



2010 ACT Training Excellence Awards Mr Brian O'Reilly wins John Scott Memorial Award

Before 600 of the ACT's leading employers from industry and government; Registered Training Organisations; apprentices, trainees and students; the Minister for Education and Training, Mr Andrew Barr, MLA presented the 2010 ACT Training Excellence Awards. Of note was the presentation of the John Scott Memorial Award to retired Training Fund Authority Board member, Mr Brian O'Reilly.

The John Scott Memorial Award recognises outstanding commitment to vocational education and training in the ACT business sector. Mr O'Reilly was a founding member of the Training Fund Authority Board since its inception in 1999 until his retirement in 2009.

During his many years working in the ACT building and construction industry, and in particular the plumbing sector, Mr O'Reilly worked tirelessly to promote entry-level and vocational training to the youth of Canberra.

Mr O'Reilly's knowledge and passion for the training of apprentices was exceptional. He was at the forefront of the introduction of competency based training, opening up opportunities for young people previously excluded from achieving their best. Mr O'Reilly has always had an eye to the future and his foresight was instrumental in the establishment of the Canberra Institute of Technology Plumbing, Drainers and Gasfitters College in Fyshwick.

Mr O'Reilly has been the secretary of the ACT Plumbing and Electrical Employees Union, a board member of the ACT Building and Construction Industry Training Fund Authority, the ACT Construction Industry Long Service Leave Authority, and member of the Construction Industry Training and Employment Association.

Mr O'Reilly's dedication in these numerous roles had a major influence on the training and well-being of apprentices and tradespeople in the ACT.

Mr O'Reilly has spent countless hours volunteering, mentoring and helping envision and create through dedicated service a better vocational education and training sector in the ACT which apprentices, workers in the industry; and, the broader community will continue to benefit from for years to come.

The John Scott Memorial Award is presented in the memory of John Scott's contribution to vocational education and training in the ACT.

As the Chair of the Business Training Advisory Board (ACT), Mr Scott reinvigorated the relationship between industry, their advisors and the ACT Government. His other areas of contribution include the Rotary Club of Canberra South, the Young Achievers of Australia program and the Adopt-A-School program.



Photo: Brian O'Reilly, winner of the John Scott Memorial Award pictured with Senator Kate Lundy.

ACT Australian Apprentice of the Year Award

Congratulations to Ross Ingham for winning the ACT Apprentice of the Year Award at the 2010 ACT Training Excellence Awards.

Ross completed his Certificate III in Plumbing with J&B Plumbing and is continuing at the Canberra Institute of Technology in post-trade training.

Ross also received the F J McCauley Award which is a perpetual trophy awarded to the ACT Australian Apprentice of the Year. It was established as a tribute to Fred McCauley's long standing commitment to the trades and trade training in the ACT.

Ross will represent the ACT at the 2010 Australian Training Awards to be held in Sydney on 19 November.



Photo: Ross Ingham, winner Apprentice of the Year Award at the 2010 ACT Training Excellence Awards with Mr Ray Sweeny, Vice President of Vikings and Mr Chris Peters, ACT Chamber of Commerce.



Turf's Up! Horticulture Excursion

On Friday September 17, students and teachers from various high schools and colleges around the ACT came together to

find out more about the Horticulture Industry: they came to TURF'S UP!

The TURF'S UP! Horticultural excursion was a collaboration between the Student to Industry Program, Training Fund Authority and various stakeholders who had in common the desire to give interested students the opportunity to find out more about career paths and job opportunities within their industry.

It was decided that the best way to achieve this outcome was to put the kids and teachers on a bus and take them to different destinations so that they could see firsthand what happens in Horticulture in the ACT.

We started out at a site at the Lyons Shops: Urban Contractors, one of the largest landscaping operators in the ACT, has the job of landscaping the area around the shops. The Director of Urban Contractors, Mick Burgess, gave the group a comprehensive rundown of the job, as well as taking them through a description of what it's like to work in his industry.

Then it was on to the Canberra Institute of Technology at Bruce: students and teachers were impressed by the wonderful facilities that the CIT has to offer, and listened with interest to one of their apprentices, as he told them his story: how he got into the business, the study he has to undertake, and the future job opportunities which will be available to him.

After that, we went to Government House, where we were given a comprehensive tour of the grounds by Norm Dunn (Head Gardener) and then treated to a delicious lunch courtesy of Garry Lawson and the Turf Grass Association!

The rest of the afternoon included visits to the Royal Canberra Golf Club and the Yarralumla Nursery, where students and teachers were given tours of the facilities, and descriptions of the job/career opportunities within both organizations.

TURF'S UP! was a terrific success: the feedback from the 23 students and 5 teachers was very positive, and the common theme was that the information provided was both relevant and practical.

TURF'S UP! was funded by the Training Fund Authority and we only hope that we can do it all again next year!

Paula van der Heide
STUDENT TO INDUSTRY PROGRAM

Record number of funded training places

For a second consecutive year, the Training Fund Authority provided a record number of funded training places in the 2009-10 financial year.

Despite the effect of the global financial crisis, there was an increase in building activity in the ACT and 13,283 workers attending accredited training funded by the Training Fund Authority.

This figure is an increase of 507 or 4% over the previous financial year.

The following table shows the sectors and number of training places funded by the Training Fund Authority in the 2009-10 financial year.

Sector	Number of training places
OH&S	10,983
General Construction and Civil Engineering	950
Finance, Business and Management	774
Electrotechnology	576

Apprentices and trainees - March quarter 2010

National Highlights

There were 437,000 apprentices and trainees in-training as at 31 March 2010, an increase of 1.8% from the previous year.

In the 12 months to 31 March 2010, compared with the previous year:

- commencements increased by 1.5%, to 284,000
- completions increased by 4.0%, to 162,100
- cancellations and withdrawals decreased by 6.5%, to 123,200.

For seasonally adjusted data, comparing the March quarter 2010 with the December quarter 2009:

- commencements in trades occupations increased by 2.9%
- commencements in non-trades occupations increased by 1.7%
- completions increased by 0.3%
- cancellations and withdrawals increased by 1.1%
- in-training numbers increased by 0.5%.

ACT commencements in the 12 months to 31 March 2010, showed an increase of 5.7%.