

A whole union approach



Paul
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worldskills 
A U S T R A L I A

**More than a competition
...skills change lives**

The basis for the excellent progress that has been made in 2004 in recruiting TAFE members to the Queensland Teachers' Union has been the 'whole of union' approach adopted over the last eight months.

It has meant that recruitment tasks have been shared. It has meant that the whole of the state has been covered. It has also meant that the organisation's real understanding of TAFE issues has been expanded remarkably.

Recruiting TAFE membership of the QTU has involved the expenditure of time and energy from a range of personnel in 2004. It has been a grass roots campaign with TAFE Branches and individual members focussing on their work areas.

Representatives in institutes clearly understand the need for a strong network of branches. They have shown, as we move towards EB5 negotiations and the challenging opportunities opening up in the post compulsory education and training arena, that they are prepared to work hard at increasing QTU TAFE membership.

The Regional Organisers for Cairns, Mt Isa, Townsville, Mackay, Rockhampton, Gladstone, Emerald, Wide Bay, Toowoomba, Sunshine Coast, Gold Coast and the three metropolitan areas of Brisbane have been actively involved in assisting with recruiting. They have also been involved in coordinating TAFE members' union activity to ensure that the TAFE environment in Queensland is free from harassment or bullying activities. Senior Officers of the Union have ensured that proposed recruitment activities are well resourced. They have also willingly made suggestions to ensure that opportunities for cooperation between members in the TAFE and school sectors are given the capacity to develop further.

The small group of office clerical staff in Brisbane and in the regional centres has been a vital link that has held the whole operation together very successfully. Those in the membership section have been keen to report on weekly progress and have assisted potential members with their membership questions and concerns.

No longer Australia's best kept secret, WorldSkills Australia is gaining momentum and profile with each passing day. WorldSkills Australia runs skill and trade competitions in over 50 skill and trade areas in over 28 regions across Australia. The competitions are a showcase of skill and dedication and highlight the support given to these talented young people by teachers, mentors and industry professionals.

WorldSkills competitions are not just an opportunity for the youth of Australia to shine but also provide invaluable professional development opportunities for teachers and training providers. Training and mentoring a student to win gold regionally, nationally or internationally does more than get your picture in the local paper or give the internal satisfaction of a job well done. Involvement with WorldSkills Australia gives teachers and colleges the opportunity to meet college objectives, promote new and exciting assessment procedures, increase staff development, improve productivity, gain government recognition and the fostering of relationships with other teachers, colleges and training providers.

Ex TAFE teacher and Executive Chair of WorldSkills Australia, Mr Bob Puffett AM, 'applauds the effort of TAFE teachers across the country in ensuring that Australia is not only a smart country but a skilled country.'

WorldSkills Australia is calling all teachers to undertake the challenge of creating the next potential world champion. The benefits of involvement are enormous and students, teachers and colleges all stand to gain from the success and ensuing media activities related with the creation of a skill and trade champion.

For further information please contact admin@worldskills.com.au and we will advise on how to get involved.



QTU Representatives at the Barrier Reef Institute of TAFE:

*Back Row - Left to Right: Paul Reardon (TAFE Organiser), Charles Goldsmith and Kevin Smith
Front Row - Left to Right: Gillian Edwards, Di Garside, Margaret Comte, Allan Franklin, Brenda Donaldson and Wendy Hegarty.*