



## Inspiring Youth Employment Options

‘Employability and Expectations’ was the focus of the 2016 Seek a Skill Interactive Careers Expo, held on the 11th and 12th of May at the Gipps Road Sporting Complex. In addition to providing volunteers from across their entire organisation, Holroyd City Council’s financial contribution made the event possible. SWSi TAFE and TAFE NSW also provided input and resources.

Almost 1,200 students from across 30 primary and high schools attended, along with another 200 Holroyd City Council Community participants (CALD, long term unemployed, newly arrived residents, refugees, youth, women

and older people) gained insights into careers and pathway options.

Over the 2 days, approximately 180 volunteers and stall holders from across 48 exhibitors contributed to making the event valuable and enjoyable. Seek a Skill continues to be the YCI Team’s biggest and most anticipated event.

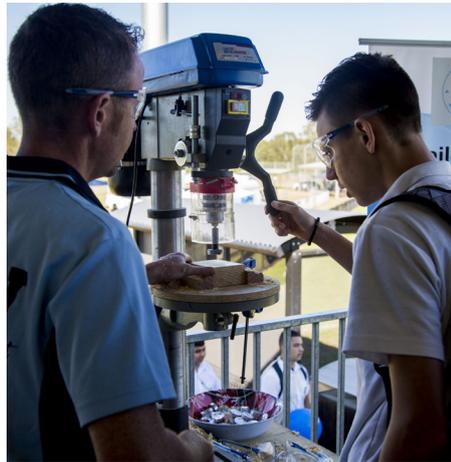
Participants had a go at different trades including, bricklaying, floor laying, tiling, carpentry, butchery, horticulture, animal care, automotive, robot arm mechanics and martial arts. This is the third consecutive year the event has taken place under the Seek a Skill

banner. In previous years, the event relied on the ‘Try a Trade’ truck. With a focus on sustainability and relevance, SWC and its partners developed the Seek a Skill Interactive Careers Expo, as a means of addressing the skills and jobs shortages across Western Sydney and inspiring young people to consider and explore career pathways by connecting with people already in the field or have the resources to help them.

There is an array of research and reports in the media highlighting the alarming rate of youth unemployment in our region and it will take a great deal of resources and a collective impact approach to combat the issue. Over the past decade, SWC has taken an early intervention approach by lifting the aspirations and showing young people (even from primary school age) the various employment pathways and options available to them. The aim of our initiatives is to identify their interest, passion and skills to create a meaningful vocation.

When young people feel empowered, inspired and motivated to achieve their goals, and are provided with appropriate skills and resources, they will focus their time and energy on achieving their goals regardless of their background or the adversity they previously faced as evidenced by the many success stories within our community over the years. The Seek a Skill motto of “find out what you like doing best and get someone to pay you for doing it” (Katherine Whitehorn) remains highly relevant as we continue to explore opportunities to evolve the Seek a Skill initiative to inspire even more young people.





A few of the Seek a Skill exhibitors. Left to right (top row): 1. TAFE SWSi. 2. TAFE NSW Carpentry and trades corner. 3. NSW Police Fairfield Local Area Command, presented with a certificate of appreciation from former Holroyd City Mayor Clr Greg Cummings. (Bottom row) 4. South West Connect Workplacement Team. 5. TAFE SWSi Electrotechnology (robot arm). 6. TAFE SWSi butcher demonstration.

## Lenovo Prize Winner

For the third consecutive year, Lenovo supported the Seek a Skill Careers Expo by providing a YOGA tablet 2 Pro as a prize to a worthy student. Mikaela Ogden, from Bonnyrigg High School was the deserving winner, she also actively participated at Seek a Skill and enjoyed speaking with many exhibitors to gain a better understanding of the types of career options available.

Mikaela intends to use the device to research information for her school assignments and homework as well as finding online resources that will help her to make better career choices.

When Mikaela opened the box, she said "It's awesome that it even has a built in projector, almost like having my own theatre and the screen is so large and clear it makes it easy to read and research information."

In her spare time Mikaela will use the device to watch her favourite video clips, play games, listen to music and utilise other social media and entertainment options.

Mikaela's teachers were pleased that such a deserving student was the winner of a technology device that will help with school work.



Mikaela is standing in the front row, directly in front of the YOGA tablet 2 Pro box which is held by fellow student Johnathon Pathounphanh, who was awarded a Stockland gift voucher.

**Thank you  
Seek a Skill Exhibitors  
and Contributors**

1. Ability Links NSW
2. Ability Options Employment Youth Program
3. Afford
4. AIG Apprentices
5. Apprenticeship Support Australia
6. ABBTF (Bricklaying demonstrations by Holroyd City Council)
7. Australian Defence Force
8. Automotive Holdings Group
9. BTF Hairdressing
10. Channel 9 Radio & Television
11. Community First Step
12. CORE Community Services
13. Cucina 105 Restaurant
14. Cummins South Pacific Pty Ltd
15. Department of Human Services
16. Holroyd City Council - Aged & Disability Services
17. Holroyd City Council - Animal Care
18. Holroyd City Council - Horticulture
19. Holroyd City Council - Sign Writing
20. Holroyd City Council - Swim Centres
21. Holroyd City Council - Youth Services
22. HVTC Western Sydney
23. Invincible Worldwide
24. Liverpool Migrant Resource Centre
25. Macleay College
26. Macquarie Employment Training Services
27. Master Plumbers Apprentices Limited
28. McDonalds Australia
29. Mission Providence Merrylands
30. MTC Recruitment
31. NSW Department of Industry
32. NSW Police Force - Fairfield LAC
33. NSW St Vinnies - SPARK Program
34. Rotary Club of Holroyd
35. Smith Family - Saver Plus Program
36. South West Connect - Workplacement
37. Street University - Ted Noffs Foundation
38. TAFE SWSi - Events
39. TAFE NSW - Engineering, Floorlaying Hairdressing, Joinery, Construction Steel Work, Tiling, Carpentry (practical demonstrations by Holroyd City Council)
40. TAFE SWSi - Information Stall
41. TAFE SWSi - Aged Care
42. TAFE SWSi - Industrial Electronics and Control (Robot Arm)
43. TAFE SWSi - Automotive
44. TAFE SWSi - Business and Finance
45. TAFE SWSi - Information Technology
46. TAFE SWSi - Business & Legal Admin
47. TAFE SWSi - Community Services
48. TAFE SWSi - Meat & Allied Trades
49. The Parks Community Network Inc.
50. The Parramatta College
51. Tri Community Exchange Inc
52. Trooper Lu's Garage (Yamaha Motor Cycle Dealership) featuring Apprentice Brenden Williamson Australian SBAT of the year
53. Western Sydney University



*Seek a Skill organising committee members from SWC, Holroyd City Council, TAFE NSW & TAFE SWSi with Former Mayor for Holroyd Cllr Greg Cummings*



*Thank you Cucina 105 Restaurant and Rotary Club of Holroyd for catering for the lunch during Seek a Skill.*



*"Exposure to first hand information helps."*

**Ashcroft High School**

*"The Students had fun and made some interesting connections."* **Good Samaritan Catholic College**

*Great variety of vocations stalls to visit. Students loved the hands on activities and talking to the stall professionals.*

**Old Guildford Public School**





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**Key statistics:**

- 97% of respondents learnt something new at Seek a Skill.
- 97% of respondents also have gained a better understanding of possible career pathways.
- 91.5% now know where to gain more information about jobs after attending Seek a Skill.
- 85.5% know more about VET subjects after attending Seek a Skill.

Left to right (Left): Primary school students enjoy an interactive demonstration by Invincible Worldwide. (Right): Students visit the NSW Police Fairfield LAC and Channel 9's exhibition.



Top: (Left) Students participating in the tiling demonstration. (Right) Students have a go at the Hair and Beauty stall with TAFE SWSi.  
Middle: (Left) Cummins South Pacific exhibition at Seek a Skill. (Right) Flower arrangement demonstrations.  
Bottom: (Left) Laing O'Rourke exhibition at Seek a Skill. (Right) TAFE SWSi Automotive exhibition.

