

The power tools and passion

THOSE WHO CAN TEACH

By Haley Sheridan

TAFE teacher Steve Wicks has received one of the most prestigious awards in the tertiary education sector.

The head teacher of Gunnedah TAFE's Trades and Primary Industry faculty recently received the Trade Teacher of the Year award for his guidance of TAFE students at the 2008 Institute of Trade School Excellence Awards.

Steve has taught at the Gunnedah campus for the past 14 years and is highly regarded by his colleagues, students and industry leaders.

Not only does he have extensive teaching knowledge he has much valued industrial experience in engineering.

He learned his trade in 1980 as an apprentice with Reddings Bulk Handling in Gunnedah and also worked as a foreman at Namoi Gas and Steel for 10 years, gaining both trade and administration skills.

The teacher said winning the award was an honour and had only strengthened his passion

FAST FACTS

Name: Steve Wicks
Institution: Gunnedah TAFE campus
Interests: Trade skills

for working with trade students. "Receiving the award was certainly an honour and definitely an unexpected highlight in my career," he said.

"Being acknowledged for excellence in trade teaching has illustrated my long-standing passion for enhancing the careers of our youth and developing a sound trade skills base for the metal and engineering industry in our region."

Steve's co-worker and assistant director of the Trades and Primary Industry faculty John Michael described Steve as a focused and passionate teacher who was always eager to help his students.

"Steve is very focused and passionate about his trade and is constantly looking for new ideas and ways to provide excellence in education and training," he said.

"He has developed and implemented new strategies, training methods and new resources to aid his teaching and ensure the success of his students."



A passion for teaching: Steve Wicks' passion for trade and teaching has paid off. Photo: Courtesy of TAFE

COMMUNITY DIARY

today

Australian Red Cross

THE monthly meeting will be held at 10am at Red Cross Hall, Kable Ave. New members welcome. Red Cross Christmas cards, calendars and diaries will be available from Friday 10am to 2pm and then each Thursday and Friday at Red Cross House, phone 6765 9600.

Senior Citizens Centre Committee of Tamworth

SENIORS will meet at the Tamworth Community Centre for morning tea, hoy and lunch in the Heritage Room. New members are always welcome, contact John on 6761 7765.

tomorrow

Friends of Nioka

THE Blue Triangle Home Respite Service invites all carers, past and present to join members of Friends of Nioka for our next Blue Triangle Club outing. Please feel free to bring a friend. We will meet at about 9am in the parking area at the rear of the Tamworth Community Centre, Darling St, Tamworth. We will travel to Upper Manilla for morning tea at Laura's Lavender Garden, have lunch at the Manilla Anglican Church hall where we will be entertained with some poetry and view the river after lunch. We expect to be back in Tamworth by 3pm. To reserve a seat as soon as possible or for more information please contact Warwick or Bev on 6765 6083.

friday

Nazareth House Auxiliary

THE auxiliary will hold a card party at Nazareth House commencing at 1pm. There will be a trading table, lucky door prize and raffles, and a delicious afternoon tea will be served. Admission \$5, bookings to Barbara on 6766 7227.

Nundle CWA Art Exhibition

THE gala opening will commence at 7pm, entry \$20 includes champagne supper, followed by the official opening and presentation of the prize winners by judge, Sandra McMahon, curator Tamworth Regional Art Gallery. This year we are having a people's choice award at the gala opening. Saturday doors open 10am to 6.30pm and Sunday 10am to 4pm.

coming up

Art and Craft Bonanza

A TRULY amazing variety of arts and crafts created by artists and craftspeople from the district will be available on Saturday and Sunday. Also for sale will be plants, jams, handmade soaps, books and many more items, some great gifts for Christmas. Held at 712 Warral Rd, Tamworth, follow the signs along Werris Creek Rd from the Robert St roundabout. Before the silos turn right across the railway line immediately turn right again into Warral Rd and follow the signs for 300 metres and you are there. Contact Magda on 6762 3387 or 0422 838 413.

50/50 new vogue dance

A DANCE will be held at Attunga Hall on Saturday from 8pm to mid-

night with Helen Swain's music, phone 6765 9719 for more information. Please bring your own supper plate and soft drinks, tea and coffee will be provided. Admission \$10, lucky door prize and raffles. Proceeds to a local charity.

Currabubula Red Cross

THE monthly meeting will be held on Saturday at the Currabubula Memorial Hall at 10am. New members are very welcome.

Tamworth Showground Markets

THE markets will be held on Sunday with a large variety of stalls with lots of goods to choose from. Refreshments will be available and as well as a jumping castle for the children. Inquiries to 6765 9017.

National Servicemen's Association

THE monthly meeting will be held on Sunday at 10am at South Tamworth Bowling Club.

Electric street lighting

THE Tamworth Powerstation Museum at 216 Peel St will celebrate the 120th anniversary of Tamworth being the first town in Australia to have municipal electric street lighting. Museum displays, Tamworth Clarinet Choir, Lions barbecue lunch. See the steam engines and dynamos operating as they did in 1888. Free admission on Sunday from 10am until 4pm. Normal opening hours, Wednesday to Saturday 9am to 1pm, admission singles \$3.50, families \$7.

Tamworth Evening VIEW Club

THE next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 12 at the Frog and Toad Function Centre at 7pm for 7.30pm. New members are always welcome. This will be the election

night for our 2009 committee. Our theme will be "fillies in the field" so come dressed for the occasion. Members wishing to apologies or book in guests please phone Robyn on 6760 5290 before 7.30pm on Sunday, November 9. Late apologies cannot be accepted.

Tamworth Access Awards

NOMINATIONS for the Tamworth Access Awards are now open. Businesses and services in Tamworth which have made the effort to provide access for people with a disability, can be nominated. This could be by way of improvements to buildings, signage, sponsorship or extra staff assistance. Forms and information are available at the Tamworth Community Centre, Darling St or phone 6766 4480. Nominations close November 10.

Tamworth Combined Probus Club

THE next meeting will be held on Monday, November 10 at 9.45am at the Community Centre, Darling St. The guest speaker Dr Robin Gunning will give a presentation on climate change. Visitors and new members welcome. For further information phone 6765 2122 or 6762 3318.

Tamworth and District War Widows Guild Club

THE monthly meeting will be held at 2pm on Monday, November 10 at Wests' Diggers Club. Names and money to be in at this meeting for our Christmas party on Monday, December 8.

Tamworth Compassionate Friends

THE next meeting will be held at The Cottage (next to Uniting Church), Marius St on Tuesday, November 11 between 10am and noon. We are a

group available for grieving parents and families of lost children. For more information contact Peggy Newling on 6765 5859 or Helen Fife on 6761 8608.

John Oxley Probus Club

THE next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 11 at 10am at the Community Centre followed by lunch at Dragon Palace. Indoor carpet bowls will be held on Thursday, November 20 at the usual time at Wests' League Club. The guest speaker will be Tamworth Regional Council's Tony McCann to speak on the equine centre. Members are reminded that money for the Christmas luncheon will be required in an envelope at the November meeting. The club trip to Manilla will be on Tuesday, November 25, more details at the November meeting.

Tamworth and District

Ex-Servicemen's Association

THE next meeting is due to be held on Armistice Day, Tuesday, November 11. While there will be no meeting, all members are welcome to the Town Hall for the Service of Remembrance. We will attend luncheon at Wests' Diggers after the service and all members are welcome.

Tell us about your community group's upcoming event by contacting Denise Rust at The Northern Daily Leader on 6768 1231 or email denise.rust@ruralpress.com