



## Community Response to Education & Skills Forum Survey

During September/October the Education & Skills Forum promoted via email networks the opportunity to participate in an online survey to highlight local education and skills priorities. Of the 120 people who responded, nearly half came from the school sector and the remainder was evenly divided between business, TAFE and local government.

The highest priorities in developing education and skills in our community were seen to be:

- Expanding the range of university and TAFE courses offered at Port Macquarie Campus
- Local people completing TAFE/VET and university qualifications at a rate comparable with the national average
- Retaining and/or attracting more young people to study locally after completing their HSC
- Employers taking on more trainees and apprentices
- Establishing an identity for Port Macquarie as a centre for education and training excellence for regionally significant industries or occupations
- Developing better communication and literacy skills

Most respondents wanted more educational options offered locally in study areas like teacher education, sport and recreation, environmental studies, fisheries/ marine studies and tourism/hospitality. About one-third of the respondents were keen to participate in a workshop to explore those possibilities and provided their contact details.

The Forum is currently factoring this information into its planning its activities and focus areas for 2010.

## Key Dates for Dec 09/Jan 10

30 Oct 09	Early applications for TAFE and Uni close but late applications are accepted (see note)
14 – 18 Dec 09	North Coast TAFE early offers issued
16 Dec 09	HSC results issued by Board of Studies
17 Dec 09	ATAR (previously UAI) issued by UAC
5 Jan 10	University of Newcastle Advisory Day, Port Macquarie Campus
6 Jan 10	Deadline to change UAC preferences for main round
20 Jan 10	UAC main round offers
21 Jan 10	University of Newcastle Advisory Day, Port Macquarie Campus
25 Jan – 7 Feb 10	NCTAFE Info and Enrolment Days
27 Jan	NSW Public School Term commences (Staff Development Day)
28 Jan	NSW Public School student return
Note 1:	Apply ASAP to avoid missing out on a TAFE or Uni place. Go to the North Coast TAFE, university and UAC websites for more information

## Port Macquarie Campus Deadly Days

A successful Deadly Days Festival to promote educational, training and healthy lifestyles to Aboriginal youth was held at Port Macquarie Campus in early September. Aboriginal comedian Sean Choolburra hosted the entertainment, which included multi-award-winning Jessica Mauboy. Day 1 involved hands-on workshops, with school students gaining skills, a taste of a TAFE and a formal statement of attainment as their first step in a vocational education. Day 2 was a 'come one, come all' event, with the community attending to see the headline acts, Hip Hop workshops, sessions with sporting heroes and other high profile Aboriginal people and a Bush to BBQ feast. Information on local post-school options was provided by the University of Newcastle's Wollotuka Centre, North Coast TAFE, Newman College and various advisory services.



## University of Newcastle Advisory Days in Port Macquarie

Anyone who has applied to study with the University of Newcastle in 2010 at Port Macquarie, Newcastle or Ourimbah, can talk face-to-face with university staff about their UAC preferences and degree choices at these Advisory Days. Staff will also be available to speak about admissions, fees and scholarships and alternative entry:

Tuesday 5 January 2010  
Port Macquarie Campus, Administration building (A block) 3pm - 6pm

Thursday 21 January 2010  
Port Macquarie Campus, Administration building (A block), 3pm - 6pm

## Federal Education & Training News

**Robert Oakeshott MP**  
Federal Member for Lyne



The Federal Government has announced a new Enterprise Based Productivity Places Program (EBPPP). 11,000 extra enterprise training places are to be allocated allowing small and medium enterprises to work with industry associations, Industry Skills Councils and training providers to up skill existing workers. Under the new EBPPP, small businesses with up to 100 employees will have up to 90% of their training costs subsidised, medium sized enterprises of up to 200 staff will get a 75% subsidy and a 50% subsidy will be available for larger companies. Applications must be made via Industry Skills Councils so for more information on how to apply for EBPPP, please contact your relevant Industry Skills Council which can be found at <http://www.isc.org.au/>.

Just this month I was pleased to announce that the future ownership of the ATC building in Taree will remain in the hands of the Greater Taree City Council. After extensive community consultation with many stakeholders a resolution was made that this building would not remain a trade training school facility. Currently talks are underway between the Council and various providers of education, business and training support for its future use.

Finally, in the first week of December I will be circulating my Christmas Newsletter to everyone. Its primary focus will be on what is happening in education in our region. You will find information about learning across the life span, what training opportunities are available for job seekers, newly retrenched workers, apprentices and people with disabilities and what I hope is an informative page on why our region needs to get serious about study so we can recognise the benefits "skilling up" can bring to our community as a whole.

## State Education & Training News

**Peter Besseling**  
State Member for Port Macquarie



The State Government has been active in legislative changes in the education area during the past 3 months, with the much-publicised debate over the print media publication of school results. Additional powers have also been granted to the Department of Education to ensure that children of compulsory school age do attend school, and to provide a wider range of options to the Department to assist that to occur.

The Building the Education Revolution Program is being delivered across the region, with our schools welcoming the injection of funds to improve their facilities.

In other schools news, Westport Public has received increased funding, which will give the school additional opportunity to develop their resources and skills for educating the great group of kids they have there.

The NSW Government is putting a heavy emphasis on training for 'Green Skills' and 'Energy Efficiency' skills, to meet the predicted demand for qualifications that reflect our community's growing environmental awareness. Information about funded training opportunities can be found by going to [www.det.nsw.edu.au/industryprograms](http://www.det.nsw.edu.au/industryprograms) and following the links to Green Skills. The new *Skilling NSW* website at <https://www.skilling.nsw.gov.au/snswp/> will host up-to-date information on apprenticeships and traineeships, for individuals or for course providers.

As 2009 draws to a close, I congratulate everyone who undertook some form of education or training this year, and to wish all of you a wonderful Christmas and an educational 2010!

## School students get a taste of careers in Aged Care

The Three Valleys Health and Ageing School-based Traineeship Program is well and truly underway, with a three-day 'taster' preparatory program recently run at Bundaleer Care Services at Wauchope for 20 school students interested in Aged Care as a career. The preparatory program was funded by Mid Coast Youth Career Services.

The Three Valleys Program, collaboratively run by entities that represent industry, training organisations, schools, youth and business in the Hastings, Macleay and Camden Haven valleys, evolved from an early Education & Skills Forum initiative, and is focused on establishing opportunities in 2010 for school-based traineeships (Certificate III on Aged Care Work) to be delivered by North Coast TAFE and Newman Technical College. The partners identified the need to assist school students to make an informed choice and the preparatory program was the result.

Twenty students from schools in Kempsey, Wauchope, Port Macquarie and Laurieton participated in the three days at Bundaleer, which helped them address employability skills like personal presentation and sector-specific issues like working with the aged or dealing with grief and loss, with an extra day involving visits to two other centres.

Jan Johnson, a human resources specialist for the aged and community services industry said that those who did participate were truly excited by their experience.

"Similarly, the 'host' employers were delighted to have the opportunity to showcase their organisations and services – they made everyone feel very welcome and the students were encouraged to engage with the residents."

## Higher Education Update

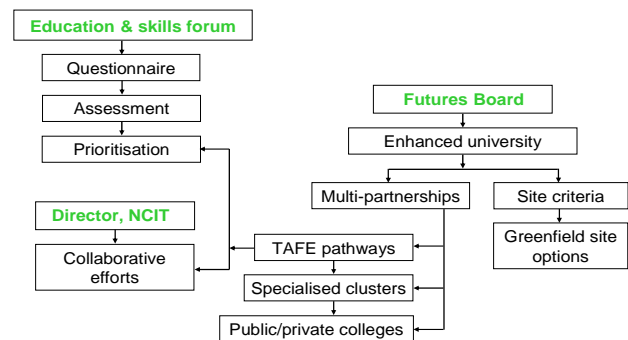
The Port Macquarie-Hastings Local Government Area and the broader Mid Coast region suffer from university participation rates that are well below state and national averages. Though the University of Newcastle now has 300 students studying nursing and teaching at Port Macquarie TAFE Campus, of all Australian cities approaching 50,000 residents, Port Macquarie still remains the only city that does not have a substantial university campus.

This is particularly alarming given that Port Macquarie has recently been identified as having the potential to be the fastest growing city in New South Wales and the 13<sup>th</sup> fastest growing city in Australia. The growth is primarily from residents aged over 50 years migrating from Sydney and surrounding suburbs. However, the 25 to 34 year old age group population is shrinking. In 1996 the number of 25 to 34 year olds in the Port Macquarie-Hastings was 5,803. Ten years later in 2006 the number of 25 to 34 year olds was 5,686.

To achieve the Federal Government's target of increasing the number of 25 to 34 year olds with a bachelor degree or above to 40% by 2025, the region would need to provide over 7,000 university places. This equates to approximately 500 enrolments per year. Currently, there are less than 150 enrolments each year.

The Education and Skills Forum and the Port Macquarie-Hastings Futures Board are attempting to reverse these trends and are working on a number of initiatives to provide more university places. A delegation from the forum had productive discussions on this matter with the Federal Minister for Education and Training, the Hon. Julia Gillard, during the Community Cabinet visit.

We are also investigating possible partnerships with universities and colleges as well as examining the migration of secondary school graduates. A number of possible greenfield sites for a new campus are being investigated along with the possibility of multiple sites based on specialised education clusters. Such clusters being explored include medical services and allied health. The process of increasing access to higher education is shown below.



If you would like to bring an idea for the Education & Skills Forum, please email the Executive Support Officer ([toni.watson@tafensw.edu.au](mailto:toni.watson@tafensw.edu.au)), or one of the Forum members.

Leanne Alexander	General Manager Port Macquarie Community College Inc	<a href="mailto:portace@portace.com.au">portace@portace.com.au</a>
Lesley Atkinson	Director of Community, Port Macquarie Hastings Council	<a href="mailto:lesley.atkinson@pmhc.nsw.gov.au">lesley.atkinson@pmhc.nsw.gov.au</a>
Kellon Beard	Regional Manager NSW Business Chamber	<a href="mailto:kellon.beard@nswbc.com.au">kellon.beard@nswbc.com.au</a>
Peter Besseling	Member for Port Macquarie	<a href="mailto:portmacquarie@parliament.nsw.gov.au">portmacquarie@parliament.nsw.gov.au</a>
Joy Corben	Director TAFE Services (Community Relations - Hastings)	<a href="mailto:joy.i.corben@tafensw.edu.au">joy.i.corben@tafensw.edu.au</a>
Professor Stephen Crump	Pro Vice Chancellor University of Newcastle	<a href="mailto:stephen.crump@newcastle.edu.au">stephen.crump@newcastle.edu.au</a>
Jenny Fraser	Mid Coast Youth Careers Services	<a href="mailto:jenny.fraser@mcycs.com.au">jenny.fraser@mcycs.com.au</a>
Professor Jenny Graham	Exec Dean Faculty of Arts & Science, Southern Cross Uni	<a href="mailto:jenny.graham@scu.edu.au">jenny.graham@scu.edu.au</a>
Wayne Graham	Business Analyst, Port Macquarie Hastings Council	<a href="mailto:wayne.graham@pmhc.nsw.gov.au">wayne.graham@pmhc.nsw.gov.au</a>
Sandy McColl	A/Head of Campus, UNSW Rural Clinical School	<a href="mailto:A.mccoll@unsw.edu.au">A.mccoll@unsw.edu.au</a>
Elizabeth McGregor	Institute Director North Coast TAFE	<a href="mailto:elizabeth.mcgregor@tafensw.edu.au">elizabeth.mcgregor@tafensw.edu.au</a>
Terry Muldoon	Principal, St Columba Anglican School	<a href="mailto:t.muldoon@scas.nsw.edu.au">t.muldoon@scas.nsw.edu.au</a>
Rob Oakeshott MP	Member for Lyne	<a href="mailto:robert.oakeshott.mp@aph.gov.au">robert.oakeshott.mp@aph.gov.au</a>
Andrew Roach	General Manager Port Macquarie Hastings Council	<a href="mailto:gm@pmhc.nsw.gov.au">gm@pmhc.nsw.gov.au</a>
Trevor Sargeant	Economic Development Officer Port Macquarie Hastings Council	<a href="mailto:trevor.sargeant@pmhc.nsw.gov.au">trevor.sargeant@pmhc.nsw.gov.au</a>
Adam Spencer	Principal Newman Senior Technical College	<a href="mailto:aspencer@lism.catholic.edu.au">aspencer@lism.catholic.edu.au</a>
Sue Wines	Vocational Education Consultant, North Coast Region, DET	<a href="mailto:Susan.Wines@det.nsw.edu.au">Susan.Wines@det.nsw.edu.au</a>
Mark Youngblutt	School Education Director Hastings	<a href="mailto:Mark.Youngblutt@det.nsw.edu.au">Mark.Youngblutt@det.nsw.edu.au</a>