



# TAFE right on course with gold star rating

By SHELLEY SPENCER

IF you are interested in a career as a tradesman, TAFE Tasmania has proven to be the place to study, after the institution was recently awarded a three gold star rating for its metals and engineering courses.

The Institute for Trade Skills Excellence assesses training among TAFE and registered training organisations across Australia.

Tafe Tasmania chief executive Malcolm White said the three gold star rating was recognition of the high quality teaching delivered.

“The star rating scheme helps us ensure that our apprentices and trainees have the right skills to contribute to the industry and the region’s economy,” Mr White said.

The rating has recognised TAFE Tasmania as a leader in the field and the idea is to make it easy for employers, career counsellors and potential students to identify quality training institutions.

Registered organisations can receive one, two or three gold stars to indicate the excellent results achieved for their students.

The rating scheme focuses on eight areas of skills shortage including automotive, building and construction, electrical, hospitality and personal services, manufacturing, metals and engineering, mineral resources and rural and farming.

The Institute for Trade Skills chief executive Brian Wexham said the star rating scheme reassured students that they were selecting the most appropriate course.

“One of the biggest concerns when choosing a course is whether or not it will get people the job they want when they complete the course,” Mr Wexham said.

“Thanks to the star rating scheme, prospective students and employers now have a credible source to validate a course.”



## Computer prize boosts resources

INGHAM State High School students are celebrating the arrival of a new iMac computer — an additional resource for them to access in the school library.

During November/December 2007, SkillsOne.com.au, an initiative of the Institute for Trade Skills Excellence, conducted an online schools competition, and Year 10 students participating in Ingham High's senior phase transition program Futures, entered the competition.

SkillsOne.com.au is a great resource for students and teachers exploring trade skills opportunities. To support the online web based information, SkillsOne Television is a series of short television interviews and case studies.

All aspects of SkillsOne have been integrated into the Futures program focusing on transition and career education for Year 10 students.

The aim of SkillsOne is to raise the profile of skilled



Judith Fenoglio and senior students Scott Thomson, Lance Roberts and Danielle Ruggieri explore the new computer options at Ingham High.

trades and encourage people to consider a trade as a career choice.

Head of senior phase of learning department at Ingham High, Judith Fenoglio believes the resource is an asset to rural and regional communities.

“Students are able to en-

gage with authentic experiences without leaving the local area.” she said.

“It is important to expose students to as many opportunities as possible to ensure they make informed choices.”



## **Inaugural Skills Tasmania board appointed**

The president of the Business Council of Australia's higher education round table, David Hind, has been chosen to chair the new Skills Tasmania Board.

The Tasmanian Minister for Education, David Bartlett, said the appointment of Mr Hind was a real coup for Tasmania.

"We are fortunate to have someone of Mr Hind's calibre and experience to lead the board," Mr Bartlett said.

"Mr Hind is a former chair of the Australian National Training Authority as well as a member of the Manufacturing Reference Group of the Institute for Trade Skills Excellence.

"He will be supported by six other board members with very strong experience across a range of industries including resources, tourism, technology and social services.

"The board members have strong business and financial skills and an understanding of

the vocational education and training needs of industries and communities.

"Skilled labour shortages are the biggest hurdle facing Tasmania in sustaining our strong economic growth. To tackle our skills shortages, we need to think long term and retain our students at school as well as getting industry involved.

"The State Government's 'Tasmania Tomorrow' reforms will help address our retention rates by revitalising post-year 10 education.

"Skills Tasmania will analyse economic trends, employment demand and potential skills shortages in industry and determine strategies to meet those priorities.

"I look forward to working with this excellent team of board members to ensure that we can tackle Tasmania's skills shortages in a proactive and strategic way," Mr Bartlett said.