

## Veyance Belts Ahead



*Veyance staff discussing training options*

Reforms to the Victorian Vocational Education and Training system are encouraging businesses with good staff training practices, like conveyor belt manufacturer, Veyance Belting.

Veyance Belting has developed an internal training culture of apprenticeships and traineeships in conjunction with their Registered Training Organisation, New Futures Vocational Consulting (NFVC), over the course of a ten-year relationship. They also work closely with the National Union of Workers to encourage the up-skilling of

staff, which is benchmarked against national standards and based on both company and employee needs. To date, 66 of its 172 employees have completed Australian traineeship programs.

Changes to the Victorian training system mean that training places such as Veyance's are more likely to be subsidised.

The *Victorian Training Guarantee* entitles eligible students to government subsidised training through TAFE institutes, University TAFE Divisions, Adult Community Education organisations, or pri-

vate Registered Training Organisations (RTOs). If a business is looking to up-skill its employees through any of these approved providers a government subsidy will be available to help them meet the cost of their training.

For more information about changes to the Victorian training system, including *Skills for Growth, the Victorian Training Guarantee and the Victorian Skills Pledge*, visit

**[www.skills.vic.gov.au](http://www.skills.vic.gov.au) or contact Alex Bernhardt at MESAB on 03 9889 0966**

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## Apprentice Kickstart Surpasses Targets

Minister for Employment Participation Mark Arbib announced in April that a surge of apprentice signings in the final month of the Apprentice Kickstart Program saw the Government's target of 21,000 surpassed by more than 1000.

Speaking at Group Training Australia's National Conference in Adelaide, Senator Arbib said figures were a vote of confidence in the Australian economy by employers. He also praised Group Training Australia and other industry groups for their work in supporting the program.

Senator Arbib said the Rudd Government was dedicated to the task of training young Australians and boosting apprenticeships which is vital for the future prosperity of the country.

"The Kickstart Program exceeded its target of signing up 21,000 apprentices in the three months and 22,049 apprentices have now commenced an apprenticeship across Australia," Senator Arbib said.

"Overall apprenticeship commencements are recovering as we emerge from the global recession."

The Rudd Government introduced the Kickstart Program on December 1, 2009, in response to apprentice commencements falling by around 10,000 due to the Global Financial Crisis. Under the Kickstart Program, the Government more than tripled the commencement bonus for employers in the first year, from \$1500 to \$4850.

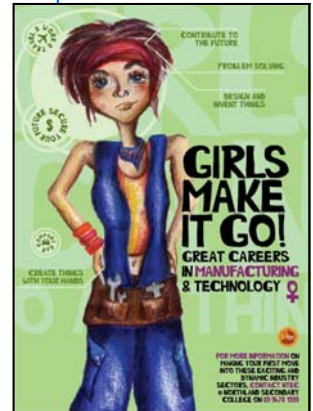
More information on Australian Apprenticeships is available by calling 13 38 73 or visiting GTA's web site at [www.gtald.com.au](http://www.gtald.com.au)

## Girls Make it Go!

In 2010, through Careers in Manufacturing we are running a program to encourage young women to consider Careers in Manufacturing, Engineering and Technology.

Girls Make it Go! consists of a **“Hands On” day** - where young women can experience different aspects of manufacturing, engineering and technology, a series of visits to manufacturing facilities and an information session for parents.

For more information on **Girls Make it Go!** Please contact Careers in Manufacturing on 03 9889 0966 and ask for Jo McKeown or e-mail [jomckeown@mesab.com.au](mailto:jomckeown@mesab.com.au)



## VCAL CiM talk by Brad Webster

On Monday the 15th March 2010, Young Industry Ambassador (YIA), Brad Webster was sent by the Careers in Manufacturing program, run by MESAB, to talk to St Arnaud Secondary College VCAL students about his role as a line worker at Powercor, based in Horsham.

Brad gave a great insight into what he had to do to be employed in this field of work and the qualifications and training that was involved. He showed a great depth of knowledge about the company and its contractors and offered helpful advice to students wishing to pursue this type of “hands on” career.

His power point presentation headed discussions such as “About Me”, the “Economic Downturn & Industry”, “Who are Citipower & Powercor”, provided “Powercor Network Stats”, and answered questions on “Why we need Line Workers”, “Apprentice Powerline Workers” and “Work/life Balance”.

Brad also shared images of “just another day on the job”, “me at work”, and “team work”. Question time was very animated and easy discussion followed throughout the presentation.

The VCAL students and staff at St Arnaud Secondary College, would like to extend a big thank you to Brad for his input on the day, and to Judith Graham, Project Officer, for her organisation of the day.

For more information about the YIA program please contact Judith Graham on 9889 0966 or e-mail [jgraham@mesab.com.au](mailto:jgraham@mesab.com.au)



Brad and some of the St Arnaud students

## Out Of Trade Apprentices

There are still a number of apprentices looking to get back into the workforce after the GFC hit their employers. The cancellation of training agreements had an immediate impact on the lives of these apprentices.

The State Government initiated project assists Out of Trade (OOT) apprentices in finding employment and to liaise with industry in an effort to stimulate interest in identifying opportunities that will enable the apprentices to recommence and complete their apprenticeships.

The apprentices on the OOT list are at varying stages of their apprenticeship. Some have completed their TAFE training and are therefore "full time" in the work place. Others have only just commenced their apprenticeship and need a fresh start.

The guidelines relating to training have been altered to provide ongoing training at TAFE for OOT apprentices as they look for work.

Additional Federal Government incentives are available to employers who "recommence an OOT apprentice".

### **Financial incentives attached to engage an OOT apprentice is as follows:**

The normal recommencement incentive	\$ 750
<b>Additional</b> bonus recommencement incentive (after 12 weeks)	\$1800
The normal completion incentive	\$2500
<b>Additional</b> completion incentive	\$1000
<b>TOTAL incentives</b>	<b>\$6050</b>

The latest advice has 209 apprentices out of trade, 37 of which are engineering apprentices.

### **For information ring**

**Mr. Ralph Gwynne**  
Apprentice OOT Consultant  
Group Training Australia

Phone: 03 9639 3955 or  
e-mail [ralph@gtavic.esn.au](mailto:ralph@gtavic.esn.au)

## MESAB projects

### **WELL Practitioners PD Guide**

This project was developed for WELL practitioners who are working in the manufacturing sector. The guide is available on the web at: [www.wellpractitioners.com.au](http://www.wellpractitioners.com.au)

### **Structural Steel Detail Drafting**

Swinburne Institute of TAFE has been selected by the Structural Steel Association to deliver this course in 2010.

### **WELL Practitioners Conference**

The 2010 National Well Practitioners conference will be held in Melbourne in late November. Details will be announced in late June.

### **5S DVD for Operators**

This project is on track for completion in June 2010. This locally produced resource follows the **5S DVD for Team Leaders** produced in 2009 by MESAB and Ideas That

Work. It is anticipated that this DVD will be as successful as the previous one, with many companies awaiting its arrival. For a copy of the two DVDs call the MESAB office.

**For information about any of these projects please call :**

**Alex Bernhardt on 03 9889 0966**

**or e-mail**

**[abernhardt@mesab.com.au](mailto:abernhardt@mesab.com.au)**

## Manufacturing & Engineering Skills Advisory Board (Vic)

The Manufacturing and Engineering Skills Advisory Board (MESAB) provides advice to Government on the skill development needs of the industries it covers.

Industries include Aerospace, Chemicals, Plastics, Hydrocarbons & Oil, Shipbuilding, Mineral Products, Civil Engineering, Heavy Engineering, Plastics Rubber and Cablemaking, Biotechnology, Transport Equipment, Mining, Refrigeration, Air Conditioning, Quarrying, Drilling, Scientific Services, Defence and many others.

**MESAB also works closely with national Industry Skills Councils.**

### MESAB Board Members

**MESAB has a 14 member Board with representatives of the following organisations**

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| 1. <u>Australian Industry Group</u><br><b>Lee-Anne Fisher,</b><br>Project Manager<br>MESAB - Chairperson                     | 5. <u>Qantas Engineering</u><br><b>Russell Burgess,</b><br>Apprentice Administration   | 10. <u>Australian Workers Union</u><br><b>Sam Wood,</b><br>National President                            |
| 2. <u>National Union of Workers</u><br><b>Julie Warren,</b><br>Victorian President<br>MESAB - Deputy Chairperson             | 6. <u>Robert Bosch (Aust.) Pty Ltd</u><br><b>Ross McLean</b><br>Technical Functions Manager                                  | 11. <u>Construction, Forestry, Mining &amp; Energy Union</u><br><b>Harold Edwards,</b><br>Union Delegate |
| 3. <u>Plastics &amp; Chemicals Ind. Assoc</u><br><b>David Graham,</b><br>Learning & Development Mgr<br>Huntsman Chemical Co. | 7. <u>SSMI Group</u><br><b>Michael Magelakis,</b><br>Managing Director   | 12. <u>Shell Refining (Aust.) Pty Ltd</u><br><b>Steven Gravalin,</b><br>Learning & Development Mgr       |
| 4. <u>Victorian Employers' Chamber of Commerce &amp; Industry</u><br><b>Andrew Rimington,</b><br>Policy Officer              | 8. <u>Society of Plastics Engineers</u><br><b>Graeme Churchward,</b><br>National Training Manager<br>Aust Management Academy | 13. <u>Australian Manufacturing Workers Union</u><br><b>David Roach,</b><br>Apprenticeship Officer       |
|  | 9. <u>Electrical Trades Union</u><br><b>Ray Crampton,</b><br>Organiser   | 14. <u>Liquor, Hospitality &amp; Miscellaneous Workers Union</u><br><b>Matthew Kunkel,</b><br>Organiser  |

### MESAB Office Staff

**Paul Kennett**  
Executive Director  
**Alex Bernhardt**  
Industry Skills Adviser  
**Judith Graham**  
CiM Project Officer

**Kath Sheedy**  
Office Manager  
**Geoff Larkin**  
Project Officer - Research  
**Ralph Butcher**  
Project Officer

**Jo McKeown**  
Project Officer - Girls Make it Go  
**Michael Callaghan**  
Consultant  
**Terence Bowden**  
Consultant