce, and the wider communities in which they operate.



### Transdev Australasia



Transdev Australasia provides public transport services in six locations across Australia and New Zealand, and is at the heart of keeping communities moving. Within NSW alone, Transdev operates, bus, light-rail and ferry services across the city, representing 50 million customer journeys a year.

With a robust learning culture at Transdev's core, they remain a leader in the public transport industry. From emerging talent, such as apprentices and trainees, right through to supervisors and management, Transdev fosters a strong commitment to training and continuous improvement through its partnership with TAFE NSW and other nationally accredited training programs.

Committed to a diverse and inclusive workplace, Transdev has been endorsed as a Work180 employer, for its commitment to making real progress for women in the workplace.

Under their 'Women on the Move' suite of development programs, Transdev offers a mentoring program designed to support female Bus Drivers starting out in the industry.



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## Small Training Provider

### Academy of Film Theatre & Television



For nearly 20 years, the Academy of Film Television & Theatre (AFTT) has helped launch countless careers in the creative arts industry.

From acting through to production roles, across the film, television and theatre industries, AFTT are both passionate and innovative in the way they create their learning environment.

To help students thrive in a competitive industry, AFTT has developed an engaging program of training, partnering with practicing industry professionals. Integral to the way the AFTT delivers its training outcomes, engaging with industry practitioners allows students to gain practical skills and insight into expected industry standards and protocols.

Complemented by training in resilience, ethical behaviour and managing themselves in a professional, financial and business sense, the AFTT is dedicated to developing creative professionals that are well-rounded, versatile and dynamic.

Actively pursuing the best professional outcomes for students, past and present, AFTT strive to give students unlimited opportunities for creative growth.



### Aruma



Disability services.

One of Australia's leading disability service providers, Aruma are trusted partners to around 5000 people with a disability, including children in care.

With increasing demand for skilled staff in the disability and children's services sectors, Aruma has an ongoing need to deliver industry-specific, accredited training to new and existing employees, throughout all regions of NSW.

Offering an inclusive approach to training, Aruma provide a range of delivery models to suit the needs of learners, catering for different styles and paces of learning, including a blended approach for those working shift rosters or living in remote areas.

Aruma cultivate a culture of communication, respect, integrity and teamwork by providing their learners with comprehensive training and invaluable practical experience.

In ensuring they are holistically involved in the professional development and personal resilience of each learner and team member, Aruma strives to provide the industry with an exceptional level of quality care.



### City-Wide Building & Training Services



The City-Wide Building & Training Services (CWBTS) is a learning organisation that offers nationally accredited qualifications for the building and construction industry.

Over the last 17 years in operation, over 2,000 CWBTS graduates have successfully achieved nationally accredited qualifications for work in the building and construction industry.

Demonstrating a forensic understanding of the building and construction industry, the team at CWBTS are student-focused, catering to their needs, as well as the needs of their employment partners.

CWBTS has also strategically focused on aiding the sector, not only through training but by raising awareness and opening up conversation around broader topics such as mental health issues, construction industry workplace diversity, homelessness and men's health.

Driven by values of honesty, integrity, loyalty, respect and 'keeping it real', CWBTS are true innovators in their approach to supporting the training and development needs of their students and staff.



## Large Training Provider

### Community College – Northern Inland Inc



The Community College Northern Inland (CCNI) is a not-for-profit charity and registered training organisation, providing fee-for-service and government-funded VET services throughout the Northern Inland region of NSW.

The college successfully deliver a vast range of nationally recognised training courses across seven campuses, reaching communities spread over 98,000 square kilometres.

In deftly managing to transition their courses from face-to-face, to a blended mode of delivery during both COVID-19 and natural disasters, CCNI have maintained a vital service to the community.

Low digital literacy and poor digital infrastructure is a limitation CCNI have had to rise above. Where possible, CCNI have supported their students at no cost by supplying laptops, tablets and prepaid internet dongles, enabling them to continue with their studies.

Far from a "one-size-fits-all approach", Community College Northern Inland are specialists in the training they deliver. Within their 40-year history, CCNI have often taught three generations of family members.



### ECTARC



ECTARC is a dynamic, community-owned, non-profit Registered Training Organisation (RTO), that specialises in early childhood training and professional development. As a leading RTO, with a vision of enriching futures for children, families, students and communities, ECTARC has built an enviable reputation for high-quality training. Boasting strong connections across the sector, ECTARC design and develop interactive and engaging training programs.

Embracing market-leading technologies, ECTARC pride themselves on their student-centred approach to early childhood training, committed to delivering a productive and highly-skilled workforce. Not only servicing the needs of their own students, ECTARC has recently partnered with Illawarra YES (Youth Employment Strategy) Program, to offer pre-vocational training to local unemployed youth, as a pathway to traineeships.

ECTARC's approach to training is extensive, inclusive and respectful. By developing industry-leading, interactive and engaging training programs, ECTARC continues to be a 'go-to' early childhood training provider for both the industry, and government agencies.



## Organisational Awards

Supported by **NSW Skills Board**

### Essential Skills Training & Recruitment



Established in 2010, Essential Skills Training & Recruitment provide high quality training and recruitment services to the community services sector.

Offering outstanding knowledge, guidance and understanding to their entire student cohort, Essential Skills Training & Recruitment are a shining example of what a positive team culture can achieve.

Committed to excellence, Essential Skills is not only focused on the high level of training they provide, but also on the quality of support worker they are placing into community services.

With many of their trainers having worked at all levels of the community services sector, the team at Essential Skills are passionate about the values they instil in their students.

Using blended learning and personal stories to provide context to topics of discussion, trainers are able to pass on their skills and knowledge to the next generation of care workers, whilst inspiring and empowering students to excel in their chosen field.





CATEGORY  
SPONSOR OF  
WOMEN IN  
TRADES



Apprenticeship Support Australia has helped connect over 15,000 women into apprenticeships and traineeships with employers across New South Wales in 2022.

Apprenticeship Support Australia  
PROUD PARTNER OF THE NSW TRAINING AWARDS

At Apprenticeship Support Australia, we are always on a mission to educate employers about the benefits of hiring women in trades. With Australia currently experiencing a nationwide skills shortage, there's never been a more important time to invest in home-grown talent.

As a major sponsor for the NSW Training Awards, Apprenticeship Support Australia is thrilled to be part of this important event. As providers of essential services and resources to employers and apprentices, we continue to be active and innovative leaders in Skilling Australia for Tomorrow.

Learn more at [www.apprenticeshipsupport.com.au/contact-us](http://www.apprenticeshipsupport.com.au/contact-us) or call 1300 363 831



## Women in Trades

Introduced in 2012 to recognise a female who has undertaken vocational training in a non-traditional trade or occupation, this award is granted to an apprentice, trainee or vocational student who will be a worthy role model for their trade or vocation into the future.

What does it mean to you being an Ambassador for Women in Trade/Vocation?

**Tay Kruizinga** My journey with the NSW Training Awards program has provided me with so many opportunities; the most fulfilling of those has been becoming an ambassador to help encourage, inspire, and support the next generation of Women in Trades. I love being able to share my knowledge and experiences to help other women navigate their way forward in the industry and achieve their goals.

**Georgia Foley** It is such an honour to have been asked to become an ambassador. I have such a passion for my career and to be able to encourage and hopefully inspire women to pursue a trade is so rewarding.

How do you keep advocating for more female representation in your industry?

**Tay Kruizinga** I think the best way to challenge preconceptions is with action, through demonstrating our capability and providing support and encouragement to those that need it. Advocating for accessible female facilities on worksites is something I am passionate about, as it's often forgotten about or missed – and it has such a huge impact. Build it, and they will come!

**Georgia Foley** There is a lot of publicity around women in trades and mining which I have been lucky enough to be a part of over the last few years. Being able to talk to others through my work, as well as family and friends to encourage others to help shine a light on women in non-traditional trades.

What would you say to young girls out there that are keen to follow your steps?

**Tay Kruizinga** It can be daunting venturing into a career or industry that you may not think has a place for you - but you belong here too! There is a huge focus on increasing the number of Women in Trades at the moment, and a national skill shortage, so there has never been a better time to get out there, follow a VET pathway and kick start your career.

**Georgia Foley** Go for it! Don't be discouraged by male dominant trades. If you have a passion for something, follow your dreams. Girls can do anything! You will never regret it, I can promise you that.



Georgia Foley



Tay Kruizinga



# NSW Skills Board

The NSW Skills Board gives expert advice to the NSW Government to help deliver skills development and training today for the workforce and industry challenges of tomorrow.

We listen to the experiences and expertise of learners, employers and industry and use these insights to help policy makers develop effective skills policy.

We also conduct research to learn what drives success in skills training and development and in the labour market.

Board members bring a range of skills and experience in business, skills and education policy. Members also have expertise in fields including education and training management, project and risk management, business and industry, government, economics, market operations and finance.



## Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student of the Year

### Jade Barrington



**Qualification** Certificate II in Business  
**Trained by** The Illawarra iTeC Ltd  
**School** Vincenia High School  
**Employed by** NSW Department of Education  
**Hosted by** Wreck Bay Aboriginal Community Council  
**Region** Illawarra & South East

Whilst studying her HSC, Jade undertook a school-based traineeship to support her entry into university. With hopes of one day becoming a Primary School Teacher, Jade studied a Certificate II in Business Services and has gained invaluable knowledge, experience and confidence through working with the NSW Department of Education.

Volunteering in her own time to tutor younger students at the Wreck Bay Community Centre, Jade has an obvious passion for teaching and strives to be a role-model to the younger members of her community. An exemplary student that applies herself to every task, Jade is a proud representative of her community, committed to bringing out the best in those under her care.

"I have had the opportunity to work in a caring and supportive environment while completing my HSC and working toward both a VET qualification and an ATAR pathway."



### Juliane Latu



**Qualification** Certificate IV in Business Administration  
**Trained by** Flexible Training Solutions Pty Ltd  
**Employed by** Transport Service for NSW  
**Region** Southern & South Western Sydney

Completing a Certificate IV in Business Administration Juliane accepted a work-based traineeship with Transport for NSW and in doing so, set the wheels in motion towards the fulfilling career she always wanted.

Seeking a working opportunity where she could be appreciated and meaningfully contribute to the regional NSW community, Juliane left her warehousing background to start her traineeship with the aim of securing for a more satisfying role.

Whilst juggling a busy home-life, VET's flexible approach allowed Juliane to excel in her role with Transport for NSW successfully securing a permanent position upon completion of her traineeship. A proud Wiradjuri woman, Juliane takes pride in being a role-model for to her community and is a strong advocate for the opportunities VET can provide.

"The satisfaction I get knowing that the work I do within my team makes a difference every day is just wonderful."



## Individual Awards

Supported by **NSW Skills Board**

### Deleila Roberts



**Qualification** Certificate IV in Work Health and Safety  
**Trained by** Global Training Institute  
**Employed by** Ngambaga Bindarry Girrwa Community Services Aboriginal Corporation  
**Region** North Coast & Mid North Coast

The CEO of the Ngambaga Bindarry Girrwa Community Services Aboriginal Corporation, Deleila is wholeheartedly committed to providing the Elders in her care with an outstanding service.

Through her commitment to her role and the community, Deleila undertook a Certificate IV through the Global Training Institute to gain the qualifications required to extend the framework and reach of her organisation. Empowered by learning and the opportunities it provides, Deleila is a passionate advocate for both education and training, and the quality of care she provides.

"Being of Aboriginal descent we are taught at a young age to listen and learn from our Elders – I learnt this lesson well. Having worked in the Aged Care and Disability industry for over 20 years, it is now my passion to give back to our Elders within my communities and have them still be involved, participating and included."



APPRENTICESHIP &  
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DISABILITY SUPPORT

EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

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**VERTO**  
SKILL TO TRANSFORM

## Message from VERTO CEO

Congratulations to all of tonight's Training NSW finalists. To be recognised by your peers as some of the most talented and hard workers across the state is something you should be very proud of.

Here at VERTO, we pride ourselves on offering life-changing employment, training and apprenticeship opportunities. Every day we see firsthand the positive impact this can have in our local communities.

It's why we again jumped at the chance to be major sponsor of the Training NSW Awards, and recognise some outstanding individuals from across NSW.

VERTO has a longstanding relationship with Training NSW, and we have proudly sponsored awards right across NSW for the best part of a decade.

We thoroughly enjoy hearing your inspiring stories of success, determination and overcoming adversity, and can't wait to see how your career progresses.

Good luck to all finalists not only tonight, but whatever direction your career takes you in the future.

Kind regards

**Ron Maxwell**  
VERTO CEO



# Trainee of the Year

## Ammaleah Astruc



**Qualification** Certificate III in Retail  
**Trained by** KFC  
**Employed by** KFC  
**Region** Western Sydney & Blue Mountains

Whilst working at KFC, Ammaleah took part in a school-based traineeship and completed a Certificate III in Retail. During her training, Ammaleah gained insight into customer service, workplace health and safety, and learnt team networking techniques to implement efficient workplace productivity.

A diligent employee, committed to both her team at KFC, and her own personal growth, Ammaleah has proved a natural leader. With her exceptional skills and professional, friendly and enthusiastic demeanour, Ammaleah is now taking on supervisory duties. Demonstrating an exemplary attitude and wisdom beyond her years, Ammaleah's traineeship with KFC has changed the way she approaches each shift. Ammaleah has learnt that being a positive influence in the workplace can have a direct effect on the performance of her team.

"The qualification has been incredibly fulfilling as I have gained a vast amount of resiliency and adaptability skills for the highest standard of professionalism in the workplace."



## Harvey Billingham



**Qualification** Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care  
**Trained by** Kool Kids Training College Pty Ltd  
**Employed by** Only About Children Pty Ltd  
**Region** Central & Northern Sydney

Harvey studied his Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care, through Kool Kids Training College, whilst undertaking a traineeship with Only About Children. Throughout his traineeship, Harvey has shown himself to be an inspiring educator who is always willing to learn to benefit the curious young minds under his care.

Displaying exceptional practical skills and theoretical knowledge, Harvey has excelled during his traineeship with Only About Children, with his team always on hand to support him. Harvey is now considering working towards his Diploma or ECT qualification after completing his traineeship.

As a dedicated educator of young minds and a lover of learning, Harvey's approach to his traineeship has been exemplary, tackling each task with maturity and wisdom.

"The possibilities are genuinely endless if you keep an open mind, follow your passions and are curious about the world around you."



## Charlie Grimshaw



**Qualification** Certificate III in Business  
**Trained by** Australian College of Commerce & Management  
**Employed by** Byron Shire Council  
**Region** North Coast & Mid North Coast

After finding herself out of work during COVID-19, Charlie accepted a traineeship with Byron Shire Council (BSC) as a Trainee Records Management Officer, whilst studying her Certificate III in Business Services, with the Australian College of Commerce & Management (ACCM).

Seizing the opportunity to become involved in local Government, Charlie used the key business skills she learnt through ACCM to thrive in Records Management at BSC and in doing so, advanced her career prospects. Initially challenged by remote-learning and working during COVID-19, Charlie managed to rise above her perceived limitations to succeed. With hard-work and dedication, Charlie completed her course with ACCM 2 months early, whilst being nominated for 'Student of the Month' on numerous occasions.

Byron Shire Council were so impressed with Charlie's dedication, initiative and ability to work autonomously, they had no hesitation in offering her a permanent role as a Records Management Officer on completion of her traineeship.



## Mellanie Sutton



**Qualification** Certificate IV in Local Government (Health and Environment)  
**Trained by** Arrow Collaborative Services Ltd  
**Employed by** Muswellbrook Shire Council  
**Region** Hunter & Central Coast

"I wanted to embark on a career that would continually challenge me..."

Mellanie began her traineeship at Muswellbrook Shire Council (MSC) as a trainee Environmental Health Officer. Whilst acquiring a diverse set of skills, Mellanie used her traineeship to help keep the community safe and move confidently in the direction of her dream career.

Completing a Certificate IV in Local Government through Strategic Services Australia, specialising in Health & Education, Mellanie found the mixture of skills required in this field to be exactly the right challenge. Amongst the tasks Mellanie completed in her traineeship, was identifying businesses that were offering food service or skin penetration (such as acupuncture), and ensuring they were registered with Government, and operating in-line with health standards.

During her traineeship, Mellanie used existing software skills to help streamline processes within MSC and improve efficiency for a range of everyday procedures.



## Shaun Tobin



**Qualification** Certificate IV in Horticulture  
**Trained by** TAFE NSW  
**Employed by** Tamworth Regional Council  
**Region** New England

When seeking direction in his life, Shaun embarked on a VET pathway, undertaking a Certificate III through TAFE NSW. It was here that Shaun discovered he had a passion for horticulture. Realising that horticulture was the career for him, Shaun secured a traineeship with Tamworth Regional Council.

During his traineeship, Shaun developed hands-on horticulture skills. With his increased knowledge of plant establishment, soil health, pest management, garden design and project planning, Shaun's skills flourished.

Amongst Shaun's traineeship achievements is commencing work as an acting specialist operator on a high-profile ANZAC garden on the Tamworth CBD crew. During this project Shaun will be advising on design, and providing leadership to other trainee's and apprentices.

With a young family at home and his future looking to bright, Sean is grateful for his traineeship, showing him the pathway out of unemployment, and into a future he is excited about.



## Taylor Vandijk



**Qualification** Certificate III in Conservation and Land Management  
**Trained by** TAFE NSW  
**Employed by** HVTC Sydney  
**Hosted by** Sutherland Shire Council  
**Region** Southern & South Western

Seeking to reskill after an 8-year nursing career, Taylor secured a Conservation and Land Management traineeship with Sutherland Shire Council. Excelling in her studies, Taylor learnt a variety of new skills from leading experts in the conservation field.

During her traineeship, Taylor had the opportunity to learn best-practice conservation techniques and how to identify different species.

Taylor has completed a Diploma of Sustainable Living, a Certificate IV in Government and is in her final year of a Bachelor of Science majoring in Sustainability, in addition to her traineeship.

Approaching her new career path with gusto, Taylor's passion for bush regeneration is vital for Australia's future.

"Bush regeneration is an emerging field that started with the Bradly sisters in 1970's, and is moulding into a large industry. It is recognized as a key to the conservation of Australia's priceless biodiversity, which isn't found anywhere else in the world."



Supported by **VERTO**  
WHILE TO TRANSFORM



## DISCOVER THE CAREER THAT WORKS FOR YOU

**Careers NSW is a new program, fully funded by the NSW Government offering career guidance and advice to NSW residents at any stage in their career.**

**Are you hoping to start or restart your career? Do you have questions about what you'd like to do. What you are good at and what learning pathway is right for you? The fully funded Careers NSW pilot program can help.**

**A free appointment with a Career Practitioner may involve:**

- Providing advice about careers you are interested in
- Guidance around understanding what industries and jobs are suited to skills and qualification you have
- Assist with creating and updating a resume
- Assist with Interview skills, training and job readiness preparation.

**Careers NSW offers access to tailored career guidance from a professional Career Practitioner**

Make an appointment today!

Appointments are delivered online to NSW residents who are 18 years of age and live in the following areas

- Greater Western Sydney (Penrith)
- South West Sydney (Liverpool)
- Metropolitan Sydney East
- New England & North West NSW (Armidale)
- Mid North Coast NSW (Coffs Harbour)
- Illawarra and the South Coast
- Far West Orana

The creation of Careers NSW follows a recommendation from the review of the NSW vocational education and training sector, led by Mr. David Gonski AC and Professor Peter Shergold AC.

**For more information visit:**

**Website:** [careers.nsw.gov.au](https://careers.nsw.gov.au)

**Call:** 13 77 88

**Email:** [careersnsw@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:careersnsw@det.nsw.edu.au)

 Careers NSW

start  
start  
start  
smart

## Careers NSW

Careers NSW is a program designed to provide career guidance to all NSW residents at any stage of their career. Announced by the Premier of NSW in March 2021, Careers NSW is a wrap-around service that:

- Provides tailored career guidance
- Identifies educational pathways and qualifications that matches a client to the skills they need to progress in their current career or to enter a new career
- Connects a client with industry experts currently employed in the client's areas of interest for insights that will help the client to choose the next phase of their career

Careers NSW is also currently conducting a school trial across selected NSW metropolitan and regional public high schools.

The creation of Careers NSW is a recommendation from the review of the NSW vocational education and training sector led by Mr. David Gonski AC and Professor Peter Shergold AC.

With a Careers NSW full-service model due to launch in late 2022, the pilot offers the following:

-  1. A self-service website providing career guidance information, resources and support
-  2. Individual appointments with industry experts for industry and occupation insights
-  3. Access to tailored career guidance from Career Practitioners



Scan for more information or email [careersnsw@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:careersnsw@det.nsw.edu.au)

# Apprentice of the Year

## Daniel Arroyo



**Qualification** Certificate III in Electrotechnology Electrician  
**Trained by** TAFE NSW  
**Employed by** HVTC Illawarra  
**Hosted by** BlueScope Steel  
**Region** Illawarra & South East NSW

Daniel began his apprenticeship with HVTC and host employer BlueScope, while completing a Certificate III in Electrotechnology through TAFE NSW.

Despite personal challenges, Daniel's commitment to become a qualified electrician was unwavering, dedicated to learning all he could during his apprenticeship. Whilst gradually growing in confidence and ability, Daniel found himself entrusted with more and more responsibility, eventually securing a full-time role with BlueScope, just three years into his training.

Daniel has now exceeded his own expectations and is about to embark on further study; a Degree in Electrical Engineering. This marks a proud moment in Daniel's career journey and will certainly provide him with a wealth of opportunities in the future.

"I have gone from a 24 year old 'kid' to a man with a career and a family. I have found a profession I am passionate about and I have learnt skills I didn't think I could have."



## Liam Barber



**Qualification** Certificate III in Electrotechnology Electrician  
**Trained by** TAFE NSW  
**Employed by** Endeavour Energy  
**Region** Southern & South West Sydney

A black belt in Karate, Liam has consistently shown exceptional aptitude for the electrical trade, and wisdom beyond his years. Undertaking his Certificate III in Electrotechnology through TAFE NSW, Liam is now completing a Certificate III in ESI Power Systems Distribution and a solar energy course.

An exemplary apprentice, not only has Liam received high praise and commendation from his employer and volunteered to teach *Safety in Schools*, he recently came to the rescue in the community, thanks to his first-aid training.

More than just a career, Liam aspires to find adventure as an Electrician, inspired by the prospect of contributing to the infrastructure of NSW, as well as a greener future for all.

"The demand for this trade has increased over the years with increased pressure on infrastructure, this demand means job opportunities are at an all-time high and it feels good to help build the infrastructure of tomorrow."



## Lachlan Butler



**Qualification** Certificate III in Engineering – Fabrication Trade  
**Trained by** Gimbal Engineering  
**Employed by** BOSS Engineering Pty Ltd  
**Region** New England

Completing his Certificate III in Engineering was the beginning of Lachlan's career in Metal Fabrication. Possessing acute natural skill and a vivid imagination, Lachlan flourished in his apprenticeship with BOSS Engineering. Quickly making himself invaluable, Lachlan proved himself to be a dexterous team leader, able to switch from one speciality to the next with ease, all while managing complex family matters.

A passionate advocate for addressing the skills shortage in rural Australia, Lachlan is keen to use his experience to encourage others to pursue a trade career through VET, finding the hands-on training VET provided to be world class.

"Skills training in Australia is extremely important. Our [countries] future is dependent on people like [myself] who have gone through an apprenticeship. Being involved in an apprenticeship allows you to create and be involved in an environment that is supportive and a community that is all inclusive."



## Oswald Herrmann



**Qualification** Certificate III in Engineering – Mechanical Trade  
**Trained by** Educational Living Pty Ltd  
**Employed by** Collier & Miller Pty Ltd  
**Region** Riverina

With a background in farming and motivated by fixing and creating, Oswald knew a career as a Mechanical Engineer would appeal to his love of agricultural machinery, and working with his hands. Undertaking his Certificate III in Engineering at Educational Living, Oswald gained invaluable one-on-one guidance from his teacher, Edward Stone. Going on to thrive in his practical training with employer, Collier & Miller, Oswald displayed great maturity and skill.

Oswald displayed such confidence and dedication to his trade, he completed his apprenticeship early and gained 100% in his final exam – unheard of by his supervisor. Oswald has been an exemplary apprentice, taking care to offer support and guidance to his co-workers.

A natural leader and team player, Oswald used his experience as a senior AFL player to inspire camaraderie and teamwork in his younger colleagues and encouraged communication as a way of improving safety and productivity.



## Jonathon O'Connor



**Qualification** Certificate III in Commercial Cookery  
**Trained by** TAFE NSW  
**Employed by** Yamba Shores Tavern  
**Region** North Coast & Mid North Coast

Jonathon's love of cooking inspired him to embark on a Certificate III of Commercial Cookery at TAFE NSW. With the support and encouragement of his teachers and mentors, Jonathon has proven to be both a talented chef and a natural leader.

Overcoming both mental health challenges and the struggle of learning with dyslexia, Jonathon thrived during his study and right throughout his apprenticeship, buoyed by his ability to learn with the visual and hands-on approach that VET provided him. The anxiety that had troubled Jonathon throughout high-school learning was gone, and he was able to flourish and excel on the path towards his dream career.

After representing TAFE NSW at World Skills Championship and winning a silver medal, as well as being named a finalist in the Proud to be Chef competition, Jonathon has proven to be a promising young chef with a recipe for success.



## Lucinda Shilcock



**Qualification** Certificate III in Electrotechnology Electrician  
**Trained by** TAFE NSW  
**Employed by** Novaskill  
**Hosted by** GBE Group  
**Region** Hunter & Central Coast

Growing up on a farm, Lucinda's desire to become an Electrician evolved naturally from a love of working with her hands, a penchant for design and an affinity for teamwork.

After embarking on a Certificate III with TAFE NSW, Lucinda had to overcome personal trauma and a learning difficulty in order to succeed in her apprenticeship. Thanks to Lucinda's tenacity and the visual, hands-on learning style that VET provided, Lucinda excelled throughout her apprenticeship and is proud to say she's now a qualified electrician.

Crediting the unwavering support and dedication shown to her through her TAFE teachers and host employer, GBE, Lucinda confidently begins her career with a strong foundation.

Selected to speak at the *Women In Trades* event at Kotara High School, Lucinda has not only proved to be a skilled electrician, but a captivating role-model to women and the Aboriginal community.





AUSTRALIAN  
TRAINING  
AWARDS  
2022



## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE **WINNERS!**

Winners of the New South Wales Training Awards, in aligned categories, may have the opportunity to represent their state at the Australian Training Awards on 18 November 2022 and become a member of the Australian VET Alumni. Just like Megan Cox.

**“What I love about the Australian Training Awards is that it recognises the hard work that all of the students and teachers have put in over the past year.”**

**Megan Cox,**  
2021 Trainee of the Year

To find out more about the Australian Training Awards and the Australian VET Alumni, visit

[www.australiantrainingawards.gov.au](http://www.australiantrainingawards.gov.au)

Share your achievements with **#ATA2022**



NSW Department of Education–Training Services NSW

105 Phillip Street, Parramatta NSW 2150

Email [NSW.TrainingAwards@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:NSW.TrainingAwards@det.nsw.edu.au)

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The image features a dynamic splash of multi-colored liquid paint. The colors include bright yellow, vibrant green, magenta pink, and deep purple. The paint is captured in mid-splash, with various droplets and splatters creating a sense of movement and energy. The background is a clean, bright white, which makes the colors stand out sharply. The overall composition is abstract and visually striking.

**Be Recognised**