

NATIONAL SKILLS WEEK

 AUGUST 24 - AUGUST 30

2026



SCHOOL KIT 2026

AT A GLANCE

Introduction

As part of National Skills Week in Queensland , we are encouraging all schools to organise an event or activation to showcase to parents and students the diversity of opportunities and careers achievable through Vocational Education and Training (VET), to actively promote the work your school does in preparing students for work, exploring their study and career options, and for students to gain confidence and knowledge of VET programs and possibilities.

This Kit provides information on the week, lots of ideas on how you can engage and get involved, plus we have included case studies- written and video - that school advisers and teachers can use to inspire their students (and their parents).

Key Details

National Skills Week promotes the value of vocational education by showcasing talents, skills, career pathways, and opportunities, including VET in schools, school-based apprenticeships or traineeships, and post-school study.

When

24th - 30th August 2026

Where

This is a nationwide program available in-person, online and digitally.

Quick Links

- [How to hold an event](#)
- [Register your event](#)
- [Logos and social media tiles to download](#)
- [Theme Information](#)



2026 Theme: Life Changing!

Inspiration

In 2026, our theme is Life Changing.

The theme for this year is Life Changing, a reminder that education is not one-size-fits-all and that the path to success can take many forms. Vocational Education and Training (VET) offers students the opportunity to learn real-world skills while building confidence and direction.

Apprenticeships, traineeships and vocational study connect learning to life by turning passion into practice and curiosity into capability. These pathways support industries across Australia and create strong futures for students from diverse backgrounds.

By recognising and encouraging different learning journeys, we empower every student to discover what is possible, and to choose a pathway that may truly be life changing.



[Read more about the theme](#)



NATIONAL SKILLS WEEK 2026
AUGUST 24 - AUGUST 30

How can your school 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 students to share their thoughts and photos on our social media streams during the week. See next page for our social media platforms*.

Two main hashtags/ mentions

#nationalskillsweek @skillsone . You can also promote good news stories via newsletter and social media. Make sure you mention National Skills Week and we will repost/ retweet / share.

*All schools are to asked to comply with current requirements and guidance issued by the eSafety Commissioner regarding social media access and any applicable restrictions for students.

Connect now!



[Nationalskillsweek](#)



[National Skills week](#)



[Skillsone](#)



[NationalSkillsWeek](#)



[National Skills Week](#)



NATIONAL SKILLS WEEK 2026
AUGUST 24 - AUGUST 30

SOCIAL MEDIA POST EXAMPLES

National Skills Week is with Skills for Queensland and TAFE Queensland.
August 24 at 2:45 AM · 🌐

TAFE Queensland's Brian Siebert's commitment to future-focused training has seen him take out VET Teacher of the Year at the 2025 Queensland Training Awards North Queensland final.

An engineering teacher based at the Townsville Trade Training Centre (Bohle), Brian was recognised for his innovation, industry knowledge and commitment to training that bridges the gap between traditional trades and new technologies.

With a background in fitting and turning, applied technologies, and defence transition programs, Brian has built a strong reputation for his engaging, hands-on teaching style and deep understanding of both mechanical and digital systems, since joining TAFE Queensland in 2023.

"We're trying to bring trades into the 21st century," Brian said. "That means embracing new tools, new technology, and helping students see how all of these skills connect." His students range from school students to apprentices, through to defence personnel preparing to transition into civilian roles.

"Some of our veterans have never touched a lathe, never welded, never done any design work before. By the end of the course, they've created something of their own, something useful. That's the moment that gets me every time."

Brian is one of the first TAFE Queensland teachers to be delivering the newly accredited Diploma of Applied Technologies in Queensland. His classes explore how #automation, #robotics and #digital systems are changing how we work and gives students the skills to step into those roles.

"Every student learns differently. Some need visuals, some need to get hands-on straight away. I work with each person to find what clicks. When it does, you can see their whole outlook change," Brian said. Beyond the classroom, Brian works closely with local industry and employers to ensure his training remains relevant.

"Some employers don't even know what's possible yet with this kind of tech. That's why these programs matter. We're helping people see what's next and how to get there," Brian said.

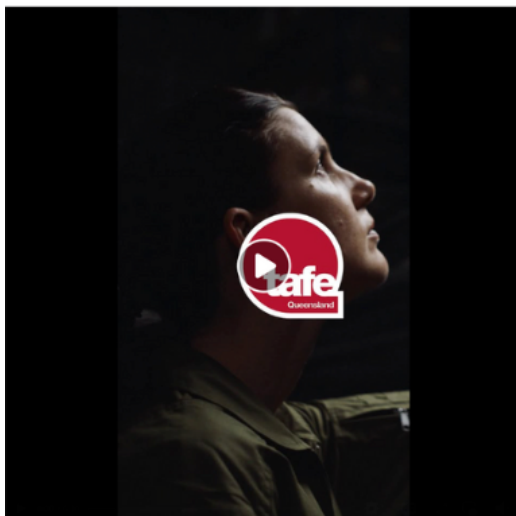
Looking to start your next chapter as a TAFE Queensland teacher? Explore all your options at: <https://tafeqld.edu.au/about/working-for-tafe-queensland> #NationalSkillsWeek #ExploreAllTheOptions Skills for Queensland



National Skills Week
August 28 at 8:00 AM · 🌐

Technology. Tools. Techniques. National Skills Week is about exploring all the career options. Our partner TAFE Queensland can get you job ready, with the skills employers want, with over 500 courses across 50+ campuses. #NationalSkillsWeek #ExploreAllTheOptions Find out more: <https://tafeqld.edu.au/>

TAFE Queensland



National Skills Week
August 28 at 10:01 PM · 🌐

Breaking barriers: Felicity leads the way in civil construction

At just 20, Felicity Wadsworth is a qualified civil trainee, and a role model for young women considering a career in construction. Felicity admits she initially didn't know what civil construction was but after being introduced to the industry through a school-based traineeship coordinated by Community Solutions and Orbus II, her passion quickly grew.

"I knew I wanted to be active, outdoors, and doing something hands-on and I wanted to show other women that they can step into roles traditionally seen as 'men's work' and absolutely thrive," Felicity said. "Beginning as a school-based trainee gave me the right amount of exposure and skills to really decide that this was absolutely my pathway post high school."

"Upon finishing year 12 at the end of 2022, I transitioned to a full-time civil trainee. I have experienced incredible personal growth and can say that civil construction has shaped me into a stronger, confident and more resilient young woman." But Felicity's journey hasn't been without challenges. In 2024, she was diagnosed with early onset cervical cancer while still completing her Certificate III.

"There were days when chemo left me exhausted but I was determined not to let my illness define my career," Felicity said. Her strength and leadership earned her a Leading Hand role, where she leads crews of up to 20 and makes critical on-site decisions.

"The industry has taught me to stand my ground and trust my training, and that I'm capable of much more than I thought," Felicity said. "Some people doubted me some doubted how competent I was due to my young age and being female, but I proved that age and gender don't define leadership."

Felicity's leadership extends beyond the worksite. The recent winner of the Queensland Training Awards Bob Mashman Trainee of the Year for the North Coast region, Felicity mentors women through Community Solutions' Women in Construction program and has launched a podcast, Hard Hats and Heels, to amplify female voices in the industry.

"This job has shown me the power of representation," she said.

"By simply showing up as a woman in this trade, I feel like I'm helping to shift the perception of 'men-only' and that's a responsibility I don't take lightly. I am proud of how I have used it to fuel change and challenge stereotypes."

For more information on the support for apprentices and trainees visit: <https://www.qld.gov.au/.../for-apprentices/support/services>

For more information on the Queensland Training Awards visit: <https://desit.qld.gov.au/training/qta/winners-and-finalists>

Queensland Government



National Skills Week
August 11 · 🌐

Here's the thing: 🌟 There's no single path to success.

For Chan Ea, the journey to becoming a civil engineer started with TAFE. Hands-on learning built problem-solving, teamwork, and time management skills, making the transition into a Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) at @qutrealworld smoother and more rewarding.

Chan said: "TAFE sparked my interest through hands-on learning, while QUT has expanded my understanding of engineering's broader impact. Together, they've helped me clarify my goals and build the skills I need to pursue them with confidence."

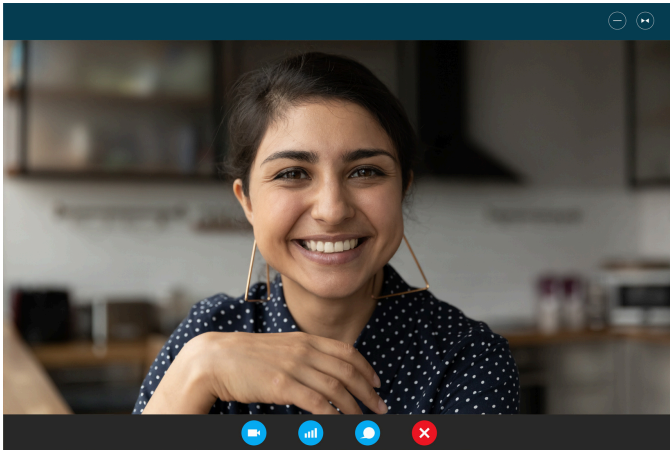
"TAFE gave me a solid foundation... by building practical skills like problem-solving, teamwork, and time management... while group projects and independent learning prepared me for the collaborative and self-directed nature of engineering studies." – Chan Ea, Bachelor of Engineering (Honours), Queensland University of Technology

#NationalSkillsWeek #ExploreAllTheOptions #VET #Pathways #Engineering



Film or Record 'A Day in the Life'

Have students create a "Day in the Life of a VET Student" video in pairs or small groups. They can edit and share 60-second clips on the school's social media platforms — Instagram, Facebook, or TikTok — during the week, as short videos are highly engaging.



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.

Livestream

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

Shout it Out!

It is really important that you shout out the work you and your school are doing.

We have some great resources to help you, but the main point is to leverage off the week and get the message out.

You have your social internal noticeboard and announcement screens you could also utilise.

Also make sure you register your school event on our website. You can state that it is a private event and provide contact details if someone wants more information. Media and government ministers' are always looking for events and stories and we can help you promote your work.

EXPLORE THE DISCUSSION



Vodcast: Finding Success in Non Traditional Places

In this episode we interview people who have entered trades and career paths that are traditionally dominated by the opposite gender. These career journeys often require courage, support, and a strong sense of purpose. We'll hear from those who've taken these paths and the experts helping to shape more inclusive career landscapes.

Almira Dall: Dairy Farmer

Lachlan Carey: Early Childhood Educator

Melinda Davis: General Manager EWIT

Host: Cara Jenkin

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) A

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 be during the day or in the evening to showcase and celebrate the diversity of VET Skills you offer in your school or in conjunction with your local VET provider.

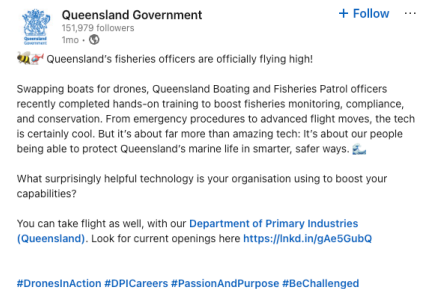


VET Skills Roadshow (Local Primary School)

Showcase VET career paths by having your students visit local primary schools to highlight opportunities your school and others offer. Invite media or share information and images with them afterward.

Skills Community Challenge

Invite several schools and local VET providers to collaborate on a skills-based challenge. This could involve constructing a temporary structure or workspace, where students apply skills from areas such as hospitality, retail, horticulture, woodworking, business administration (e.g., customer service), or entertainment to deliver a product or service. Parents, employers, and community members can participate as judges, sponsors, or supporters.



Employers Breakfast

Use National Skills Week to strengthen school-industry partnerships by inviting industry representatives to events like an Employers Breakfast. This provides a platform for VET Hospitality students to showcase their catering skills and can be combined with student chats, showcases, or "try a trade" activities.

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. It could even be a workshop for parents.

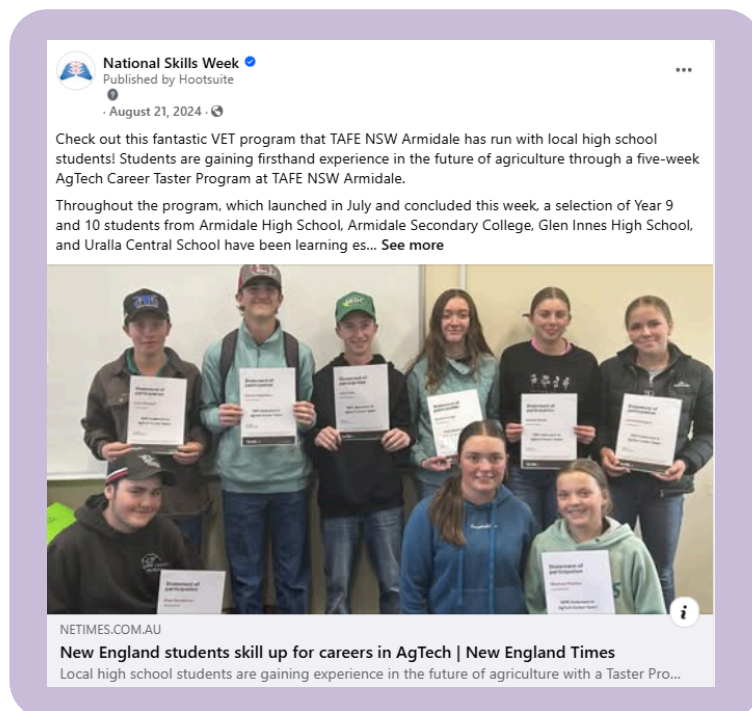


Contact Your Local Rotary / Lions Club / Local Business Chamber

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.

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.



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.

ENGAGE WITH THE INDUSTRY

Ideas

Bring in the Experts

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

Examples include:

- An Australian Apprenticeships Ambassador or WorldSkills Competitor
- 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
- If the experts can't be their face to face, look at how Video conferencing technologies can be used to bring industry experts to school.
- An Apprenticeship Connect Provider could speak on Apprenticeships, Traineeships- whilst still at school or post school. Examples of Apprenticeship connect providers include Apprenticeship support Australia and MEGT for example

Some great contacts to get you started who partner with National Skills Week:

[MEGT](#)

[Apprenticeship Support Australia](#)

[Book a VET Alumni/ Ambassador- to speak at your school](#)

[WorldSkills Competitors](#)

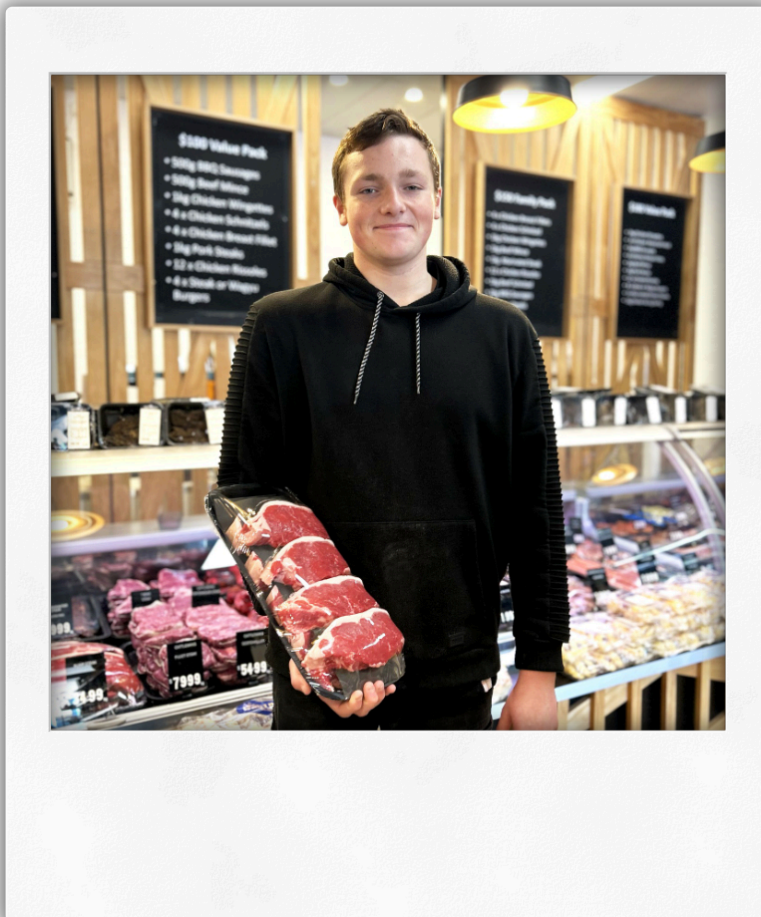
[Brick and Block Careers- Careers in Construction/ Bricklayin/ roofing.](#)

[Komatsu Australia- Apprenticeships in mechanical and mining equipment](#)

SPOTLIGHT ON SBATS

Inspiration

Invite Previous School-based Apprentices and Trainees



Marcus recently commenced a career in Meat Processing (Retail Butcher) as a school-based apprentice with **The Butchers Secret - Angle Vale**, and was offered an apprenticeship after undertaking work experience with the business. #sptcstudentstories



"I considered a career in Meat Processing because of my passion for cooking and knife skills," Marcus said.

"It's been my passion for some time, and I just really enjoyed my work experience... See more



School 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.

PATHWAY STORIES **Inspiration**



Engy Abdalla Gamar

From School to Scrubs: Engy's Healthcare Dream

Sudanese-Australian high-school student Engy Abdalla Gamar is breaking down cultural barriers and developing the skills to fulfil her childhood dream of working in healthcare.

[VIEW FULL ARTICLE](#)

Cracking the Code to Cyber Success

For Gold Coast student Dylan Wondal, cyber security is not only a passion, but a competitive pursuit.

19-year-old Dylan's interest in cyber security started in Grade 9, when he stumbled upon TryHackMe – a gamified, hands-on cyber security platform.

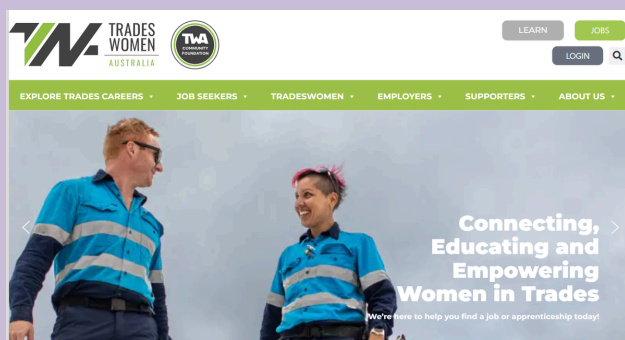
[VIEW FULL ARTICLE](#)



Dylan Wondal

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.



Some Websites:

[Trades women Australia](#)

[Supporting and Linking Tradeswomen](#)

Work Placement / Work Experience Book

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.

Inspiration WOMEN IN NON TRADITIONAL TRADES



Jessica Bichsel

From tourism to timber: breaking tradie stereotypes

Jessica Bichsel had never considered following in her father's footsteps in construction –until a career in tourism was disrupted by the global pandemic.

[VIEW FULL ARTICLE](#)

Breaking Barriers: Felicity Leads the Way in Civil Construction

At just 20, Felicity Wadsworth is a qualified civil trainee, and a role model for young women considering a career in construction.

[VIEW FULL ARTICLE](#)



SOME OTHER IDEAS

Work with Group Training Organisation (GTO)

Work with GTOs to promote and engage students, parents and the industry.

Industry 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

Hands On Sessions

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



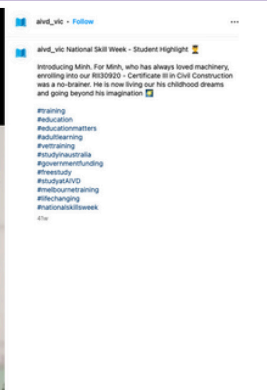
Workplace Simulation

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



More School Activities

Ideas



- Snapshot of someone who has recently graduated from a VET Course
- PowerPoint of VET activities and successes at school
- VET celebration assembly
- 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 year 10 to 11 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 ,Fod, retail displays etc
- School newsletter articles

From Sales to Saws: Christopher's Midlife Leap into Carpentry

At 40, Chris Reppel swapped his career in sales for timber and toolbelts.

He took a bold step and started a carpentry apprenticeship with Cairns' based MB Constructions and Ballinger Training and Consultancy, and the move has changed his life.

[VIEW FULL ARTICLE](#)



Chris Reppel

From Trainee to Trailblazer: Lilly's Mission to Close the Gap in Indigenous Health

Lilly Lenoy's remarkable journey from high school student to full-time Physiotherapy Assistant has been recognised, with the 18-year-old named Bob Marshman Trainee of the Year and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student of the Year for North Queensland at the 2025 Queensland Training Awards.

[VIEW FULL ARTICLE](#)



Lilly Lenoy



- Doghouse Competition: A one-day event where teams of 3–4 students from each school build a doghouse (or similar project), judged by a local carpenter.
- Parent Presentations: Parents with successful VET careers share their experiences with other parents.
- Screen Promotions: Display National Skills Week content on all screens in head office and school offices.
- VET in Subject Selection: Highlight how VET complements traditional subjects during subject selection or career information sessions.
- Facility Showcases: Demonstrate school facilities and resources through industry-led, school-led, or combined parent-student career classes.
- Alumni Talks: Invite former students to share their experiences, challenges, and successes with Years 7–10.
- VET vs Uni Pathways: Explore VET-to-university pathways and compare earning potential between VET and university graduates.
- Open Day: Host an Open Day at a TAFE, private training provider, or RTO to showcase campuses, facilities, and opportunities, supported by National Skills Week promotions.
- Modern Tradie Workshop: A workshop for tradies to learn new techniques, such as AI welding or business software, to grow their business.
- High Tea: Enjoy pastries, sandwiches, and beverages while discussing the benefits of VET.

- **Skills & Thrills Show** - This event revolves around various vocationally skilled/trained individuals from the community collaborating in a show or performance. 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 available 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.
- **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.

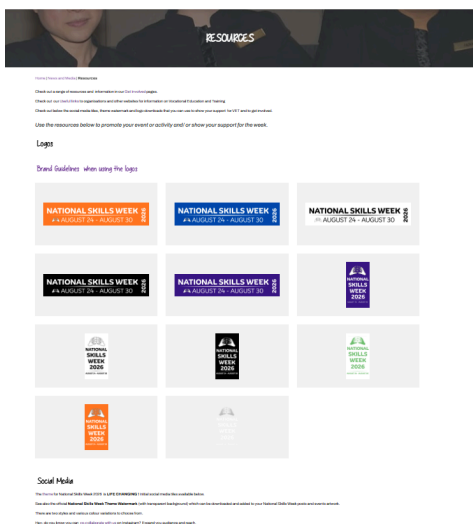


Resources

Inspiration



Check out the Website for articles, podcasts, vodcasts and vodcasts to assist with celebrating National Skills Week.



National Skillsweek



National Skills Week



Skillsone

NATIONAL SKILLS WEEK
 **AUGUST 24 - AUGUST 30**



SkillsOne Match

SkillsOne Match is SkillsOne's free matching platform for schools. Instead of cold-calling employers, you post what your students need and our matching engine finds the industry partners that fit. Then the SkillsOne team makes a warm, personal introduction by email. No cold outreach, in either direction, ever.

How it works

1. Register your school, it takes about 3 minutes. Post what you need (speakers, placements, site tours, mentors, careers day participation) along with your VET subjects, your region and your preferred timing.
2. The engine scores the match; every pairing is scored on four criteria: VET subject, location, engagement type and dates.
3. A real person approves it; the SkillsOne team reviews every suggested match before anything is sent. Quality is protected at every step.
4. You get a warm introduction, one email to you, one to the industry contact, naming each other and explaining why you're a great fit. From there, you arrange the activity directly.

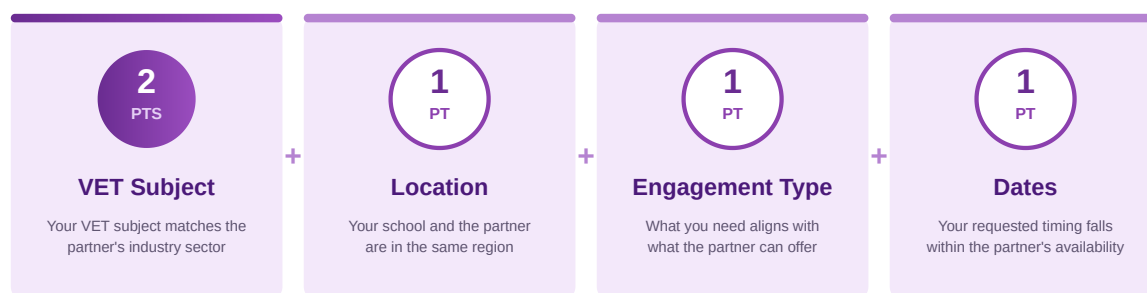
What your school gets

Curated industry introductions matched to your subjects, region, needs and dates. The full School Kit resources, activity guides, consent templates and feedback forms. A participation certificate after each confirmed engagement, for your careers reporting. Free registration, permanently, no subscription, no catch

Make it your first step for National Skills Week. Register now and post what you'd like to run during the Week. A guest speaker, a site visit, an employer at your expo and let the match come to you. The right introduction at the right time can set a student on a pathway that is genuinely life changing.

SKILLSONE MATCH How matching is scored

FREE FOR SCHOOLS



3+

A match scoring 3 or more — with aligned dates — is reviewed by the SkillsOne team.
Every introduction is approved before it goes out. No cold outreach, ever.



Real estate is a professional, dynamic career with unlimited earning potential, independence and flexibility. Helping people on their real estate journey and being involved in your local community can be very rewarding.

Learn valuable skills in business management, leadership, communication, accounting, technology, and more. You can start a career in real estate in a matter of months (varies state by state).

Combined Franchise Services has over 40 years of real estate history. Under its umbrella are **CENTURY 21 Australasia**, the world's largest residential real estate brand and **Better Homes and Gardens Real Estate**, the real estate arm of the loved and trusted lifestyle media brand. Combined Franchise Services would love to nurture and develop your career goals.



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Image Credit: Tourism Australia

MAJOR PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS



NATIONAL SKILLS WEEK

2026



AUGUST 24 - AUGUST 30

**Questions or would like more ideas ?
Contact info@nationalskillsweek.com.au**



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