



Claremont College

School Talk

What was the best thing about your vocational education and training (VET) industry work placement?



I just love working with kids. We baked cakes, dressed little people, went to the park and rode bikes. **Kim Roberson, 17. Certificate II in Childcare**



Doing hands-on work. They were good to work with at Delpero and Clements. They made me feel welcome. **Cameron Trousselot, 17. Certificate I in Construction**



I did lots of fixing and re-imaging of laptops. There were lots of broken laptops to fix. **Zachery Wallington, 19. Certificate II in Information Technology**



I learnt a lot of good things and it gave me an insight into a career in business management. **Silvana Miller, 19. Certificate I in Workplace Skills**



The people at Fairbrother were really nice to me. It's made me even more certain that I want to be a carpenter. **Braydon Rosendale, 17. Certificate I in Construction**



I liked it all, but the best thing was getting to know the industry more and inspecting the really nice penthouses at Zero Davey. **Ebony Webb, 17. Certificate II in Tourism**



At Custom Cabinets we were renovating and fitting out a house. I got to work with different wood and use lots of tools. **Jonathon Bardelmeyer, 17. Certificate I in Furnishing**



I really liked working in reception and dealing with different people. The people at the Mercure were all really nice. **Talia Hayton, 17. Certificate II in Tourism**

Nursing a new career

STUDYING nursing at Claremont College helped Georgie Foley in her decision to continue the subject at university.

Claremont College introduced a nursing course into its vocational education and training (VET) program in 2009 and is the only college offering this subject.

The course was started by teacher and registered nurse Cally Hardaker who observed that students who wanted to become nurses needed a realistic taste of nursing.

"Some people wanted to become nurses because they've watched *ER* and they thought that it was going to be gorgeous and clean, but it's not," Cally said. "Students need to know that they will be dealing with the human body and everything it can produce."

One of the most important aspects of the course is the two-week industry placement, usually in a nursing home.

Georgie said that while her work placement had been a confronting experience, it had helped her through her first year at university.

"It really made me think about what I was capable of dealing with and what I felt comfortable with," she said.

On placement, students are expected to do everything that a



INSPIRED: Sarah Short, left, Jenna Sheahan and Georgie Foley with a medical mannequin.

Certificate III aged care worker would do. This includes taking residents to lunch as well as showering, dressing, toileting, making beds and cleaning teeth and dentures.

Shadowing a registered or enrolled nurse allows students to see what nurses do, as well as seeing wounds and sores being

treated and bandaged and medication being dispensed.

In the classroom, they are introduced to medical terminology anatomy, physiology, first aid and manual handling.

Students Jenna Sheahan and Sarah Short both saw the value of this, saying that it helped them understand what staff were talk-

ing about and what they had to do during their placements.

While the VET course confirmed Georgie, Jenna and Sarah's interest in nursing, other students decide it is not for them.

It is better for all concerned that they find this out at college rather than after committing themselves to university.

Robotics students score devilish win

TWO Claremont College students were members of a team that won the Duel Down Under national robotics competition held in Sydney in June.

Organised by robotics teacher Rob Torok, the team included Claremont students Alec Mansfield and Brandon Lockley, as well as students and teachers from Ogilvie High, Rosny College, Guilford Young and Hutchins.

It took the students 13 weeks to build their robot from 70kg of parts received in the post.

Three quarters of their time was spent planning and building the robot.

The robot's task was to throw a basketball into hoops set at different heights. There were extra points if the robot could balance on a see-saw.

"Working out how it was going to work, and

the ball shooter, would have been the hardest part," Brandon said.

The students had help from Michael Kupsch, a senior project engineer at Nyrstar, and UTAS engineering student Nick Letchford.

"Having people who had experience with building and that kind of thing was probably one of the greatest helps we could have had to make it

moveable and operational," Alec said.

Rob sees robotics as an excellent subject for making practical use of science, maths and technology, and for teaching about teamwork, problem solving and the engineering and design process.

He is excited about the future of robotics at the college and is looking forward to the next Sydney competition in June 2013.

Thanks

THIS Mercury School Page was produced by the Claremont College English Applied class. We thank all our sponsors and contributing students.

● Congratulations to Kody Roughley who was one of seven Tasmanian winners of the Australian Vocational Student Prize announced recently.

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