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A new deal for TAFE

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In the context of the current ANTA negotiations, this edition focuses on the issues involved in the national campaign. Funding is the central element which underpins all else, and TAFE needs a new deal. For far too long, those who work and learn in TAFE have had to carry the burden of chronic under-resourcing. Issues around the maintenance of TAFE teachers' professional status, casualisation, a youth guarantee, industry investment and representation are all aspects of the national campaign. Please stay involved with your state campaign activities, and get the latest national information on www.aeufederal.org.au.

Federal TAFE President Pat Forward provides an overview of the issues in her column and in a separate article, an update on addressing casual employment. Rex Hewett, Federal TAFE Secretary, explains the AEU's claim for a youth guarantee. He also looks at issues of professional recognition and raising the status of TAFE teachers. Tom Karmel from NCVET outlines some of the research findings about the changing nature of work in VET.

Julius Roe, National President of the AMWU, looks at the current pressures on industry vocational education and training effort and suggests ways in which we can work to increase industry's investment. My article on funding provides an update on the Commonwealth government's 'offer' to the states and their

response. Linda Simon, Secretary of the NSWTF TAFETA, outlines what has been happening in the NSW campaign in response to the state budget proposals for a restructure and to impose fees on TAFE.

Janina Gawler, the new CEO of ANTA, provides her first column for the journal on the national strategy. You will also find the report of an interview with her by Darcel Moyle and myself. As always, there's more.

AEU Reconciliation Awards 2003

I hope there are some TAFE nominations in the AEU's 2003 National Reconciliation Awards. We should celebrate the success stories while striving to offer better and more inclusive educational opportunities for Indigenous students and communities.

The recipient of the 2002 AEU National Reconciliation Awards was announced at the AEU Indigenous Seminar on 14 January, 2003. The winning individual entry was from Claremont College, a small senior secondary college in Hobart's working-class northern suburbs. The judging panel was impressed by the

great commitment that Claremont College has shown to Reconciliation through the development and implementation of the Aboriginal Education Strategic Plan. The four strategies developed by the College concentrated on a whole-of-school approach to Aboriginal education, and established meaningful targets for both the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students and staff at the school.

An Honourable Mention went to the Executive Teachers Action Research Team at Papunya School in the Northern Territory for its "Papunya School Book of Country and History." The panel concluded the work to be an outstanding example of partnership between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander educators, leading to an excellent outcome.

You will find more information about the awards in this issue and on the Indigenous Education page of the federal website, at www.aeufederal.org.au.

In the Winter edition of the Australian TAFE Teacher, the industrial news page included a table with the wages of teachers in schools and TAFE entitled "top of the unpromoted teachers scale, 1 May 2003". This table mistakenly used the Victorian Experienced Teacher with Responsibility 2 as the top of the scale in Victorian schools. In fact, the top of the unpromoted teachers scale in Victorian schools is \$55,828.