It is lovely to be back in the region after returning to work from maternity leave at the beginning of term 3. I would like to acknowledge David Harriss (Assistant Principal at Underdale High School) for filling in for me during my leave period.

I would also like to welcome Michael Scarman (Apprenticeship Broker) to our region. David has ‘hit the ground running’ in getting to know our schools, their staff, students and parents/caregivers.

Programs in our region have continued to go from strength to strength, as a result of the hard work of a fantastic team of people. Students in our region have access to a wide range of VET (Vocational Education and Training) pathways as part of their SACE, through School-Based Apprenticeships, Regional VET Programs, Industry Pathway Programs and the Training Guarantee for SACE Students (TGSS). Through these VET pathways, our students are able to commence and/or complete a nationally-recognised VET qualification while they are still at school completing their SACE.

Did you know that 20% of the jobs in our industries require a university qualification and another 60% of the jobs need a VET qualification at Certificate III or higher?
At the beginning of term 3, Michael Scarman joined Vicki Bryant as one of two Apprenticeship Brokers within the Western Adelaide Trade Schools for the Future region. Michael has spent the past two years as the Apprenticeship Broker for the North Eastern Adelaide region, based at Windsor Gardens Vocational College. Michael has a strong background in vocational education and training, having previously spent many years in senior management positions within group training companies and private training providers, servicing industries such as automotive, electrotechnology and plumbing, as well as building and construction. Michael has worked with Vicki in previous roles and has been actively getting to know the schools and their students throughout the western region.

This time of the school year has been a busy period for the Apprenticeship Brokers, who have been actively involved in supporting schools and students through various events. We have attended school career expos to provide information and advice to students and their families about career pathways, VET in Schools programs and the benefits of combining a school based apprenticeship with SACE. This also included attending the Western Region ICAN Expo to provide information to students, families, carers and school staff around the benefits of part time school based apprenticeships as a way of keeping students engaged in education and training.

As Apprenticeship Brokers we have also made ourselves available to several schools to be involved with course counselling and subject selection interviews. This has been a very effective way of speaking with students and families looking to gain more information and a better understanding of the importance of choosing relevant VET in Schools programs as well as subjects to underpin career pathways. We are seeing more schools across the region involving the Apprenticeship Brokers in becoming a regular part of the course counselling and subject selection process.

In term 4, Trade Schools for the Future will once again be seeking the regional School Based Apprentice/Trainee of the Year Award for 2012. This award is a great way of recognising those students who have excelled in combining work, vocational learning and secondary education. Last term the winner of the coveted 2012 SA Training Awards School Based Apprentice of the Year will be announced at a gala dinner and awards ceremony. This award is sponsored by the Trade Schools for the Future program and has been won on several occasions by students from public secondary schools that are participating in school based apprenticeships and traineeships arranged through local Apprenticeship Brokers.

Apprenticeship Brokers are employed by the Department for Education and Child Development (DECD) as part of the Trade Schools for the Future strategy. They promote and facilitate school based apprenticeships and traineeships.

If you would like further information regarding school based apprenticeships and traineeships, please contact Vicki Bryant (mobile: 0458 564 603) or Michael Scarman (mobile: 0488 584 029).

Vicki Bryant and Michael Scarman
Apprenticeship Brokers

Last year, Woodville High School student and school based apprentice Alex Knoll (below) was recognised as a finalist in the 2011 SA Training Awards School Based Apprentice of the Year Award. Alex has combined his Certificate 3 in Engineering (Fabrication Trade) school based apprenticeship with wine equipment manufacturer, F Miller & Co, to successfully complete his SACE. Alex has aspirations to study engineering at university and believes that he has a head start in his life by combining his career in metal fabrication with his secondary schooling.
Regional VET Programs

In 2013, we have 50 Regional VET Programs available to students in the region. Regional VET Programs are hosted by schools in our region. Students remain enrolled at their Home School, and attend the Host School for their chosen VET Program.

These programs are in the following industry areas:
- Automotive
- Business Services
- Construction
- Electrotechnology
- Engineering
- Health and Community Services
- Horticulture
- Hospitality
- Information Technology, Media and Studio Recording
- Mining
- Retail and Tourism

The benefits to students participating in Regional VET Programs are:
- gaining a nationally-recognised qualification while whilst completing their SACE
- getting a ‘head start’ in their chosen career
- making their senior school study more relevant and interesting
- providing opportunities to learn ‘on-the-job’ through workplace learning
- gaining the skills and knowledge that employers look for
- providing pathways into apprenticeships, traineeships, further education or training, and direct employment.

Marketing of our 2013 programs has occurred across the region during term 3. Brochures and business cards were distributed to all current year 9, 10 and 11 students in our schools. Each school also has information about Regional VET Programs in their 2013 Course Handbooks.

At the time of writing, over 560 students across our region have applied for a Regional VET Program in 2013.

All 2013 Regional VET information is also available on our website (www.wats.sa.edu.au).

Maritime High School Program

The Maritime High School Program aligns well with the Advanced Technology Project (see report on page 5 of this newsletter), and both programs have supported STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) development in our region.

As part of the Maritime program, students have constructed projects designed by Nigel Stone of Wennig Electronics. Nigel has been working with schools to develop projects and resources that Maths, Science and Technology teachers can utilise with classes. One of these projects involves a Marine “Tilt-Torch” that is activated only in the dark and when vertical. It has a range of flashing alternatives that students can experiment with. This project was constructed in Design and Technology classes and discussed in Science during Electronics week.

An Elements of Shipboard Safety course will be held for students across the region on 13-16 November. This is an entry level maritime regulatory certificate recognised by Commercial Marine Services as the State maritime regulator. More information about this course (including the flyer and registration form) is available on the Events page on our website (www.wats.sa.edu.au).

Due to the success of the first Maritime Engineering regional VET program (hosted by Le Fevre High School), a second class has commenced this term, with students from across the region (see photo below).

An Elements of Shipboard Safety course will be held for students across the region on 13-16 November. This is an entry level maritime regulatory certificate recognised by Commercial Marine Services as the State maritime regulator. More information about this course (including the flyer and registration form) is available on the Events page on our website (www.wats.sa.edu.au).

Rod Hunter
Maritime Coordinator
Industry Skills Program

Building a Successful Vocational Pathway

Department of Education and Children Development (DECD) schools across Western Adelaide are talking with students who left school at the end of 2011, to see what they are doing now and to ask them how well they were prepared for their transition from school. The research of where our students are and how they were prepared to be successful beyond school is part of a three year study in our region that will support our schools in preparing resilient young people with bright futures.

The majority of the students surveyed are now learning and working, studying at university, in a full time apprenticeship or at TAFE SA completing vocational learning. Young people surveyed identified that teachers, career counsellors and parents were the main influences on their career choice.

The options available for young people in school are now broader than ever before. More students are accessing Vocational Education and Training (VET) and gaining Certificate II and Certificate III qualifications in a growing range of local and national skills shortage areas.

Health and Community Services is an area especially well supported across our schools. Students can gain qualifications and experience in a range of health related occupations by studying in any of these qualifications:

- Certificate III in Disability Services
- Certificate III in Health Services Assistance
- Certificate III in Allied Health Assistance
- Certificate II in Family Well-Being (partial)
- Certificate II in Community Services (childcare, aged and disability care)

Each of these programs has strong connections with industry partners and students are able to participate in workplace learning within industry settings.

Western Adelaide students can also access training subsidies through the Skills for All initiative, the 'Training Guarantee for SACE Students' (TGSS). A full list of available qualifications can be found on the Western Adelaide Regional website: [http://www.decd.sa.gov.au/westernadelaide/pages/Secondary](http://www.decd.sa.gov.au/westernadelaide/pages/Secondary). Among our current students to have taken up this training opportunity are two Henley High School students undertaking a Certificate III in Hospitality as an integral part of their SACE. We'll have more news on this in our next newsletter.

Cherry Robinson and Greg Lomax
Industry Skills Managers

Construction Industry White Card Training

This term we held two regional White Card courses (on 15 August and 11 September). 46 students from eight schools participated in these two courses, and were successful in completing their qualification. A Term 4 regional course will be held on Thursday 1 November (week 4, term 4). The flyer and registration form for this course can be downloaded from our website: [www.wats.sa.edu.au](http://www.wats.sa.edu.au) (from the Events page).

This course is recommended for students planning a pathway in the trades, or in any job that will require access to building sites. A Construction Industry White Card is needed for access to building sites, including for work experience and structured workplace learning. This course is a nationally-recognised Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) qualification, allowing White Card holders to work on building sites across Australia.
Advanced Technology Project

The Advanced Technology Project (ATP) is now into its third year. The schools involved in the Western Adelaide region (Henley High School, Le Fevre High School, Seaton High School, Underdale High School and Ocean View B-12 College) have continued to develop curriculum in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) and have encouraged more staff at their schools to be involved in the project. Below is a brief update of some of the current ATP activities at each school.

Henley High School
The first semester of a new year 10 subject ‘Advanced Technologies’ has been completed. The feedback from students has indicated that it has been an overwhelming success, and early indications suggest that enrolments for the subject have increased for 2013. A huge congratulations to Simon Brooks and Angelo Piantadosi for their hard work in making the subject a success.

Le Fevre High School
Le Fevre High has continued to integrate electronics into Maths, Science and Technology. They are using projects and support materials developed for our schools by Nigel Stone of Wennig Electronics. Technology students have trialled a new project involving a “Tilt-Torch”. The school also ran an Advanced Technology Electronics week with speakers from Industry addressing Year 10 students. The week involved theory and practical activities for students.

Seaton High School
As part of the year 9 maths and science curriculum, Seaton High has finished trialling their new unit “How safe is your iPod?” with one class. Staff are currently reviewing the unit with the aim of rolling this out across all year 9 classes in 2013. A year 8 team of students have also been entered in the Scaletrix Challenge for later in the year. The school also entered six teams in the Robocup Junior State championships, and took the first three places in the Premier Rescue division. Some of these students will be competing in the national competition in Canberra on the 22nd and 23rd of September.

Underdale High School
Underdale High has continued with the development of their work in robotics. This is currently being trialled in the year 8 maths and science curriculum. Training for staff has been ongoing. A robotics club has been formed which has received a high amount of student interest.

Ocean View B-12 College
Ocean View College has continued their work with Pedal Prix. This has received excellent support from parents and students. They are looking to introduce robotics into their curriculum and are also working with Le Fevre High School in the Maritime program.

Along with these developments in curriculum, the Advanced Technology Project has also introduced a number of themed forums for students in the Western Adelaide region. Jeremy LeCornu, Henley High School, has led this initiative with forums on Engineering, Forensic Science and Creative Writing for gifted and talented students. The student feedback from these sessions has been extremely positive and we look forward to these forums continuing in the future. Carmen Asche, also from Henley High, led a very successful ATP Indigenous forum, which was attended by many industry partners and looked at pathways in STEM industries.

All schools are making career development a stronger focus in their curriculum and are currently reviewing how their school can further promote STEM careers and support students in choosing these pathways.

The Western Adelaide ATP schools (along with other schools from across the state) will be showcasing their programs at the Education Development Centre on November 9.

Adam Spencer
Innovation and STEM Coordinator
Henley High School

Left: students from across the region at the Advanced Technology Project Engineering forum for gifted and talented students.