

Do you know of a student, school or business that should be recognised for excellence in applied (or 'hands-on') learning?

Would you like to see them rewarded for this success?

Nominations are now open for the 2010 Applied Learning Awards (Bayside, Glen Eira and Kingston region) which recognise the outstanding efforts of:

- **Secondary students** undertaking applied learning programs – Vocational Education and Training in Schools Certificates (VETiS), Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL) and School Based Apprenticeships and Traineeships (SBATs)
- **Secondary schools** offering applied learning programs
- **Businesses** that provide students or schools with workplace experiences (such as work placements, School Based Apprenticeships and Traineeships or industry tours)

The 2010 Applied Learning Awards recognise the outstanding efforts of **secondary students** undertaking applied learning programs (VCAL, VET or School-based Apprenticeships and Traineeships), **secondary schools** offering applied learning programs and **businesses** that provide students with workplace experiences.

For more information, Award Guidelines and Nomination Forms go to: www.youthconnect.com.au/ala2010



Did you know?

That in 2009, Youth Connect had **66 employers** hosting students in industries including **Construction, Retail, Hospitality, Manufacturing, Automotive, Fashion, Music, and Business Services**. As well as placing **154 young people** in Structured Workplace Learning

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YOUTHCONNECT

THEIR FUTURE OUR FUTURE

Parents as Career & Transition Support (PACTS) Program

Youth Connect has partnered with Sally Bailey, the National Disabilities Coordinating Officer to develop PACTS for parents of young people with mild intellectual disabilities in order to meet their needs. Parents from the CALD (Culturally and Linguistically Diverse) Community also benefit from the opportunity to learn about the Australian system of education. Several schools have incorporated PACTS into their career programs as they see the benefit of parents being able to provide practical support as well as having more confidence to discuss career ideas at home.

About Youth Connect

Youth Connect is a not-for-profit, community-focused organisation that provides careers and transition services to young people within the south eastern suburbs of Melbourne. Youth Connect works with the community to provide all young people with the skills and knowledge to support them in managing a successful pathway through secondary education, further learning and employment.

Topics covered in a PACTS session include: What is a career?; Communicating with young people about careers; Resources for career exploration; What is VCE, VET & VCAL? Apprenticeships, TAFE & University.

PACTS Primary school sessions support parents to more confidently navigate the secondary school system. We will be conducting a series of free workshops throughout the year. Groups are kept small in number to allow time for interaction and discussion.

Details of the next workshop are:

Who Parents, Grandparents and Guardians.

When Wednesday 23rd of June 2010

Where Highett Neighbourhood Community House
 2 Livingston St, Highett VIC 3190

Time 7:00pm – 9:00pm
 Bookings are essential.

WHAT'S NEW?

Teachers as Career & Transition Support (TACTS) PD Workshops provide teachers with up-to-date information about career and/or transition pathways for their students. Workshops are presented in a relaxed and interactive manner, with each group having a maximum of 12 teachers.

Who The workshop is ideal for new and existing secondary teachers needing refresher information.

Material Participants will be provided with TACTS Manual, PACTS Manual, resources and website list to assist them with career options.

When Thursday 29th of July 2010

Where Youth Connect
 261 Centre Road, Bentleigh VIC 3024

Time 11:00am – 2:00pm
Cost \$80
 Bookings are essential.

ADDITIONAL SERVICES

Adolescent and Family Counseling Service

- Generalist counselling service for young people 14 – 20 years of age
- Service provided by Tara Couzens – registered psychologist
- Medicare rebated
- Commencing as of 14th June 2010

Contact: t.couzens@youthconnect.com.au

Careers Counseling

Youth Connect provides an affordable tailored careers counselling service for young people who may need assistance in career exploration and identifying their career goals.

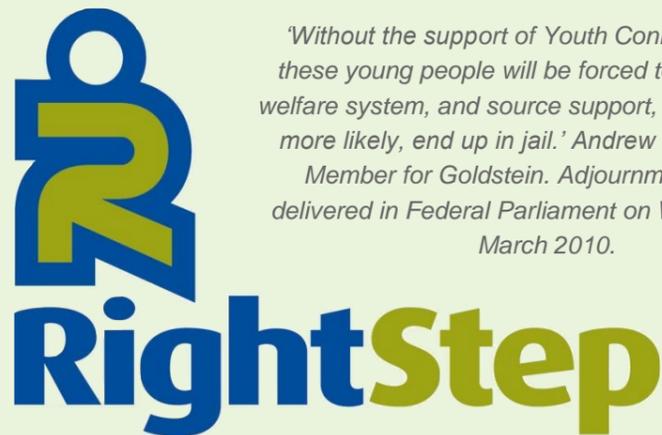
Contact: m.licciardo@youthconnect.com.au

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 Bentleigh VIC 3204
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For more information regarding PACTS or TACTS workshops, phone Mary Licciardo on 9557 6233 or email: m.licciardo@youthconnect.com.au





RightStep

'Without the support of Youth Connect, many of these young people will be forced to navigate the welfare system, and source support, on their own or, more likely, end up in jail.' Andrew Robb Federal Member for Goldstein. Adjournment Speech delivered in Federal Parliament on Wednesday 10 March 2010.



Right Step offers counselling, guidance, coaching, education and career pathway planning to keep young offenders away from the court system and address issues that may put the young person at risk of reoffending. Right Step is a free, confidential and non-judgemental service.

- We have had 20 participants in the Right Step program – since the program, they are all engaged in either education, employment or community service.
- All participants have continued to do well, with only one participant reoffending since the completion of the program.
- Most have continued to be linked in with community services.
- There has been some great work achieved with local community employers who have taken on the young people for voluntary work.

STEPS

(Student Transition Education Programs)

STEPS is a formalised education program with workshops targeting students to better equip them with their transition from school onto further education and/or employment. STEPS workshops cover at resume writing, application letters, apprenticeships, interview preparation, job searching skills, employer expectations, career exploration and preparation for work experience or Structured Workplace Learning, amongst many other useful career and transition issues.

Youth Connections

Youth Connections is a federally-funded program designed to provide individualised and responsive support to young people who are most at risk of disengaging from education or who have already disengaged from education. The purpose of this program is to support these young people to make a successful transition through education or further education, training or employment.

Sarah* is a 17 year old resident of the City of Port Phillip, and was referred to the Youth Connections program by the Careers teacher of the Inner City school where she was enrolled in Year 12. At the beginning of the year, it was established that a Year 12 VCE program would not be suitable and Sarah was encouraged to meet with a Youth Connections worker to assist her in sourcing a more suitable educational setting. Following discussions with a Youth Connections worker, Sarah decided that a VCAL program would be more suited to her learning needs and strengths as well as her future aspirations beyond year 12. Sarah commenced Senior VCAL at CAE the following week where she felt more academically competent, however after a month, Sarah did not feel that it was the right setting for her. After revisiting and re-evaluating her VCAL options with the support of her case manager, Sarah enrolled into the 2faze VCAL program at St Kilda Youth Services (SKYS).

Sarah commenced in Senior VCAL at SKYS on March the 9th and has thoroughly enjoyed the structure and delivery of the program developing some very positive friendships. Sarah plans to see the year out at SKYS, and while she has not yet decided what she wants to do when she finishes, she is enthusiastic about what the future holds for her.

For more information contact Tara Couzens, Program Coordinator
Ph: 9557 6233 or Email: t.couzens@youthconnect.com.au

For referrals:
City of Port Phillip: Victoria Nicoloudis v.nicoloudis@youthconnect.com.au
City of Stonnington: Josh Kerr j.kerr@youthconnect.com.au
City of Boroondara: Nathaniel Enderby nenderby@kym.com.au

IndustryXplorer

During 2009, 880 students from 21 schools participated in 61 Industry Showcase Activities. IndustryXplorer consists of a range of activities targeted at student to industry experiences including tours, guest speakers and forums. Students are given the opportunity to look behind-the-scenes of industry.



At Holmesglen TAFE, Chadstone campus, students are taken on a Tour of the Building & Construction Training Centre. Students are able to see first hand the various trades within the industry. (See above photo) The students are looking at carpentry & fit out. At the training facility they are able to see students engaging in the various processes using tools of the trade.

Work This Way

Finding local people for local jobs

Work This Way (WTW), funded by the State Government, assists unemployed young people aged from 16 to 24 years, into sustainable full-time employment including apprenticeships and traineeships. The program is a free service for employers within the Bayside, Kingston and Glen Eira regions of Melbourne. WTW aims to match local young people with local employers.

"The support I am receiving from Youth Connect in finding work is so valuable"
– Young Person

"Youth Connect really helped me out. I was out of a job for awhile and within sessions at Youth Connect, I was employed and now I'm really liking my job. Thank you" – Young Person

In 2009, students from a variety of schools attended a Manufacturing Forum, held at the JAYCO, manufacturing factory site in Dandenong South. (Refer to photo below) A student group wearing OH&S vests & safety glasses being taken through the factory, seeing the production process from the initial design phase on paper to the finished product, a caravan. Various occupations ranging from trades, i.e. metalwork, cabinet making & furnishing, as well as CNC programming, auto CAD drafting and planning to sales and caravan servicing and repairs businesses were pointed out by Tour guides.



iPREP Program



iPREP provides young people with the opportunity to participate in a mock job interview with an employer, providing them with 'real' interview experience. Students will learn about employer's expectations and gain confidence, clarity and courage in their interview performance. Each student attends an interview with a resume and cover



Staff Profile: Geraldine

What's your position at Youth Connect? Administration Officer.

Have you ever re-gifted a present? Yes, of course.

Complete this sentence: *I secretly love ...* a bright sunny day, blue skies and "Simpson clouds".

What did you want to be when you were younger? A Stenographer, a person who takes shorthand, is able to decipher it and can type very fast. Something you are looking forward to? A healthy life of service to the community.

What annoys you? Child abuse, animal cruelty, lack of respect for the elderly and physically challenged people.

If you could, what would you change in the world? Introduce the meaning of peace, happiness and freedom for all people and animals, build trust, love, respect and confidence in our youth of today, helping young people to realise that the ongoing existence of the world is held in their hands.

Worst habit? To my daughters' total embarrassment, I am always connecting with people wherever I go.

Who would you like to meet? Nelson Mandela and Obama.

letter written for a specific job or industry. This 15 minute interview provides the student with an opportunity to practice their interview skills and techniques plus their resume assessed and evaluated. Interviewers for the program are volunteers from various industries, retirees and employers.

Did you know?

The **iPREP** program has been running since July 2009 with 134 students from 5 schools participating in the program.