



# Worktrainers News

Winter Edition 2009

## Volunteering Works...



Melissa and her colleagues at Maldon Hospital

cludes the delivery of meals to patients on the ward. This a task she very much enjoys. Melissa is also an active social member of the Hospital community, attending BBQ's and excursions organised by the hospital with her new colleagues.

Her new found confidence has assisted her in recently completing a food hygiene course at Continuing Education in Bendigo. Melissa says that she is feeling very positive about her future in general and more specifically about embarking on her next goal of finding paid employment. Melissa says that volunteering has helped her gain confidence in her abilities and most importantly has introduced her to some wonderful new friends.

For more information regarding the Disability Employment Network Program and how Worktrainers can help you get working in Castlemaine and Kyneton call Mark on **03 4722011**.

Mark Sayer-Castle is our dedicated Site Manager in Castlemaine. He has been with us since we opened our office there in October 2007 and is achieving great results for his job-seekers there, as this story testifies.

Melissa Gale joined Worktrainers Disability Employment Network Program after relocating from Melbourne with her family. She was eager to find some type of work that would get her involved in her new community. During their initial meetings Mark suggested she look into volunteering at a local organisation.

Mark then set about work-

ing with Melissa to investigate if any volunteering opportunities were available in Maldon. The Maldon Hospital was contacted as a possible option and Mark was able to assist Melissa in negotiating a volunteering opportunity with them in their kitchen. The catering staff were very welcoming and have continued to support her in her endeavours to learn and master new skills.

Melissa is now considered a valued member of the team and assists in a range of food preparation and service duties, that in-

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## Drive and persistence lead to dream job with Vic Roads

### *Did you know...*

*In 2008/09 our DEN Employment Consultants placed 444 jobseekers into employment.*

*We **will** get you working!*

Hayden had a dream to work for Vic Roads, however he was not sure where to start... that is until he started working with Mark Sayer-Castle in Castlemaine. Hayden has significant mobility issues, with his primary disability being Cerebral Palsy and so Mark and Hayden discussed that it was important that Vic Roads be supportive of the workplace modifications that would be needed for him to successfully complete all office based tasks.

Hayden and Mark knew it may take time to market himself to them and assure them that Worktrainers would be able to provide assistance with Hayden's transition to work. It was not an

easy task but they also knew that with persistence and keeping sight of his dream they could achieve Hayden's goal. Which they did and not too far from home either. Hayden is now nearly half way through an 18 month Business Administration Traineeship with Vic Roads, working 2 days in Bendigo and 1 day in Kyneton and is considered a valued member of the team.

His confidence and independence has grown so much since he started work that he now happily uses public transport to travel to work each day from his home in Kyneton .

Vic Roads have been very supportive of the workplace modifications

that Mark has arranged using funding from DEEWR. The various modifications have ensured that Hayden is able to work comfortably and productively. Some of these modifications include:

- Enlarged workspace to accommodate Hayden's Electric Mobility Scooter.
- Installation of a saddle seat chair to increase his stability.
- A modified electronic cash draw for easier access, as he has limited grip and dexterity in his hands and fingers.
- Computer mouse and keyboard 'gel' pads to provide better position and stability for his hands when typing.
- Electric Stapler to ensure all paper work is correctly processed.

Hayden is in regular contact with Mark, as part of the Worktrainers 'Post Placement Support' Program and often comments thanks Mark and Worktrainers for assisting him in finding "His Dream Job".



Hayden and Mark on the job at Vic Roads

## Deb's job success in Kyabram

Deb Clayton says she can't wait to arrive at work at Rosalie's Café in Kyabram each day. Deb has been clinically deaf since she was five but that has not stopped her being successful. Deb began work at Rosalie's last October, which was the result of Deb and Worktrainers' Sharon Prendergast working through a comprehensive skills assessment and job search plan and marketing potential employers in the area.

Deb works for Rosalie's eight hours a week serving customers, waitressing and preparing light meals. Formerly she worked in a Melbourne café, however she believes she has been given more opportunities in Kyabram. Deb said that she felt like a member of the family at Rosalie's. "I find it a bit hard when it gets noisy around lunch-time, but I adjust and focus on what I am doing", Deb said.

Rosalie Munro, owner of Rosalie's Café said that she could not be happier with Deb. "She



Rosalie, Deb and Sharon at the Cafe

also helps with catering for functions we do," Ms Munro said. She said that Deb had learned quickly and she was happy to have her in her business. Sharon Prendergast, Site Manager of Worktrainers Echuca said that Deb was one of the many success stories of the Worktrainers Disability Employment Network program. Stating "She is doing a wonderful job and that makes it very rewarding". Sharon visits the

Kyabram Learning Centre on Thursdays to meet with Jobseekers involved in the Program.

"After meeting with the jobseekers and learning from them what sort of work they are able to undertake, I market them to local employers who may have work that suits the jobseeker's skills," Sharon explains.

Sharon can be contacted at Worktrainers Echuca on 03 54806422 .

Source: Kyabram Free Press

## Job Services Australia



In July 2009 Worktrainers kicked off the new Job Services Australia contract. Replacing Job Network, Job Services Australia folds seven separate employment services programs into a one-stop shop, and we are proud to be delivering those services from our Wangaratta and Shepparton sites.

So if you are out of work and find yourself requiring the services of Jobs Services Australia – make sure you let Centrelink know that Worktrainers is your provider of choice. And if you've lost your job due to the economic downturn, you are eligible for immediate access to our personalised service.

Or perhaps you are an Employer seeking employment solutions for your business? Worktrainers will work closely with you to find the people you need, even if you are in an industry or sector experiencing skills shortages.

A key feature of Job Services Australia is Work Experience. Worktrainers is committed to providing work experience projects that will enable jobseekers to gain the work-ready skills that employers need. It's a win – win.

If you are an Employer, Community Service or Not for Profit organisation interested in assisting Worktrainers to create the best Work Experience projects possible, please contact us now!

**1800 802 277**

## The final word from Holli Kool....

**Holli Kool is one of Worktrainers' longest serving employees and we caught up with her recently for "The Final Word".**

**What is your position at Worktrainers?**

Employment Consultant for the Disability Employment Network Program.

**How long have you worked at Worktrainers?**

14 years.

**Why do you like working for Worktrainers?**

I enjoy the work, the jobseekers and my co-workers.

**What has been the highlight/s of your time at Worktrainers?**

The clients that have gone on to get a qualification in their chosen

areas and found stable work, and being presented with my beautiful crystal vase, in recognition of my 10 years service at Worktrainers..

**What significant changes in the Disability Employment Services have you experienced during this time?**

The fluctuations in the funding levels provided in Government contracts and far more accountability and transparency in processes which is good for all involved..

**What do you look forward to in the future for The Worktrainers Group?**

More new business and more new staff coming on board as the business continues to grow.

**Do you like living and working in Shepparton?**



We live just out of town a bit and it is great-we have lots of pets.

**What do you believe to be some of the challenges facing the Goulburn Valley community?**

Attracting new medium to large size firms that can create, more job opportunities ,as other traditional sources continue to decrease.

**What's your best memory of living in the Goulburn Valley?**

Getting married and having our daughter Trisha.

**What would people be surprised to know about you?**

I was once a mad cross country skier until I discovered the 'lounge set' - sitting around the fire at the lodge with a schnapps.!!

### Worktrainers providing Employment Services across North East Victoria

**Bendigo**  
03 5443 0377

**Shepparton**  
03 5831 2511

**Castlemaine**  
03 5472 2011

**Seymour**  
03 5792 2333

**Cobram**  
03 5871 2716

**Wangaratta**  
03 5721 2222

**Echuca**  
03 5480 6422

**Wodonga**  
02 6056 6101

**Freecall**

**1800 802 277**

