



## TAFE trade training recognised \$100,000 grant for cinema

TAFE NSW Riverina Institute has been recognised by industry as a leading provider of training in the areas of automotive, construction, metals and engineering.

The Institute received a gold star rating from the Institute of Trade Skills Excellence in recognition of outstanding trade skills training.

The Star Rating Scheme identifies the very best training providers in each industry, enabling employers, career counsellors, potential students, and parents to distinguish excellence in trade training.

Riverina Institute's Director of Educational Delivery, Graeme Stuchbery, said the gold star rating was recognition of the high quality of teaching delivered.

"This excellent rating validates our commitment to being the first choice in training," Mr Stuchbery said.

Brian Wexham, Chief Executive Officer of The Institute for Trade Skills Excellence said the Star Rating Scheme gives students comfort that they are choosing the most appropriate course.

"The scheme aims to recognise high performing registered training providers such as Riverina Institute and help individual schools and faculties understand exactly what their clients want from their training," Mr Wexham said.

"The Star Rating

Scheme is an industry driven initiative and has been developed by The Institute and industry to provide a platform that will deliver the vocational training outcomes required to meet industry needs."

Riverina Institute works closely with industry to ensure training programs are in line with industry requirements.

Mr Stuchbery said this was evidenced by the high calibre of graduates that enjoy success in their professions as a result of their training with the Institute.

"We have first class graduates working at the top of their fields both nationally and internationally," Mr Stuchbery said.

Examples include automotive graduate James Constable, who has worked at the Nissan Europe head office in Paris and now is head trainer at Nissan's plant in Melbourne; and heavy vehicle graduate Phillip Pollock who is Senior Product Marketing Manager for Caterpillar Asia based in Singapore.

Mr Stuchbery said recent graduates also had promising futures.

Albury Automotive graduate, Kelly Lock, won the 2007 Motor Vehicle Repair Industry Association NSW Apprentice of the Year.

She is now the Service Advisor at Blacklocks Ford in Wodonga, where she liaises between clients and a team of 13

mechanics to ensure that service and repairs are properly managed.

Wagga Wagga Campus graduates, Sam Shipard and Matthew Cottom, topped the state and were awarded at the 25th Motor Vehicle Repair Industry Authority awards respectively in the Motor Mechanic (heavy vehicle) and the Panel Beating categories.

"Our graduates are constantly topping the state in these areas and achieving great success in their industries," Mr Stuchbery said.

"We are immensely proud of their achievement, and of our teachers and support staff who contribute to this success."

### ■ From front page

The rest of the town hall upgrade would be carried out in a further five stages, including the addition of a bar and/or gallery in the foyer, bringing lighting up to art gallery standards, improving the supper room and its acoustics, and constructing a new lobby to connect the cinema with the main hall.

The cinema phase is expected to cost somewhere in the vicinity of \$350,000.

Council General Manager, Gary Lavelle, welcomed the announcement of the grant, but was quick to stress work was unlikely to start in the immediate future.

"Now it's up to Council," Mr Lavelle

said, adding a report on the project would go before the next monthly meeting.

"We've got another grant application in, for \$300,000 from the Federal Government, however, they seem to have the razors out in Canberra at the moment," Mr Lavelle said.

"Council needs to decide whether it goes ahead in its current proposed form, or whether we want to wait for additional funding.

"For example, the foyer redevelopment will go hand in hand with the cinema.

"It's a facility which will be very important for the community, but we're still at the planning stage," he added.

Mr Lavelle agreed the \$100,000 grant money and TYRO's fundraising efforts would help enormously with the development, however the rest of the money still needed to be found, possibly from Council itself.

"I think this development will be an important thread in the fabric of our community," he said.

"It won't be purely a cinema, but also a good venue for conferences and performances such as small-scale plays.

"Council believes it is important to be able to provide alternate sources for entertainment," he said.