

NATIONAL SKILLS WEEK

2023



AUGUST 21 - AUGUST 27

real skills for  
real careers



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# National Skills Week Ideas for Schools 2023

# At a Glance

Igniting the spark in our schools to celebrate VET and VET Pathways

In this document we have put together some activities and ideas that schools have undertaken during previous National Skills Week. While COVID-19 has had an impact on the types of activities within the regions in previous years, 2023 signalled the return of face-to-face events. With that comes exciting opportunities to explore a range of activities to further celebrate VET.

Feel free to have a look at some of the events held in the past few years:

[www.nationalskillsweek.com.au/events](http://www.nationalskillsweek.com.au/events)



# How can your students get involved in National Skills Week?

## SOCIAL MEDIA

### Share Posts and Use Hashtags

Have all student connect to National Skills Week Social media to obtain insights and ideas as to Vocational Education opportunities and to be part of the celebration. Encourage student to share their thoughts and photos on our social media streams during the week. See last page for our social media platforms.

You can also promote good news stories via newsletter and social media

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### Film or Record 'A Day in the Life'

Have your students' film or record a day in the life of a VET student in the class. This could be done in pairs or small groups and students can edit it to put up on their social media – Instagram, Facebook, Tok-tok, – during the week. Short 60 second videos are very popular on social media.

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### Short Interviews

Students can do “60 seconds with...” – interviewing to extract positive aspects of VET in Secondary school training. Examples include: best thing about/ why did they choose/ career thoughts/ etc.

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### Livestreams

Work with a local employer to have live streaming of some of the skills in action at their organisation.

# Social Media Post Examples



brisbaneboyscollege • Follow

brisbaneboyscollege This week is National Skills Week, highlighting key focus areas of VET and the diversity of career pathways and bringing focus to emerging skills needs and industry trends.

The theme this year is 'A Universe of Skills: Go Beyond Your Imagination.' At BBC we have many students that elect VET options, both in and post school, and we celebrate all students' successes, whether that be current students or students who have graduated.

Pictured is Year 11 student Hugo Brown who is currently working towards his QCE and a school-based apprenticeship with Graya constructions.

#BBCVET #BBC120 #NationalSkillsWeek #ThriveatBBC @graya

41w



austretailers • Follow

austretailers Meet Thao Phan, ARA Retail Institute Graduate.

"The most positive impact (of the training) is my confidence... the program helped me to improve my customer skills" Thao shared with us.

Formal and informal education and training provide the vital foundational skills and knowledge which will position you to successfully excel in whatever retail path you choose to take. Skills-based learning allows you to quickly build and apply the skills when you need them, in order to progress your career in the exciting and innovative environment of Retail.

Learn more about a career in retail and our current training opportunities: <https://www.retail.org.au/retail-institute>

#NationalSkillsWeek #Training #Retail #Career

41w



toowoomba\_catholic\_schools • Follow

toowoomba\_catholic\_schools National Skills Week: At 16 years of age Amelia Sutton knows where her future lies – in educating young children. Taking on a School-Based Traineeship in Education Support, Amelia has been working at St Joseph's School in Millmerran whilst studying Year 11 at St Ursula's College Toowoomba. Her traineeship through the TCS School-Based Apprenticeship (SBA) program has cemented her decision and given her a head start towards her career in education.

#nationalskillsweek #twbcatholicsschools #sbaprogram #traineeship

41w



# CHALLENGES / EXPOS

## VET Skills Challenge

As a class, students' workshop and plan a particular VET skills challenge.

- Kitchen Operations - MasterChef style comp for Executive meeting (Exec as judges)
  - Food and Beverage – Coffee making speed challenge
  - IT – Design new front page for school website
  - Sport Coaching – Run a fitness challenge for other students
  - Construction – Simple WorldSkills style competition.
  - Retail/Business Services – Charity fundraising challenge (each group chooses a charity, works together to market and sell a fundraising campaign)
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## VET Skills Fairs and Mini VET Careers Expo

Students work in groups to research an industry and prepare a career expo stall with pictures, video and research regarding the industry. Students set up their expo stalls in a large space for younger students, parents or industry visitors to attend. Industry visitors may be invited to assist students in their stall presentation. Encourage students to get creative by what they offer at their stall to engage attendees' interest

In particular, showcase aligned VET skills. Industry representatives may also award prizes for the stalls e.g., most informative stall, most 'unusual industry' stall, best VET skills showcase or most creative stall. This could during the day or in the evening to showcase and celebrate the diversity of VET Skills you offer in your schools or in conjunction with your local VET provider.



# CHALLENGES / EXPOS

## Digital Skills Challenge

Have your students explore their digital skills to show that digital skills aren't just for IT professionals - they're for everyone. Whether you're looking to do a trade, work an office job or make digital tech your career, having an arsenal of digital skills at your fingertips can put you head and shoulders above your competition.

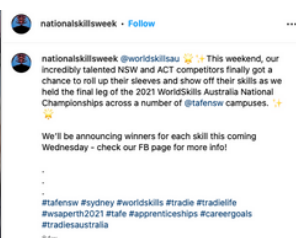
More here: <https://year13.com.au/academy/digiskills>

## VET Skills Roadshow (Local Primary School)

Promote VET career paths and future jobs by taking your VET students to the primary schools in your area to showcase what your school and other schools can offer. Invite media to come or send them information and images afterwards!

## Skills Community Challenge

Invite a number of schools and local VET providers to complete a series of skills- where they may have to work together. It could be constructing a temporary build or series of work spaces and then students use hospitality/ retail/ horticulture/ woodworking / customer service skills (from Business Admin courses)/ entertainment students etc. to deliver a product or service. Parents/ employers/ members of the community can get involved in judging/ sponsoring etc.



# OTHERS

## Work placement / work experience

Students each contribute a 1-page report of their work placement/work experience detailing information about the organisations, what they did in the workplace, skills demonstrated and reflections on the potential career pathways (including VET options). All reports are collated into a coffee table book to be used as a resource for future work placement/work experience students. It may also be a resource kept in reception for visitors to your school to review. VET Business Services students may assist in the design and formatting of the coffee table book.

## SPOTLIGHT ON SBATS

### Invite previous school-based apprentices and trainees

ISchool based apprenticeships and traineeships (SBATs) are an opportunity to gain a VET qualification and undertake paid employment as part of the Higher School Certificate. Facilitate current and previous school-based apprentices and trainees to talk about the program and their experiences. It's also an opportunity to invite the local SBAT representative to discuss how to get started.



skillset.au SCHOOL BASED TRAINEE OF THE YEAR FINALIST  
- ANDREAS KUEGLER

Today we recognise Andreas Kuegler who is one of our finalists for School Based Trainee of the Year as part of our Skillset 2022 Awards.

Andreas is currently in Year 12 at Orange High School, Orange NSW DEC and completing a school-based traineeship (Certificate III in Business Administration) with host employer, Orange City Council.

We sat down with Andreas after presenting him with his finalist certificate and asked him a few questions about being nominated for School based Trainee of the Year. Here is what he had to say:

"It means a lot to me to be nominated as a finalist for the Skillset awards. To be recognised that I am doing a great job with how hard I work means so much to me. I am extremely interested in anything business and a found studying a traineeship a superb way of learning new skills and on the job training".

Joshua had the following advice for anyone considering studying an apprenticeship or traineeship:

"Just give it a go, because it has been Fantastic. It has really helped me with skills that I will continue to use after I finish and into my future career".

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Edited - 47w

# ENGAGE WITH THE INDUSTRY

## Employers Breakfast

Use National Skills Week as an opportunity to invite industry to the school to develop schools/industry partnerships. An event such as an Employers Breakfast is also an opportunity for the VET Hospitality class to showcase their VET skills by providing catering

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## Bring in the Experts

Invite industry guests to the school to discuss their career experience.

Examples include:

- An Australian Apprenticeships Ambassador
- A local apprentice who has completed their apprenticeship
- A representative from a Registered Training Organisation (RTO) or Group Training Organisation (GTO)
- Employers who represent different industries
- Representatives from industry associations
- Work with the class to scaffold a series of questions to the guests and encourage them to ask their questions in front of peers.
- If the experts can't be their face to face, look at how Skype or Videoconferencing technologies can be used to bring industry experts to school.





# ENGAGE WITH THE INDUSTRY

## Inspiring Women

Organise a parent/daughter event where they are addressed by empowering women representing non-traditional trades. Organisations such as SALT (Supporting and Linking Tradeswomen) are a great source of inspiring speakers. SALT also offers skills workshops in schools specifically for girls. There's also the Tradeswomen Australia Group which is working to support more women into trades.

Websites:

<https://saltaustralia.org.au/>

<https://tradeswomenaus.com>

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## Out and About

Workshop with the class a school excursion to visit industry/employers to inspire students career pathways. Encourage exploration of opportunities not thought of before and for students to make contact and drive the agenda of the excursion.



# ENGAGE WITH THE INDUSTRY

## Family Career Maps

Ask students to map a selection of family members' career pathways to present to peers. For example, Dad/Mum: Completed a glazier apprenticeship after 4 years, worked with Johnson's building supplies as a glazier for 7 years, opened his/her own business and is now his/her own boss. Students may illustrate their presentation with photos, videos, artefacts from different industries.

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## Contact Your Local Rotary / Lions Club / Local Business Chamber

Many of its members are small employers and local business people. Rotarians are always willing to help, provide some ideas and support. Contact your local club for information on speakers, support and awards.

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## Local Community Newspaper

Don't forget your local community newspaper, let them know what your students are doing, get some positive publicity for your school, your students and your event.

# SOME OTHER IDEAS

## Panel Review

Panel review targeting year nine students before subject selection.

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## Work with GTOs

Work with GTO's to promote and engage students, parents and the industry.

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## Work experience media

Organise to video or photograph work experience programs

## SOME OTHER IDEAS

### Hands On Sessions

Hands on practical industry related activities - day and night activities so parents can be included.

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### School Taster Days

School taster days using current school hubs to access trade training centres: e.g., a school with a commercial kitchen could invite an industry chef to involve students from neighbouring schools to participate in practical activities

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### Simulated Environment

Try a trade, retail, business. Get local businesses in to assist – construction, horticulture, agriculture, aged care etc., entertainment, hospitality. Leading to Local focus – lead to work experience, invest in local industry and business. Students could travel to the individual businesses

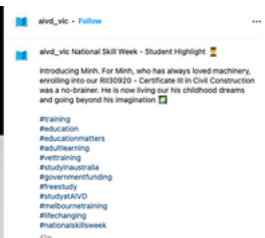
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# SOME OTHER IDEAS

## More School Activities

- Snapshot of someone who has recently graduated from a VET Course
- Powerpoint of VET activities and successes at school
- VET celebration assembly
- Promotional video by students to promote VET
- Two day in-school program for students to try a VET subject
- Industry week at school every two years
- Invite past VET students and their parents
- Activities schools showcases hands-on - industry / local employers, invite parents, training providers
- VET Honour Roll
- Celebrate VET teachers
- Transitions program year 6 to 7 and is 10 to 11/12 Tour of the training facilities, demonstration of skills to be programmed near National Skills Week
- Subject selection night – industry comes in from local community, past and present SBATS, training organisations, students showcase skills- hospitality bracket food, retail bracket displays
- School newsletter articles





# SOME OTHER IDEAS

## More School Activities

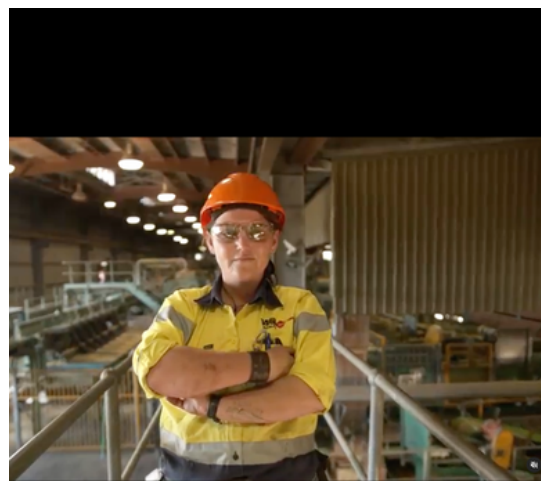
- Doghouse competition. One-day competition where teams of 3 to 4 students' construction from each school build a dog house (or anything). Judge by local carpenter
- Pop-up restaurants with Council utilising hospitality and entertainment students-to engage parents
- Parents successful in VET oriented careers to present to other parents
- Head office-/school office-All screens promoting National Skills Week
- As part of subject selection or careers information studies Show how VET can contribute to traditional subjects
- Showcasing school facilities/resources with industry delivery/school delivery and combined parent/career student classes.
- Invite Former students to discuss their experiences/challenges/success with year 7-10.
- VET to UNI pathways and Show me the money! VET vs UNI income
- 123 Anywhere Tradies - An event that provides the public, students in the VET industry and officials in the VET industry a chance to find out more information about trades, the career paths and host a Q&A.



# SOME OTHER IDEAS

## More School Activities

- An Open Day - Perhaps held at a TAFE, Private Training Provider, Registered Training Organisation's etc. This can give people the opportunity to check out campuses/facilities and to find out more information. It gives Organisation's a chance to show off and National Skills Week helps to promote the events.
- The Modern Tradie Workshop - An event where tradies learn new techniques to help them grow their business. Could be demonstration of new equipment such as Ai welding or computer software.
- A High Tea- A chance for people to indulge in pasties, classic sandwiches and beverages, whilst talking about what VET has to offer.
- Tour of Skills- This event revolves around various vocationally skilled/trained individuals from the community collaborating in weird and wonderful pairs. It is a vibrant and fun event to engage the attendees in a different way from the average career expo or presentation while displaying the opportunities through vocational training.
- Cocktail Party - An evening where guests are able to meet established professionals in the VET industry, dress up at the same time and celebrate VET.



# SOME OTHER IDEAS

## More School Activities

- Networking Function - An event where guests talk on the importance of education and skills no matter what time of the life you are living. A great opportunity for guests to meet other professionals within the industry.
- Social Media Showcase- A social media showcase of 'real life' skills and training shown through social media channels for updates, photos and action throughout National Skills Week.
- Opening Launch - A daytime or evening launch party where guests are invited to attend and listen to speakers, VET officials, meet others within the VET industry and hear about the ways VET is growing.



Erin Jacob

2021 NSW VET/Teacher Trainer of the Year



**d4bulmba** • Follow

**d4bulmba** It's my daily #nationalskillsweek post, highlighting some of our training talent across Queensland.

Today's post is about Rolin, and about our free TAFE and free apprenticeships for under 25s.

**Rolin** is working on his Cert III in Hospitality because he'd like to be a chef.

After leaving university due to his anxiety, he is over the moon about how nurturing @trafex is, and by how much he's learning. He says it's helped him so much to work out what he wants to do.

I was just thrilled to know that Rolin is able to attend TAFE because he's receiving our free TAFE for under 25s subsidy.

Coming from a family of 8 children, he would not be able to afford it otherwise. Which is exactly what our support is all about.

Find out more about @nationalskillsweek at [www.nationalskillsweek.com.au](http://www.nationalskillsweek.com.au), and find out more about subsidised training opportunities at <https://bit.ly/3OU95ds>.

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We know that if you get the right training, you're more likely to get the right job. And that's why National Skills Week is so important, to remind us of the amazing training and job opportunities right here in Queensland!

So as the Minister for Training and Skills Development, every day this week I'm going to highlight one of our state's training talents.

#makeagreathappen #vetstale

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## Questions?



Contact Anne Cazar at 0438 808 848



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