



NATFISH hooked on gold

Trenayr education centre gets three-star rating

THE National Fishing Industry Education Centre at the Trenayr campus for the North Coast Institute of TAFE NSW has received a top gong.

Known as NATFISH, the leading-edge training program has been recognised by the national Institute for Trade Skills Excellence as one of Australia's premier providers, receiving three gold stars under the institute's star rating scheme. NATFISH delivers flexible training for the aquaculture and seafood industry.

The Institute for Trade Skills Excellence was established by the Federal Government to promote and advance learning, teaching and training in Australian trades education.

It is responsible for the star rating scheme and is supported by each participating industry sector to develop, implement and manage the program.

The gold star rating was based on the calibre of the teachers, their industry knowledge and the flexibility of the training and assessment that NATFISH provides – particularly the focus on enterprise and learner needs and building strong relationships with students.

Head teacher at NATFISH Lisa Terry is thrilled.

"We are really pleased with the rating we have achieved. It is the result of a lot of hard work by the team here over many years," she said.

"The process we undertook for the rating scheme was quite rigorous. After assessing our initial submission, a panel of assessors visited us and carefully checked our delivery practices.

"To get an industry and student perspective, the panel also visited the Clarence River Fishermen's Co-operative with whom we work

closely and spoke to some of our aquaculture students."

Ms Terry said that she was particularly pleased that the students they interviewed expressed the highest levels of satisfaction.

"After all, that's what we are here for," she said.

FAST FACTS:

Aquaculture is a growing industry in Australia, increasing at a rate of around 4% per annum.

The aquaculture industry is worth over \$730 million (ABARE).

NATFISH plays a major role in preparing aquaculture newcomers to operate efficiently, avoid the pitfalls and problems that troubled many industry pioneers.

For information about NATFISH and the North Coast Institute of TAFE NSW visit: www.natfish.tafen-sw.edu.au or call 131 601.