

While using this multi-platform medium is a first for Australian broadcasting, it's the message it can convey that will remain the initiative's ultimate focus.

Head of Television Production, Geoff Tanner said the program will be made in derivatives of six minute blocks and each will be stories about people who are happy and successful in their trade.

"There will also be motivational speakers who will come along and say, 'you can be the best you can be', just basically getting people up off the couch and wanting to do something with their lives. So it's about the meaning of life as well as

specifically trade skills.

"We will also be talking to people who have become famous through their skills and talking to them about how their skills or training helped them become so successful; people like Lindsay Fox and Dick Smith. Plus we'll have a lot of fun.

"We're trying to develop a skills community, where we can generate a lot of user content. We'll ask people to send in their videos, send in photographs of their work place and then they get the chance to see themselves on television."

Further information can be found on www.skillsone.com.au and www.tradeskills.com.au.

Technical college opens

THE NSW Central Coast Technical College will begin enrolling students for next year after signing a \$16m funding agreement with the Howard Government.

According to Andrew Robb, the Minister for Vocational and Further Education, the college will provide hundreds of students in that area with the opportunity to study Year 12 while undertaking a trade at the same time.

"The Australian Technical College

program is a 2004 Howard Government initiative in response to the greatest mistake made in education over the last 20 to 30 years; the closure of dedicated technical schools," Robb added.

The Australian Technical College – Central Coast will join the 21 technical schools already operating and the further six that are in the pipeline. By 2009 it's estimated between 8,000 and 10,000 students will be enrolled across 44 campuses.

Workforce planning for sustainability

BY RICKI BLACKWELL

WORKFORCE sustainability is on most organisations' lists of critical issues and probably more in the manufacturing industry than any other.

Planning to grow, develop and sustain a workforce to meet current and future business demands requires strategic partnerships with organisations that support you all the way. Alliances with training providers that can address your skills shortages in the short, medium and long terms are not easy to find.

The best solution is to develop a longer term relationship with a provider that you know will always be there to work with you.

Some notable achievements by TAFE NSW include a "Knowledge and Skills Sustainability" program with the Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC).

The pilot training and learning resources program is being run in two manufacturing companies; Diageo Australia and Amcor.

TAFE NSW trainers will undertake a significant research and development needs analyses to ensure they fit with

the company culture, procedures and practices. For more information call Lynette Eyles on 02 8293 6904.

Country Energy has also partnered with TAFE NSW and implemented a major training partnership initiative to enhance the skills of over 2000 of its staff over the next two years. TAFE NSW will provide skill recognition and workforce development in a range of skill areas while also delivering flexible customer focused training across the State.

Terri Benson, group general manager corporate services with Country Energy said, "Partnering with TAFE NSW has provided synergies with an organisation of similar state-wide footprint, the capability to meet our diverse range of skill requirements, flexibility of training via a range of mediums, and the benefit of trainers coming to us".

Country Energy will be using this initiative to drive the skills development of new and existing workforce to ensure it continues to meet regulatory requirements and retains a competitive advantage.

For more information call Dennis Owen on 02 8293 6903.



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