



VET NATIONAL TEACHING & LEARNING CONFERENCE



17 & 18
AUGUST
2023



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CONVENTION AND
EXHIBITION CENTRE

PROGRAM



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which we meet. We pay our respects to their Elders, past, present and future, and the elders of other communities who may be here today.

THE INDIGENOUS LITERACY FOUNDATION

In lieu of gifts to presenters, VDC is donating \$50 for each speaker at the 2023 VET National Teaching & Learning Conference. The Indigenous Literacy Foundation (ILF) is a Community led organisation and works to ensure equity of access to culturally appropriate literacy materials to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in remote Indigenous Communities across Australia.

The ILF supports Community to create and publish their stories in languages of their choice. The ILF is the Australian book industry charity of choice.

ILF works to provide equity of opportunity for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children to ensure they have future choice in education, health and general wellbeing.

All donations to the ILF helps put books in the hands of children in remote Indigenous communities.

- \$30 can buy three or more culturally relevant books for remote communities
- \$300 can buy packs of 40 books
- \$500 helps translate stories into first language.

To find out more about how you can assist, visit [The Indigenous Literacy Foundation](https://www.indigenousliteracyfoundation.org.au).



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MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Welcome to the 18th annual VET National Teaching & Learning Conference 2023. The theme of this year's conference is From Competence to Excellence.

Throughout the conference there is an abundance of professional learning opportunities for VET practitioners, as well as a stream of sessions featuring VET research topics for VET Sector professionals.

For the first time, the VET National Teaching & Learning Conference will be held in conjunction with the WorldSkills Australia National Championships. VDC has partnered with WorldSkills Australia to provide you with access to international WorldSkills guests and participate in bespoke guided tours of the championships at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre.

Skill competitions are an opportunity for Australia's trainees and apprentices to test their skills and knowledge in their chosen field against their peers. Held every two years, the National Championships are the biggest trades and skills competition in the country and consist of more than 50 competitions and loads of Try'aSkill booths where you can try your hand at different trades and skills.

This year's conference theme is about understanding why it's essential for learners to be aware of what the highest level of performance looks like in their chosen field and how to take the next steps. The conference sessions aim to empower attendees to reflect on their own practices and encourage learners to make that journey from competence to excellence. The experience of the National Championships provides the perfect backdrop to consider what is excellence in VET.

I hope the refreshed and expanded conference program extends the perfect opportunity for you to reflect, learn and expand on your role and network with colleagues from across Australia. With the high-profile keynote speakers, engaging range of presentations and panel discussions, concurrent interactive workshops, research sessions, or the National Championships; it will be hard not to walk away with as a sense of pride and purpose in the VET Sector.

Thank you for joining us.

MARTIN POWELL
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
VET DEVELOPMENT CENTRE (VDC)





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MASTER OF CEREMONIES

CHEMÈNE SINSON

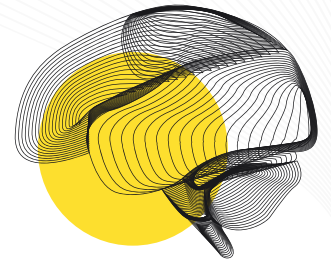
PRINCIPAL AT BLACKWATER PROJECTS

Chemène Sinson, specialises in education, learning and performance across various educational sectors, both within Australia and internationally. She designs and facilitates accredited and non-accredited programs for diverse industries, and helps individuals build the essential skills needed to thrive in today's constantly evolving world of work.



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SPEAKERS

CONFERENCE MC
Chemène Sinson



KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Jacqui Cooper
*5-time Olympian &
5-time World Champion*



Louise Mahler
*Gravitas Expert & Keynote
Speaker of the Year*



Aimee Stanton
*The Lady Tradie, Plumber
turned Tiny House Builder*



Nasir Sobhani
*The Streets Barber
Hairdresser for the homeless*



Susan James Relly
*Professor in Vocational
Education, Univ. of Adelaide*

PANELS



Trevor Schwenke
CEO, WSA



Susan James Relly
*Prof. in Vocational
Education, Univ. of Adelaide*



Jane Stokie
*Director of Skills
Competitions, WSI*



Troy Everett
*Team Leader TAFE NSW STH,
Skill Manager for both WSA
& WSI*



Kevin Harris
*Chair of the Board of WSA,
Official Delegate for WSA*



Martin Powell
CEO, VDC



Louise Mahler
*Gravitas Expert & Keynote
Speaker of the Year*



Justin Brown
*ACER Principal Research
Fellow*



Claire Field
*Expert in VET, International
& Higher Education*



Andrew Shea
*CEO & Tertiary Education
Expert*



Rachel Crawford
2022 Skillaroo



Jayden Jennings
2022 Skillaroo



Anne Russell
2022 Skillaroo

PRESENTATION & WORKSHOPS



Claire Field

Expert in VET, International & Higher education - Principal at Claire Field & Associates



Vanessa Trower

Award-winning Learning Professional Nexpert Learning



Dr. Justin Brown

ACER Principal Research Fellow



Dr. Anne Jones

Chisholm Institute - Emeritus Professor at Victoria University



Andrew Shea

CEO & Tertiary Education Expert, Builders Academy Australia/CWBTS



Kevin Ekendahl

CEO & Principal lead Auditor, Audit Express



Dr. Joy de Leo OAM

Manager, Research & Data Analytics, NCVET



Dr. Tabatha Griffin

Team Leader, Research & Data Analytics, NCVET



Liesl Fitzpatrick

Senior Manager, Education Licensing, Copyright Agency



Vicki Marchant

Project Manager, Education Design Patterns, TAFE NSW



Kira Clarke

President, AVETRA: Principal Research Fellow - Skills & Training



Dr. Karen O'Reilly-Briggs

Secretary, AVETRA, Academic Course Manager - Education, Box Hill Institute

PROGRAM

DAY 1 THURSDAY
17 AUGUST 2023

8:15–8:45am **Registration**

8:45–9:15am **Conference Official Opening: Martin Powell** CEO, VET Development Centre

Official Welcome: Craig Robertson CEO, Victorian Skills Authority

Opening Remarks: Chemène Sinson Master of Ceremonies

9:15–9:55am **Jacqui Cooper** 5-time Olympian & 5-time World Champion

Keynote Presentation: 'A Champion Attitude'

9:55–10:40am **International Panel Discussion facilitated by Trevor Schwenke** CEO WorldSkills Australia (WSA)

'Embracing Skills Excellence on an International Stage - An Australian Perspective'

WSA Competition Tour Information

10:40–11:00am **Morning Tea & Networking**

11:00–11:45am

RESEARCH

PLENARY 212/213

'Evaluating Professional Learning: Models & Methods to Measure Impact'
Dr Justin Brown

'Inclusive Lifelong Learning'
Dr Anne Jones

ROOM 216

'Creating Optimal Learning Environments: Strategies for Authentic Learning & Excellence'

Vanessa Trower

CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS

ROOM 217

'From Compliance to Excellence: Unleashing the Power of Academic Governance and Self-Assurance in VET'

Kevin Ekendahl

ROOM 218

'Implementing design patterns for quality learner experiences: a TAE case study'

Vicki Marchant

TOURS



COMPETITION TOUR #1

11:00–1:00pm

12:00–12:45pm

The 5Cs: A Framework for Systemic Change in Skills and Training for Young People
Kira Clarke

'From Competence to Excellence: Professionalising a VET Teaching Workforce'
Dr Karen O'Reilly-Briggs

REPEAT

'Creating Optimal Learning Environments: Strategies for Authentic Learning & Excellence'

Vanessa Trower

REPEAT

'From Compliance to Excellence: Unleashing the Power of Academic Governance and Self-Assurance in VET'

Kevin Ekendahl

REPEAT

'Implementing design patterns for quality learner experiences: a TAE case study'

Vicki Marchant

COMPETITION TOUR #2

1:45–3:00pm

1:00–2:00pm **Lunch & Networking**

2:00–2:45pm

'All Things Quality: What The Research Says'
Dr Joy de Leo OAM

'Beyond The Pandemic: The Use of Online Delivery in VET'
Dr Tabatha Griffin

REPEAT

'Creating Optimal Learning Environments: Strategies for Authentic Learning & Excellence'

Vanessa Trower

REPEAT

'From Compliance to Excellence: Unleashing the Power of Academic Governance and Self-Assurance in VET'

Kevin Ekendahl

REPEAT

'Implementing design patterns for quality learner experiences: a TAE case study'

Vicki Marchant

COMPETITION TOUR #2

1:45–3:00pm

3:00–3:20pm **Afternoon Tea & Networking**

3:30–4:00pm

Dr Susan James Relly Professor in Vocational Education, Head of the School of Education; University of Adelaide
Keynote Presentation: 'Good People in a Complex System'

4:00–4:05pm **Day 1 Closing Remarks: Chemène Sinson**

4:05–5:30pm **Networking Function: Canapés & Drinks**

AM SESSIONS

PLENARY

CONCURRENT

CONCURRENT

PM SESSIONS

PLENARY

Items marked with the circle are taking place in the Foyer

DAY 2 FRIDAY 18 AUGUST 2023

8:30–9:00am **Arrival Tea & Coffee**

9:00–9:15am **Welcome Back**

9:15–9:45am **Nasir Sobhani** The Streets Barber, Hairdresser for the homeless
Keynote Presentation: *'Living A Life of Purpose'*

9:45–10:15am **Panel interview with Chemène Sinson & WSA Student Ambassadors**
'My Journey to Skills Excellence - A Student's Perspective'

10:15–10:45am **Keynote Presentation: Aimee Stanton** The Lady Tradie, Plumber turned Tiny House Builder
'Dare to be Different'

10:45–11:05am **Morning Tea & Networking**

PRESENTATIONS

PLENARY ROOM 212/213

11:05–11:40am *'Using Innovative Learning Technologies, Including Virtual Reality in VET'*
Andrew Shea

11:45–12:20pm *'Cracking the Copyright Code – Navigating the Path to Excellence'*
Liesl Fitzpatrick

12:25–1:00pm *'Helping Learners Excel – The Role of AI & Personalised learning in VET'*
Claire Field

TOURS

**COMPETITION
TOUR #3**
11:00–1:00pm

1:00–1:45pm **Lunch & Networking**

1:45–2:30pm **Dr Louise Mahler** Gravitas Expert & Keynote Speaker of the Year:
Leadership body-language & voice
Keynote Presentation: *'From Amateur to Professional'*

2:30–3:10pm **Panel Discussion facilitated by Chemène Sinson**
'How Do We Move From Competence to Excellence'

3:10–3:15pm **Closing Remarks by MC: Chemène Sinson**

3:15–3:45pm **Afternoon Tea & Networking**

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KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

VET NATIONAL
TEACHING & LEARNING
CONFERENCE 2023



Jacqui Cooper
5-time Olympian & 5-time
World Champion

Championing Your Attitude: This is what is needed to get to the top and stay at the top; it's a mindset, an outlook, and an attitude we can all have. Jacqui finished her career competing at her 5th Winter Olympics in Vancouver, Canada. She attributes her success over 20 years to passion, self-belief and commitment, but above all, it was her "champion attitude" that gave her longevity and success in her sport. It was an attitude more than just winning and losing; it was an attitude to working in a team, an attitude to her competitors, and attitude to adversity, an attitude to change, and an attitude to a setback; it was an attitude to everything. Jacqui created a positive internal dialogue and a healthy ability to stay positive when everyone and everything around her wasn't.

Through honest, authentic and energetic storytelling, Jacqui's session will be compelling, believable and relatable. Jacqui's presentation will inspire change; to rise to a higher place of commitment, self-belief, and passion with a drive to do and want more both personally and professionally. In her long and decorated career, Jacqui competed in 139 World Cup Events, 9 World Championships and 5 Winter Olympic teams. She is the first Australian woman in history (Summer or Winter Games) to have enjoyed this honour. With a record 5 world titles, 39 World Cup medals, 25 World Cup wins and 3 major World Championship medals, Jacqui Cooper is indisputably the greatest aerial skier of all time. Her resilient and entrepreneurial spirit in sport is still the foundation for her success beyond the ski suit.

DAY 1
17/08/23
9:15AM
- 9:55AM



Susan James Relly
Professor in Vocational
Education, Univ. of Adelaide

Good People in a Complex System: Professor Susan James Relly is the Head of the School of Education; Faculty of Arts, Business, Law, and Economics, at the University of Adelaide. Susan completed a Bachelor of Education at Queensland University of Technology (QUT) and read for a MSc in Comparative and International Education and a DPhil in Education at the University of Oxford. Susan's entire career has been in education in various forms: she taught in secondary schools in Australia and England before starting her academic career. She is an Honorary Research Fellow and former Deputy Dean of the Department of Education and Associate Head (Education) of the Social Sciences Division at the University of Oxford. Her research interests are in the areas of technical and vocational education and training policy, vocational excellence, apprenticeship, the tertiary landscape and skills economy.

DAY 1
17/08/23
3:30PM
- 4:00PM

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Nasir Sobhani

*The Streets Barber,
Hairdresser for the homeless*

DAY 2
18/08/23
9:15AM
- 9:45AM

Living A Life of Purpose: Nasir's presentation explores and unpacks the idea that all human beings have been blessed with at least one key talent or gift, the purpose of which is to benefit and improve humankind. This presentation will discuss ways in which one can identify what that individual talent or gift is and how, ultimately, it can be used to benefit and assist humanity.

Nasir has earned his affectionate title spending his time taking to Melbourne's streets offering free haircuts and shaves to the homeless and less fortunate. His inspirational story of compassion and generosity has received significant attention globally. Nasir was also one of the five people to be profiled as part of the Kenneth Cole Courageous Class Campaign in New York, celebrating individuals who have overcome obstacles in life to become inspiring role models. He is an inspirational speaker certain to motivate and encourage all those who encounter him to find their own purpose.



Aimee Stanton

*The Lady Tradie, Plumber
turned Tiny House Builder*

DAY 2
18/08/23
10:15AM
- 10:45AM

Dare To Be Different: Aimee's presentation covers her journey overcoming obstacles and why she chose to become a Plumber instead of following a traditional pathway. Aimee shares how she went from getting expelled to completely changing her view on the education system, turning her life around and getting on the road to success.

- Make an informed decision if online delivery is right for you and your learner cohorts
- How to go from competence to excellence to stand out from the crowd
- Turning your passion into purpose, which leads to profit
- The importance of failure & how to overcome obstacles in your life

With her bubbly energetic personality and laid-back attitude, Aimee Stanton's not your average tradie. Plumber turned DIY specialist & Tiny House Creator, she's well-known for being one of Australia's first Lady Tradie Presenters & a passionate advocate for Women in the Trades. Aimee leverages the power of her own story of failure & perseverance showing the value of following a non-traditional pathway in life. She believes that growth occurs personally and professionally when you are willing to step beyond your comfort zone.



Louise Mahler
Gravititas Expert & Keynote
Speaker of the Year

DAY 2
18/08/23
1:45PM
- 2:30PM

From Amateur to Professional: Let's push from competence to excellence.

Dr Louise Mahler will show you how the performers do it, because if you don't go out and do it right every night, you don't last on the big stage. And confidence is competence and that competence is in the areas of vocal presence, body power and clear and concise communication with humour and joy. In this incredibly hands-on, practical and often hilarious session, we will build a process for rocketing up the scale with skills of body and voice that you can take away immediately remembering the amateur practises until they get it right and the professional practises until they can't get it wrong. Come, cheer and clap and become part of the audience claque. Get engaged, get excited and let's perform! Let's rebuild the joy of actually communicating with each other so that we can move ourselves out of personal discomfort, guide your students and organisations through turmoil and lead our nation towards a positive future.

Dr Louise Mahler has been voted in the top experts in both Body Language and Communication globally. Obsessed with creating exceptional human connection, Louise will help you elevate your body language, voice and divulges the algorithms of engagement in high-stakes engagement. She is the author of Resonate – For those who need to be heard and believes that, today, more than ever we need to be confident to engage, inspire and build trust in those we lead. We need leaders who simply bring excellence to everything they do to move with the times, stay relevant and know what works for both themselves and their audience. This requires critical analysis, practice and personal transformation, which demands better-informed thinking a bold approach and resilience. Louise believes everyone has a voice, so let's get heard.

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WHEN IT SUITS YOU**

SPEAKERS CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS



Vanessa Trower
Director, Principal Learning
& OD Consulting Nexperk

DAY 1
17/08/23
11:00-11:45AM
12:00-12:45PM
2:00-2:45PM

Vanessa Trower is a learning, training, and performance industry leader, serving as the 2020 NSW AITD President and is a multi-award-winning Learning Professional in Australia and the Asia Pacific.

She began her professional career in Human Resources in 2003, transitioning into Learning and Development both in the corporate and VET sector, working with large organisations in the building, supply chain and transport industry, gaining recognition for the training programs implemented.

She plays an active role in the learning and training community and served on the Advisory Board with the Institute for Learning & Performance, Asia Pacific.

With her positive energy, authenticity, creativity, and strong business acumen, Vanessa takes a practical and sustainable approach to delivering impactful learning solutions to power people's performance and build organisational capability for now and the future.

Explore the key characteristics of optimal learning environments and their impact on learning outcomes and motivation. We will discuss practical strategies and techniques that learning professionals can use to create these environments, including:

- Setting a positive learning culture
- Offering timely and specific support and feedback
- Promoting active participation and engagement that support diverse learners
- Promoting authentic learning experiences and excellence

This workshop is for anyone who is interested in creating a learning environment that is conducive to learning and achievement.

Learning outcomes:

- Understand the key characteristics of optimal learning environments.
- Learn practical strategies and techniques for creating these environments.



Kevin Ekendahl
CEO & Principal lead Auditor,
Audit Express

DAY 1

17/08/23

11:00-11:45AM

12:00-12:45PM

2:00-2:45PM

Kevin Ekendahl has extensive experience in compliance consulting and internal auditing to educational providers, as well as educational and VET sector policy advice to ministers and government departments at state and federal levels.

In this workshop, you will get to explore the critical role of academic governance and self-assurance in driving continuous improvement and elevating the quality of education and training programs. We will discuss:

- The pivotal role of academic governance in creating a foundation for excellence in VET institutions
- The various self-assurance mechanisms and strategies to elevate quality and drive continuous improvement

Drawing on real-world examples and best practices, Kevin Ekendahl the CEO of Audit Express will share insights on establishing robust academic governance frameworks, implementing effective self-assurance mechanisms, and fostering a culture of excellence.

This session is for anyone who is interested in improving the quality of education and training in their VET institution.

Learning outcomes:

- Understand the pivotal role of academic governance in creating a foundation for excellence in VET institutions.
- Explore the various self-assurance mechanisms and strategies to elevate quality and drive continuous improvement.
- Learn practical steps to foster a culture of excellence by integrating academic governance and self-assurance into everyday practices and processes in VET institutions.

SPEAKERS CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS



Vicki Marchant
Project Manager, Education
Design Patterns, TAFE NSW

Vicki Marchant has extensive experience in teaching, flexible and online learning, learning technologies and learning design. Vicki supported the OneTAFE restructure as a regional change manager in 2017 and currently leads work in learning design, educational quality, capability development and innovation in digital learning.

DAY 1
17/08/23
11:00-11:45AM
12:00-12:45PM
2:00-2:45PM

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This workshop is tailored specifically for trainers, assessors, learning and assessment designers, and managers of resource development teams. We'll explore the fascinating world of education design patterns, showcasing their importance and wide-ranging applications. This interactive webinar will take you on a journey through an insightful TAE case study, revealing how these patterns have been successfully employed to amplify learning outcomes.

Expect to deep-dive into topics like:

- What are education design patterns?
- Why should you use design patterns?
- How do design patterns from the TAE case study apply to your work?
- And ultimately, how can design patterns improve the learner experience?

By the end of this workshop, you'll come away with a profound knowledge of education design patterns and their application. You'll gain insights into how these patterns can significantly contribute to creating quality learner experiences, leaving you inspired to explore and incorporate these valuable tools into your own educational design principles.

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SPEAKERS RESEARCH STREAM



Dr. Justin Brown
ACER Principal Research
Fellow

DAY 1
17/08/23
11:00-
11:25AM

Justin is a Principal Research Fellow in the Tertiary and Professional Education Research Program at the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER) in Melbourne. He has contributed to over 50 educational research and evaluation projects in Australia and internationally over 20 years. He is currently leading an independent evaluation of the VET Development Centre's Professional Learning Program.

Since joining ACER in 2009, he has led research and evaluation projects for a diverse range of clients including governments, industry peak bodies and providers. His research interests focus on tertiary education pathways and the school-to-work transition. Prior to joining ACER, Justin was a researcher with PhillipsKPA and IDP Education Australia in Sydney.

You'll learn why it is crucial to understand what methods work and why for effective professional learning for your VET workforce. Justin will unravel different models and methods to evaluate the outcomes and impact of your programs, arming you with the knowledge to better navigate your evaluation efforts.

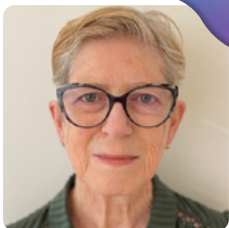
You'll gain valuable insights into how professional learning programs are assessed for the purpose of continuous improvement. You'll learn about the various evaluation models used to show the impact of professional learning on practitioners, their employers, and their learners, as well as observations from ACER's independent evaluations of the VDC's Professional Learning Programs, providing you with practical insights.

Topics covered:

- Professional learning for the VET Workforce – why it's important to know what works and why
- Models and methods for evaluating outcomes and impact
- Observations from ACER's independent evaluations of the VDC's Professional Learning Programs

Learning outcomes:

- Insights into how professional learning programs are evaluated for the purposes of continuous improvement
- Knowledge about the types of evaluation models used to demonstrate impact of professional learning on practitioners, their employers and their learners



Dr. Anne Jones

Chisholm Institute -
Emeritus Professor at
Victoria University

DAY 1
17/08/23
11:25-
11:50AM

Anne commenced her education career at the former Bendigo College of Technical and Further Education. Her experience there ignited an enduring enthusiasm for vocational education. She has deep knowledge of vocational and higher education policy, design and practice gained through experience in teaching, educational leadership and research in stand-alone TAFEs and dual sector universities. She has pursued her interest in VET learning and curriculum at local, state, national and international levels. Previous roles have included Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic) and Director TAFE at Victoria University and Executive Director Learning and Academic Affairs at Box Hill Institute. Anne is currently an Emeritus Professor at Victoria University and a member of the Chisholm Institute Board.

Is it time for a shift in focus to a more inclusive lifelong learning approach? As the education sector continually evolves, the importance of inclusivity in lifelong learning becomes undeniably paramount.

Join Dr. Anne Jones for this deep dive into inclusive lifelong learning. Anchored in the latest research, this session seeks to illuminate the contemporary methods of fostering an inclusive lifelong learning environment. Discover why the traditional method of monitoring equity groups in the VET sector may need a refresh. We'll also introduce you to transformative strategies, like the Universal Design for Learning (UDL), which are spearheading change in the world of inclusive learning.

By the session's end, you'll gain a renewed perspective on inclusive lifelong learning, a thorough introduction to modern learning designs such as UDL, and access to invaluable resources that empower you to champion these groundbreaking inclusive learning approaches.

You can't afford to miss this session, packed latest insights and tools for ensuring every learner, irrespective of their background or capabilities, receives an optimal educational journey.

Topics covered:

- Why the VET sector's focus on monitoring historical equity groups is out of date
- What we can learn from research into supporting inclusion in the lifelong learning context
- New approaches to inclusive learning e.g. Universal Design for Learning (UDL)

Learning outcomes:

- Increased understanding of inclusive lifelong learning
- An introduction to contemporary thinking about inclusive learning designs such as UDL
- An awareness of resources they can access to support new approaches to inclusive learning

SPEAKERS RESEARCH STREAM



Kira Clarke
President, AVETRA: Principal
Research Fellow – Skills &
Training

DAY 1
17/08/23
12:00-
12:25PM

Kira Clarke is a Principal Research Fellow for Skills and Training in in the Social Policy and Research Centre (SPARC) at the Brotherhood of St Laurence, where she leads the Education, Skills & Training team. Kira and the team are leading SPARC's skills and training policy and research program of work, which includes streams of work on employment based training, employability, place-based innovation partnerships with industry for co-designing new pathways to entry level work, and skills for enabling the green transition. Prior to joining BSL in early 2020, Kira spent more 15 years at the University of Melbourne, where she completed more than 35 grant funded and commissioned research projects, with a focus on youth transitions and vocational education. Kira is the current President of the Australasian Vocational Education and Research Association (AVETRA) and Victorian co-convener of WAVE (Women in Adult & Vocational Education).

Are you concerned about the future of our young people in a rapidly changing job market? Especially in these tumultuous times, where the aftershocks of the COVID-19 pandemic have left a generation of young Aussies navigating a daunting employment terrain? This webinar might just be the compass you've been looking for.

Welcome to The 5Cs: A Framework for Systemic Change in Skills and Training for Young People, led by Kira Clarke. This session delves into the invaluable insights from years of applied research in disadvantaged communities across Australia. Championed by the Brotherhood of St Laurence and drawing wisdom from the National Youth Employment Body, this presentation introduces the '5Cs Framework'. This forward-thinking approach addresses the systemic challenges our young folk encounter in the Vocational Education and Training (VET) system, while also laying out fresh strategies to enhance VET's efficacy for our youth in a post-pandemic world.

You'll learn more about systemic change and its profound impact on our society, and explore the future of employment-based training. Kira will explore applied social policy methodology, breaking down the structural barriers that stand in the way of youth training and employment and share case studies in youth training pathways that are showing promising results.

Topics covered:

- Applied research
- Systemic change
- Youth pathways to employment
- Employment-based trainin

Learning outcomes:

- Understanding of an applied social policy methodology
- Awareness of the current structural barriers to youth training and employment
- Understanding of possible changes to youth training pathways and their potential impacts
- Awareness of emerging and promising case studies in place-based projects across Australia



**Dr. Karen
O'Reilly-Briggs**

Secretary, AVETRA, Academic
Course Manager – Education,
Box Hill Institute

DAY 1
17/08/23
12:25-
12:50PM

Dr Karen O'Reilly-Briggs is an International Specialised Skills Institute Victorian Skills Authority Fellow, Secretary of the Australasian Vocational Education and Training Research Association (AVETRA), and trade-qualified industry-experienced metal fabrication and pressure vessel welding tradesperson. She has extensive industry experience in manufacturing and engineering, and worked as a trade teacher in Victorian TAFEs for approximately 10 years before receiving a full time PhD scholarship to research the impact of national training reform on the teaching and learning of engineering trades in Victoria. Her research interests include VET, the teaching and learning of craft trades and apprenticeships, VET teacher education and the status of VET in society. Karen currently works as the 'Academic Course Manager – Education' at Box Hill Institute where she is responsible for developing, teaching and managing programs designed to upskill teachers, trainers and lecturers in Higher Education and VET.

Dr Karen will be diving into the enlightening findings from a research study supported by the Victorian Skills Authority and International Specialised Skills Institute (ISSI). This study offers a deep dive into the Initial Teacher Education (ITE) of VET school teachers in Finland and Norway, countries applauded for their high standards in vocational education and training.

Learn how these countries master the transformation of tradespeople and other industry experts into exceptionally skilled, pedagogically proficient VET school teachers, and get a firsthand look at their winning strategies and methodologies, setting a global standard for best practices.

SPEAKERS RESEARCH STREAM



Dr. Joy de Leo OAM
Manager, Research & Data
Analytics, NCVET

DAY 1
17/08/23
2:00-
2:25PM

Joy has worked in education for over 40 years in both public and private sectors, involved in policy, curriculum development, research, management, advocacy and teaching in schools, VET and higher education. Her experience with indigenous and migrant communities informs her awareness of equity issues, while her doctoral thesis on quality education focuses her attention on both regulatory and non-regulatory aspects of quality.

Joy manages a team of NCVET researchers and data analysts to deliver the National VET research program, which integrates quantitative with qualitative research combined with advanced analytics and data linkages with other agencies, to inform policy development for Senior Skills Officials.

The issue of quality is one that is hotly debated in Australian VET. In fact, it's also a matter of contention internationally, whether referring to VET, schooling or higher education, and it's difficult to obtain agreement on what is meant by quality in education and training and how to measure it.

Join Dr Joy de Leo OAM as she presents the outcomes of a series of NCVET explorations into quality in VET in Australia and what it means beyond regulatory standards to RTOs, VET teachers and key stakeholders. This will also involve presenting a summary of findings relating to the competencies that quality VET teachers have in fulfilling their role, and alternative views about how best to achieve these.

Participants will obtain insights into what others in the sector are doing to strive for quality, whether this involves delivery, student support and wellbeing, sound working relationships, engagement with industry and community, leadership and other initiatives. In addition, the presentation will discuss strategies RTOs use to measure how they're going, and to find ways of improving what they do.

Topics covered:

- The definition of quality in education and training
- The factors that contribute to quality in VET
- The competencies of quality VET teachers
- Strategies for striving for quality in VET
- Measuring quality in VET

Learning outcomes:

- An understanding of the different ways that quality is defined in the literature
Insights into the factors that contribute to quality in VET
- Knowledge of the competencies of quality VET teachers
- Ideas for how to strive for quality in VET
- Knowledge of how to measure quality in VET



Dr. Tabatha Griffin
Team Leader, Research &
Data Analytics, NCVET

DAY 1
17/08/23
2:25-
2:50PM

Tabatha is a senior researcher and team leader in the Research and Data Analytics branch at NCVET. She has undertaken research on a wide range of topics, including: quality in the VET sector, the costs and benefits of education and training; and skills utilisation in the workplace. Recent work has investigated the use of online training before and during the COVID-19 pandemic, and the barriers and enablers of VET delivery in regional, rural and remote Australia. As an experienced research manager, Tabatha has also overseen a broad variety of projects at NCVET and has played a role in bringing together the findings from related projects.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a profound impact on the vocational education and training (VET) sector in Australia. In response to the pandemic, many RTOs were forced to shift their training delivery online. This presented a number of challenges, but it also created an opportunity for many RTOs to consider increasing their use of online delivery.

This session will explore the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the VET sector, and how it is shaping the future of online delivery in VET.

We will discuss:

- How the pandemic accelerated pre-pandemic plans to begin (or increase) online training delivery
- How certain qualifications transitioned well to the online environment while others were more challenging
- The teaching practices being used in the online environment and how student support is being provided to online students
- Insights on the future of online delivery in VET.

This research stream is for anyone who is interested in the future of VET in Australia. Whether you are an RTO, a student, or a policymaker, this webinar will provide you with valuable insights into the challenges and opportunities of online delivery in VET.

Learning outcomes:

- Understand the pivotal role of academic governance in creating a foundation for excellence in VET institutions.
- Explore the various self-assurance mechanisms and strategies to elevate quality and drive continuous improvement.
- Learn practical steps to foster a culture of excellence by integrating academic governance and self-assurance into everyday practices and processes in VET institutions.

PRESENTATIONS



Andrew Shea
CEO & Tertiary Education
Expert, Builders Academy
Australia/CWBTS

DAY 2
18/08/23
11:05AM
- 11:40AM

Over the past 18 years, Andrew has held Senior Management and Executive level positions across a range of post-secondary education sector providers delivering across diverse cohorts including to domestic students, onshore to international students and offshore to international students.

In 2020, and again in 2021, Andrew was recognized as the Professional Services/ Education Executive of the Year at the CEO Awards and Builders Academy Australia, the RTO which Andrew is Chief Executive Officer with, has been recognized as a multi-award winner at the Victorian Training Awards and winner of the Small Training Provider category at the Australian Training Awards in 2020.

Andrew is well recognized as a Tertiary Education expert holding current positions such as Chair of PWC – Skills For Australia’s – Education Industry Reference Committee; Non-Executive Director and Victorian Chair with the Independent Tertiary Education Council of Australia (ITECA), Board Advisor with Top 100 Women, Chair of the QuIET Network, and an active member of the Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA) -Stakeholder Liaison Group (SLG).

Ever wondered how technology can elevate your teaching and assessment methods in the VET sector? In a world where technology permeates every facet of our lives, understanding how to harness it effectively in the realm of Vocational Education and Training (VET) can be a game-changer.

Join Andrew Shea for this exciting session on “Using Innovative Learning Technologies, Including Virtual Reality in VET”. Delve into the exciting realm of interactive learning content that goes beyond mere engagement and paves the path from competence to excellence. This session is designed to unpack the myriad of learning technologies available in the VET sector, the distinctions between simulated worksites, virtual reality, and gamification, and importantly, their application in both learning and assessment.

You’ll leave this session equipped with a robust understanding of the technologies prevalent in the VET sector, how to employ them not just as teaching tools but also for assessment practices, and the nuances of ensuring genuine skill replication for each unit of competency.

Topics covered:

- What learning technologies are used across the VET sector and how can these support a learner’s engagement, knowledge retention and learning experience
- What is the difference between simulated worksites, virtual reality and gamification and when is each appropriate for use
- What opportunities are there to use these methodologies in assessment practice and where they may not be able to truly replicate the real demonstration of skills required

Learning outcomes:

- A knowledge of learning technologies that are used across the VET sector
- A knowledge of how simulated worksites, virtual reality and gamification may be used not only for learning content, but also within assessment practice
- A knowledge of what are the risks associated with not truly replicating skills required through each Unit of Competency



Liesl Fitzpatrick
Senior Manager, Education
Licensing, Copyright Agency

DAY 2
18/08/23
11:45AM
- 12:20PM

Liesl Fitzpatrick is Senior Manager, Education Licensing at Copyright Agency. With an unwavering passion for education and intellectual property rights, Liesl has made significant contributions to the industry through her expertise and leadership. In her current role at Copyright Agency Liesl promotes awareness of copyright across the broader education sector, and works closely with over 1,000 private providers across higher education, VET and ELICOS. Prior to her time at Copyright Agency, Liesl worked in creative licensing for nearly 13 years with various rights holders and broadcasters including senior roles at Sony Music Entertainment Australia and British Sky Broadcasting.

In this presentation, Dr Liesl will delve into the world of practical copyright compliance and explore how educators and researchers can navigate the path to excellence. We will uncover key strategies, best practices, and resources that empower participants to become copyright champions in their respective fields.

By cracking the copyright code, participants will gain the knowledge and tools needed to ensure ethical and legally compliant practices, fostering a culture of excellence in their educational and research endeavours.

Topics covered:

- Overview of relevant copyright legislation and concepts with particular focus on the Statutory Education Licence for educators
- Best practices for practical copyright compliance
- How to build a culture of copyright compliance excellence at your RTO

Learning outcomes:

- An understanding of Australian copyright legislation and how it applies to their educational and research activities
- Clear guidelines and strategies for achieving excellence in practical copyright compliance
- Increased confidence in navigating copyright complexities and making informed decisions
- Access to valuable resources and tools for ongoing copyright compliance support

PRESENTATIONS

VET NATIONAL
TEACHING & LEARNING
CONFERENCE 2023



Claire Field

Expert in Vocational
education and training,
International & Higher
education

Principal at Claire Field &
Associates

DAY 2
18/08/23
12:25PM
- 1:00PM

Claire Field provides strategic advice on VET, international education, private higher education and EdTech. Claire has worked in a number of senior roles in a range of State and Australian government agencies, including CEO of ACPET, and establishing the Australian government's first national VET regulator, the National Audit and Registration Agency. Claire is a PhD candidate at RMIT University.

With the current pace of change, teaching and learning are entering an exciting new era. Especially in Australia, we're keen on maintaining academic integrity in the time of ChatGPT and other generative AI models, but there's so much more to it. This webinar aims to unpack these changes, particularly the impact of AI and personalised learning techniques such as gamification, and how they can enhance student learning and engagement.

Join Claire Field as she shares her insights into the challenges and opportunities these changes present for VET providers, as well as discuss strategies for integrating them into existing practices and delivery models. The presentation will serve as a platform to explore and understand what ChatGPT is, how AI is revolutionising and enhancing learning, and what this means for the VET sector.

By the end, you'll have a solid grasp of the current AI trends in education, an understanding of how these innovations are improving learning outcomes, awareness of the challenges the VET sector may face in integrating AI, and insights into the opportunities AI can create for your education practices.

Topics covered:

- ChatGPT and other forms of generative AI
- personalised learning including gamification
- how these innovations improve learning, and
- some of the challenges and opportunities they pose for the Australian VET sector

Learning outcomes:

- confidence in what ChatGPT is and what it means for VET
- an understanding of how AI is changing and improving learning
- awareness of the challenges the VET sector faces in integrating AI into teaching and learning, and
- some of the opportunities available for those using AI in their education practices



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PANEL DISCUSSION

VET NATIONAL
TEACHING & LEARNING
CONFERENCE 2023

'EMBRACING SKILLS EXCELLENCE ON AN INTERNATIONAL STAGE – AN AUSTRALIAN PERSPECTIVE'



Facilitated by
TREVOR SCHWENKE
Chief Executive Officer, WorldSkills Australia

DAY 1
17/08/23
10:00AM
- 10:30AM

VDC has partnered with WorldSkills Australia to provide VDC conference delegates with access to international WorldSkills guests and participate in bespoke guided tours of the WorldSkills Australia National Championships at Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre.

Skill competitions are an opportunity for Australia's trainees and apprentices to test their skills and knowledge in their chosen field against their peers. Held every two years, the National Championships are the biggest trades and skills competition in the country and will consist of more than 50 competitions and loads of Try'aSkill booths where you can try your hand at different trades and skills.



DR. SUSAN JAMES RELLY

PROFESSOR IN VOCATIONAL EDUCATION, UNIV. OF ADELAIDE



JANE STOKIE

DIRECTOR OF SKILLS COMPETITIONS, WORLDSKILLS INTERNATIONAL



TROY EVERETT

TEAM LEADER TAFE NSW SOUTH REGION, SKILL MANAGER FOR BOTH WSA & WORLDSKILLS INTERNATIONAL



KEVIN HARRIS

CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF WSA, OFFICIAL DELEGATE FOR WSA & FORMER TAFE INSTITUTE DIRECTOR WITHIN THE NSW SYSTEM

PANEL DISCUSSION

VET NATIONAL
TEACHING & LEARNING
CONFERENCE 2023



*'MY JOURNEY TO SKILLS EXCELLENCE –
A STUDENT'S PERSPECTIVE'*

DAY 2
18/08/23
10:10AM
- 10:15AM

Facilitated by
CHEMÈNE SINSON



RACHEL CRAWFORD

2022 SKILLAROO (RETAIL BAKERY & WORLDSKILLS INTERNATIONAL
CHAMPIONS TRUST, REPRESENTATIVE FOR OCEANIA & ASEAN)



JAYDEN JENNINGS

2022 SKILLAROO (BRICKLAYING)



ANNE RUSSELL

2022 SKILLAROO (HAIRDRESSING)

PANEL DISCUSSION

VET NATIONAL
TEACHING & LEARNING
CONFERENCE 2023

*'HOW DO WE MOVE FROM
COMPETENCE TO EXCELLENCE?'*



DAY 2
18/08/23
2:30PM
- 3:10PM

Facilitated by
CHEMÈNE SINSON



MARTIN POWELL

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, VET DEVELOPMENT CENTRE (VDC)



LOUISE MAHLER

GRAVITAS EXPERT & KEYNOTE SPEAKER OF THE YEAR



DR. SUSAN JAMES RELLY

PROFESSOR IN VOCATIONAL EDUCATION, UNIV. OF ADELAIDE



JUSTIN BROWN

ACER PRINCIPAL RESEARCH FELLOW



CLAIRE FIELD

EXPERT IN VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING, INTERNATIONAL & HIGHER EDUCATION, PRINCIPAL AT CLAIRE FIELD & ASSOCIATES



ANDREW SHEA

CEO & TERTIARY EDUCATION EXPERT,
BUILDERS ACADEMY AUSTRALIA/CWBTS

PANEL SPEAKERS

VET NATIONAL
TEACHING & LEARNING
CONFERENCE 2023



Martin Powell
Chief Executive Officer, VET
Development Centre (VDC)

DAY 2
18/08/23
2:30PM
- 3:10PM

Mr Martin Powell commenced as the CEO at the VET Development Centre (VDC) in January 2016. Since this time, Martin has driven innovation and change at the VDC to support its goal to become a centre of excellence for continuous professional learning to the VET workforce.

The VDC Board has acknowledged the vision and considerable effort of Martin, who developed the business case and rationale for the establishment of the VDC permanent training facilities in Collins Street Melbourne. This initiative has enabled the VDC to expand its professional learning programs and consolidate its market presence to enable record participation. Martin has also refined the VDC team and streamlined business, marketing and corporate practices to enhance and stimulate engagement with the VDC by the professional workforce, government and other stakeholders.

Prior to joining the VDC, Martin has held prominent positions in the VET sector. Martin was the National Manager, Services / Victorian Executive Officer for the Australian Council for Private Education and Training (ACPET). With TVET Australia and the National Advisory for Tertiary Education, Skills and Employment (NATESE), Martin was Director of the National VET Equity Advisory Council (NVEAC), the COAG advisory committee responsible for independent social policy advice for those groups at risk of disadvantage. His experience extends to broader policy, project and program roles in public sector social policy in the areas of VET, health, corrections, youth services, mental health services, treasury and finance and industry.



Jane Stokie
Director of Skills
Competitions, WorldSkills
International

DAY 1
17/08/23
9:55AM
- 10:40AM

Commencing her career in Melbourne as an Apprentice Compositor in 1984, Jane Stokie moved into Graphic Design with an Advertising Agency in 1988. Following the birth of her two children she moved to Shepparton in 1993 where she took up the position of Production Manager at the local daily newspaper for 15 years.

With the vision to further herself, Jane completed an Associate Degree in Graphic Technology at RMIT University in 2005, giving her the confidence to accept the international role of Director of Skills Competitions for WorldSkills International.

At the international WorldSkills event Jane is responsible for the technical aspects of the skill competitions including the test projects, Skill Management Plans, Competition Rules updates, Expert and Technical Delegate professional development, as well as the development and updating of the WorldSkills Occupational Standards in consultation with global industry. Fifteen years later she is still enjoying the challenges and diversity of such a job.

Jane's involvement with WorldSkills spans more than 35 years, having competed in the Melbourne regional competition in the Graphic Design category in 1986, winning her way to represent Australia at the international competition in 1988. Since then, she has been an active volunteer for WorldSkills Australia as a project designer and judge at national and international competitions including proudly wearing the cap of Chief Expert at the international event on two occasions.

PANEL SPEAKERS



Trevor Schwenke
Chief Executive Officer,
WorldSkills Australia

Trevor Schwenke, Chief Executive Officer of WorldSkills Australia, is an innovative leader with more than 22 years' experience in key leadership roles in the vocational education and training, higher education, school and corporate sectors. He has an impressive track record of taking complex businesses to new heights, and his aptitude for strategy is rivalled only by his ability to make it happen. He is consistent in his focus on building key stakeholder partnerships, and believes that collaboration is the key to lasting success.

Trevor's passion for VET and skills excellence began with his own training and experience as a welder and boilermaker. Taking pride in his trade was second nature to him and soon propelled him into teaching and education. Leadership roles were inevitable, and saw Trevor progressing from Institute Director roles (including at the Barrier Reef Institute of TAFE, Wide Bay Institute of TAFE, Southern Qld Institute of TAFE and The Bremer & Southern Qld Institute of TAFE), through to the role of General Manager at TAFE Queensland, CEO at Bendigo Kangan TAFE and, as of 2019, CEO of WorldSkills Australia. He has held numerous non-executive Board directorships across education, government, and industry, and in 2013 was recognised as the 2013 Queensland Professional Manager of the Year by the Australian Institute of Management.

At WorldSkills Australia, Trevor has the opportunity to fulfill a lifelong passion of promoting skills excellence, supporting people to be the best version of themselves and showcasing Australian skills excellence nationally and internationally. He is unwavering in his commitment to skills excellence, the youth of Australia, and the mentors, volunteers and partners who help make WorldSkills Australia's programs a reality.

Trevor holds qualifications in Engineering and Education including a Masters in Education, is a member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, an Australian Flexible Learning Leader, and a Justice of the Peace. He continues to be an active player in the government-education-industry-community ecosystem, always showcasing the importance and the benefits of skills excellence.

DAY 1
17/08/23
9:55AM
- 10:40AM



Kevin Harris
Chair of the Board of WSA,
Official Delegate for WSA
& former TAFE Institute
Director within the NSW
system

During 14 years as Director of TAFE NSW Northern Sydney Institute (NSI), Kevin was instrumental in building one of TAFE's national leading institutes. His leadership has helped the NSI to become a national IT training leader through associations with global ICT companies including CISCO Systems, IBM, Oracle and Microsoft. Kevin is a member of many innovation and skills development-focused government and industry entities and was awarded the Public Service Medal in the 2014 Queen's Birthday Honours List for his achievements in public education and skills development.

Kevin joined the WorldSkills Australia Board in 2010 and elected as Chair in December 2017. He has previously been a member of the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee as well as Deputy Chair. Kevin is also WorldSkills Australia's official delegate, representing Australia's interests at the WorldSkills International Stage.

DAY 1
17/08/23
9:55AM
- 10:40AM



Troy Everett

Team Leader TAFE NSW
South Region, Skill Manager
for both WSA & WorldSkills
International

DAY 1
17/08/23
9:55AM
- 10:40AM

Troy Everett is a Master Bricklayer by trade and an educational leader with the largest Training Organisation in Australia, TAFE NSW. In recent years Troy has been named NSW Teacher of the Year and the Worldskills International Expert of the Year.

Troy holds a Bachelor of Vocational Education and Training as well as an Associate Degree in Education from Charles Sturt University, Australia. Troy has been awarded the Elizabeth Anne Bailey Memorial Award for research he did into the literacy levels in the construction industry.

He was also a recipient of the NSW Premier's Teaching scholarship in 2018 which took him to numerous colleges across the UK and Ireland to research good practice in supporting literacy and numeracy challenged students within a competency-based training system.

Troy has been heavily involved in Vocational Education leadership in Australia and has also engaged in widespread Training and Assessment consultancy in numerous countries including Denmark, Finland, Brazil, Russia, India, China, Bangladesh, Nepal and New Zealand. Troy's main work in these countries has involved utilising the Worldskills expertise in order to assist countries to improve industry standards within the bricklaying industry and the associated vocational training sector.

In terms of Worldskills experience, Troy has been unanimously voted in as Bricklaying Chief Expert for the past five international Worldskills competitions by peers from 35 countries. He is currently the Skill Competition Manager for Worldskills International. As a trainer Troy has guided and mentored four Australian medallists to the podium and inspired many others to fulfil their potential at all levels.

Earlier in 2022 Troy was the lead officer for a capability development project engaging teachers and students from numerous African countries including South Africa, Namibia, Ethiopia, Ghana, DRC, Rwanda, Morocco and Zambia. The project ran for two years and culminated in an event in Swakopmund, Namibia where competitors and experts took part in a week long competition utilising Worldskills format and procedures.

PANEL SPEAKERS



Rachel Crawford
2022 Skillaroo (Retail Bakery
& Worldskills International
Champions Trust,
Representative For Oceania
& Asean)

DAY 2
18/08/23
9:45AM
- 10:15AM

Growing up with both parents being chefs, Rachel Crawford has had a passion for food her entire life. She particularly fell in love with the sweet side of things, and this spurred her to take on a Certificate III in Patisserie and a Certificate III in Baking at CIT in Canberra.

Rachel was encouraged to enter a WorldSkills regional competition by her teachers, who saw her potential, and a successful run regionally saw her score an invite to compete in the 2021 WorldSkills Australia National Championships in the Retail Baking – Bread category, where she won a gold medal.

Rachel's dream is to travel and experience working internationally one day, and her involvement with WorldSkills is an excellent step towards that dream. She's already expanded her network in the both the Australian skills sector and the food sector since embarking on her WorldSkills journey, and she's excited to continue meeting new people as she trains.

Rachel competed at the 46th WorldSkills Competition 2022, Special Edition in Lucerne, Switzerland in Bakery against 13 countries. Rachel placed 4th and received a Medallion of Excellence. Since competing, Rachel has been selected to be a member of WorldSkills International Champions Trust, being the representative for Oceania and ASEAN. Rachel is currently judging at 2023 WorldSkills Australia National Championships.



AUSTRALIAN VET SUSTAINABILITY FELLOWSHIP

FOR VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING



Jayden Jennings
2022 Skillaroo (Bricklaying)

DAY 2
18/08/23
9:45AM
- 10:15AM

As someone who describes himself as an ‘outdoor person’, Jayden Jennings knew he wanted to

take on a hands-on trade that let him spend time outside. Living just 20km (on the Victorian side) from the Victoria-New South Wales border, Jayden decided to undertake a Certificate III in Bricklaying and Blocklaying at TAFE NSW Albury, where he found his calling.

Under the tutelage of his TAFE teacher Glenn Kilpatrick, Jayden decided to enter a WorldSkills regional competition in 2019 to showcase his skills in front of other people. There, his impressive performance earned him an invite to compete at the 2021 WorldSkills Australia National Championships, where he was awarded a gold medal.

Jayden lends credit for his success so far to his teacher Glenn, who put a considerable amount of effort and time into his training. Says Jayden, “I wouldn’t be the bricklayer I am today without him.”

As a self-confessed bricklaying obsessive (says Jayden, “I live and breath bricklaying. If I’m not laying bricks I’m at home watching people lay bricks on the internet. It’s so addictive.”) Jayden knows that there’s plenty of talent in his industry, but believe his skill is up there with the best. He also understands that dedication to skills excellence is crucial for staying on top his bricklaying game.

“Pride in what you do as a profession is very important,” says Jayden. “At the end of the day, you work so hard – why not go home knowing that the hard work you put in is for top quality craftsmanship rather than mediocre?”

Jayden competed at the 46th WorldSkills Competition 2022, Special Edition in Salzburg, Austria, in Bricklaying against 18 countries. Jayden placed 11th. Since competing, Jayden is passionate about passing his knowledge and tips and tricks he learnt along to the way to other looking to follow his example and represent Australia in Bricklaying. Jayden is a judge at the 2023 WorldSkills Australia National Championships.

PANEL SPEAKERS

VET NATIONAL
TEACHING & LEARNING
CONFERENCE 2023



Anne Russell
2022 Skillaroo
(Hairdressing)

DAY 2
18/08/23
9:45AM
- 10:15AM

Anne Russell has wanted to be a hairdresser for as long as she can remember.

Inspired by her uncle Scott Sloan – an award-winning Sydney hairstylist – Anne successfully completed a Certificate III in Hairdressing at TAFE NSW Riverina – Wagga in her quest to carve out her own career in the industry.

Participating in hair competitions has long been one of Anne's goals, which led her to enter a WorldSkills regional competition. There, her performance was earned her an invite to compete at the 2021 WorldSkills Australia National Championships, where she thrived in the competition environment and took walked away with some new skills, greater confidence and a silver medal.

Anne competed at the 46th WorldSkills Competition 2022, Special Edition in Helsinki, Finland in Hairdressing against 19 countries. Anne placed 6th and achieved a Medallion for Excellence.

After the International Competition, she wants to continue competing in hairdressing competitions and build a name for herself. She also wants to take her newly-acquired knowledge back to her home town of Junee in the Riverina, and work with the TAFE in helping smaller communities gain access to education that can only normally be found in the cities.

When asked what she's learned so far, Anne says, "I have learnt so much so far on this journey.

One of my biggest takeaways from this experience is that if you believe in yourself and put in the hard work, your skills will get better. The more you train and put in the hard yards, you will see progress."

Anne is a judge at the 2023 WorldSkills Australia National Championships.

2023

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