

## **NCDW 2009 Event Story from Marlene Maney, Careers Counsellor, SACE/VET**

### **What is your event story?**

The events celebrated NCDW as follows: Monday 18 May University & TAFE Talks to Year 11 There were representatives from The University of Adelaide, Flinders University & The University of South Australia plus TAFESA. Each representative spoke about Tertiary education in general, the application process, expectations, the differences between the various organisations and the best way to make informed decisions.

Tuesday 19 May Maxima Recruitment, Employment & Training Interview Success• Year 12 students received information regarding Traineeships & Apprenticeships and how to be successful in gaining employment not only in the Trades area but also in general. Tips given covered Subject selection Good work placement reports or references from part-time work Good school Reports Develop a Resume Importance of appropriate work placements and part-time work Making contact with organisations Advertisements Testing Processes Preparing for Interview What is the employer looking for e.g.

- o Honesty & Trustworthy
- o Good communication skills
- o Teamwork
- o Ability to learn quickly
- o Reliability
- o Hardworking
- o Punctual
- o Presentation
- o Problem Solving Skills
- o Loyal
- o Working Safely

Initial greeting (first impression) Year 10 students attended a session with Mr Anthony Leverenz, of the Energy & Water Skills Board This most informative talk raised issues about sustainability for the future. Employment options, with a strong focus on female involvement and career paths in Electrotechnology and Water utilities. Students learned the importance of assisting communities once skills have been developed, within Australia and overseas as a volunteer. The talk was supported by videos and clips relevant to the issues. Finally Tony asked student to assist him as he is developing a Rap song, which is still very much a work in progress which students found very amusing.

Wednesday 20 May Year 11 attended a session organised by The Institute of Chartered Accountants. The speaker David Cursaro is employed by Pricewaterhouse Coopers a well known Accountancy Company here in Adelaide. As a 25 year old he is a recent graduate who explained his journey and opportunities including being offered employment whilst still at University. This engaging and articulate young man certainly demystified the work of accountancy and the well held thought that Accountants are

boring! Year 12 also attended a talk organised by The Institute of Chartered Accountants. This time the speaker was Jane Hahn also employed by Pricewaterhouse Coopers and who gave a very informative snapshot of her life journey, so far. Jane has gained the position of Human Capital Relationship Management and has completed her accreditation as a CPA (Certified Practising Accountant) which was also explained to our students. Once again, Jane dismissed the idea of boring both as an occupation and person.

Rob McGregor of Motor Trades Association spoke with interested Year 10, 11 and 12 students. Rob stressed the various skills required to achieve an offer of an Apprenticeship. Among the many things discussed with basic Mathematics, Literacy, interpersonal, personal presentation, including the removal of piercings when attending interviews for positions on offer. Together with this Rob stressed the importance of perseverance, dedication, hard work and commitment as the pathway to success. There was also discussion about females joining this workforce and the high regard given to any applications made by them. The message about the excellent ongoing skills and opportunities for the future once a mechanical trade is completed was highlighted.

Thursday 21 May Year 11 attended a presentation by Adrian Fox of AIM 2XL Recruitment & Training. Adrian gave a very enlightening talk about how Reception areas are set up, why they are set up in this fashion in view of wishing to employ persons who have applied for vacancies. Did you know that you may be observed as you sit and peruse the magazines on offer? Next time read the one from the company advertising the position!! Your Resume must contain factual information about your skill set. Do research about the prospective employer. Students learnt about the importance of being punctual, personal presentation, eye contact, shaking hands, being engaged with the interviewer. All-in-all this presentation was a most interesting and informative talk about the application and interview process.

Maggie Botha of the South Australian Police and a past student spoke to Year 12 students about her journey after completing her Degree at University, to becoming a Constable with the Police Department. Once again Maggie spoke of the need for Mathematics, Literacy, completing the fitness tests, medical examinations etc., etc. Maggie explained how a normal day takes place for SAPOL and some of the types of issues that they can expect to deal with. The Defence Force spoke to Year 10 students giving an enlightening talk about the differences in the Forces which was stressed with very exciting film clips and facts. Once again it was stressed about the great opportunities available to female applicants. Students also learnt about the application process, career paths, including Defence Force Academy.

Friday 22 May Year 11 attended a talk about South Australia Youth Conservation Corps by Emma Fell. YCC is aimed at assisting young people (16 to 24 years of age) to gain employment and/or further training by providing them with skills and experience while they participate in projects that contribute to the conservation of South Australia's natural and cultural heritage which can assist in future employment. There are many volunteer activities taking place including site preparation and monitoring, tree planting,

flora and fauna management, bird surveys, trail construction, fencing, seed collection and propagation and are spread across metropolitan and country South Australia. Emma provided a wonderful slide show of the types of activities carried out and the many animals and plants volunteers will work with in the course of their duties.

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