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# VET SUMMIT

STUDENTS CAREERS

EXPLORE LEARN APPLY ACHIEVE

600 attendees from multiple schools, including students, teachers, and industry experts came together for a day of enriched Vocational Education & Training (VET) focused masterclasses, immersive workshops, and dynamic interactive sessions.



VET students (Yr 10-12) acquired skills and knowledge to help them get the most out of their work placements through being **mentored and interacting with industry experts** throughout the day.

This includes interactive Career Workshops, VET Industry Q&A Panel and Speed Networking. There was an extremely high level of interest in our region with SWC receiving over 900 registrations from students, teachers, and industry representatives.

The VET Summit was developed on the foundation of 10 years of feedback, consultation and requests received from VET teachers, Host Employers and Industry Stakeholders. The aim is to provide practical insights and advice to VET students to help them contribute meaningfully during their one-week work placement.

- ✓ Inspire and motivate VET students to value their work placement experience
- ✓ Acquire knowledge & skills from Industry Expert's to assist with student success during their work placements

 **97.4%**  
of the teachers said the student engagement was excellent

 **99.3%**  
of students increased their knowledge of Employer expectations

 **98.6%**  
of students increased their confidence to participate in work placements

 **99.3%**  
of students would recommend the VET Summit to other students

**“** I believe that the experiences from the day will leave a lasting impact on the attitudes of our upcoming Year 11 (2024) VET Students toward their Work Placement with South West Connect.  
**Sharon | Teacher: Westfields Sports High School**

Events like the VET Summit are extremely important as they provide opportunities that kids could never have at a school, for example, being shown what is out there.  
**Grace | Teacher: Fairvale High School**

The VET Summit has been incredibly helpful in preparing me for my work placement by offering valuable insights and practical tips for success in the professional world. The speakers, particularly Rich Tran, shared inspiring personal experiences and success stories that motivated me to maximise upcoming work placement opportunities. Emphasising the significance of networking, skill development, and a positive attitude, the VET Summit empowered me to set goals, be proactive, and actively seek valuable learning experiences. Rich's presentation was especially impactful, as his passion and knowledge were contagious, reinforcing the idea that with dedication, I can achieve my goals. His words have instilled in me a commitment to embrace challenges, stay curious, and consistently learn and grow, fostering confidence and excitement for the possibilities ahead in my work placement and beyond.  
**Dylan | Cabramatta High School**

Hearing about Rich's journey and presentation makes me want to learn about barbering and help those in need of a cut, hearing all his achievements made me more and more intrigued about his line of work. After the presentation I started to think to myself that I could see myself being a barber.  
**Leonidus | Westfields Sports High School**

## THANK YOU TO THE 2023 VET SUMMIT INDUSTRY EXPERTS!





RICH TRAN PROVIDING A FREE HAIRCUT WHILE TALKING ABOUT HIS CAREER & LIFE JOURNEY

## RICH TRAN PROVIDING A TRANSFORMATION AT THE VET SUMMIT

Rich Tran is the innovative director and founder of Ultrafade by Rich, a salon renowned for its expertise in barbering and hairdressing. Rich delivered the key note presentation and captivated the audience with his personal journey, detailing his start in the barbering industry at age 15 and the obstacles and stereotypes he overcame along the way.

In a captivating live demonstration, Rich performed a haircut on Sarkees, a Fairvale High School VET student and an avid admirer of his work. This encounter was transformative for Sarkees, who not only received a complimentary haircut and makeover but also gained invaluable advice and mentorship from his idol, along with a free masterclass in barbering, an opportunity unique to this event.

Rich's story deeply connected with all the students, especially as he originated from the same area as them, exemplifying how dedication, passion, and creativity can lead to success. An integral part of his journey is his wife, Jenny Vo, who has been his secret weapon and an invaluable support. Her belief in him, along with her assistance in building his social media presence and marketing

strategies, has been pivotal. Their collaborative efforts have amassed over 270,000 Instagram followers, and Rich is now invited by clients from around the world for all-expenses-paid trips to work with exclusive clients and conduct masterclasses.

To inspire the students further, Rich announced a giveaway of a free haircut at his salon for the student who showed the most promise.

The feedback from both teachers and students regarding Rich's presentation was overwhelmingly positive. This was evident in the high ratings and favourable comments he received in the post-event feedback surveys, highlighting the impact of his contribution.

**SWC extends its heartfelt gratitude to Rich for generously donating his time and expertise to uplift and inspire the youth in our community.**

*"Rich has inspired and motivated me through his relatable obstacles that he has faced which I am currently dealing with and gave me hope for my future in barbering by helping to bring out the best version of myself."*

**Sarkees | Fairvale High School**



### THANK YOU TO OUR Q&A PANELISTS

#### INDUSTRY EXPERTS:



**Wayne Humphrey**  
Group Training Manager



**Michael Foulkes**  
Group General Manager



**Charlene Vaughan**  
Industry Development Consultant



**Eva Atkins**  
Community Engagement and Social Impact Manager



## EXPRESS YOUR INTEREST NOW | SAVE THE DATE IN 2024

Due to high demand SWC is taking expressions of interest for the 2024 VET Summit. To avoid disappointment, complete an EOI form (available via Google Form) and get the latest information and first access to booking forms.



The 2023 VET Summit was **SOLD OUT** with over 600 attendees coming together to discuss VET career outcomes in meaningful and impactful ways.



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(select option 2)



[events@swconnect.org.au](mailto:events@swconnect.org.au)

### ENQUIRIES





## BENEFITS FOR INDUSTRY EXPERTS

### NETWORKING & MENTORING

Connect with schools, teachers, students, and many industry experts at the Speed Careers Mentoring session.

### EARLY TALENT ENGAGEMENT

Meet future employees, increase talent pool options for future recruitment through School Based Apprenticeships or part-time employment.

### RAISE INDUSTRY AWARENESS

Invest in the future generation by increasing students' understanding and awareness about the skills, needs, and pathways into your industry / business.

### COMMUNITY AWARENESS

Contribute to positive community outcomes by supporting local VET students and raise company brand awareness and profile.

*"I think the rotation of students between each exhibitor was an excellent idea as it gave them each a great opportunity to speak with every exhibitor that attended also how it was broken up with fun activities. Students seemed more engaged and weren't afraid to ask questions."*

**Yvonne | Apprenticeship Support Australia**

*"I think presenting options and opportunities to the students was great especially with such a large variety of different industries."*

**Marius | My Freight Career**

*"It was a great event, I thoroughly enjoyed talking to the students, hoping to make an impact on their journey in the workforce."*

**Adel | Master Painters Australia**

## WHAT STUDENTS EXPERIENCED

- Engaged with industry experts, received tips and tricks to succeed at work placements and in the future
- Discovered broader career pathways
- Real world advice from Keynote speakers, and leaders of industry
- Got involved in activities that will help them discover new skills and opportunities.

*"The VET Summit helped me prepare for work placement as it has showed me the importance of manners, presentation and attitude."*

**Veronica | Westfields Sports High School**

## EVENT WINNERS

### 3 LAPTOP REWARDS\*

\*The laptop must not be sold or transferred & is intended to further the recipient's education & career.

A laptop was rewarded at each event (3 in total) to the most engaged student that demonstrated the following: active participation, asking thoughtful questions during the day, becoming a SWC event ambassador and completing the event survey thoughtfully. See SWC website for full criterion.

- **Ambition PLUS: Yousef, Miller Technology High School**
- **VET Student Careers Summit: Evita, Bossley Park High School**
- **Youth Wellbeing Success Summit: Lilly, Bonnyrigg High School**

Thank you to the kind donations of the 3 laptop rewards from a local family dedicated to helping young people explore and achieve their journey to success. Thank you all to the students who participated at our events and activities in 2023.

### BARBERING MASTERCLASS

Rich Tran offered the students of the VET Summit, an invaluable opportunity for mentorship with a free masterclass in barbering. **WINNER: Sarkees, Fairvale High School**

### RICH TRAN ULTRAFADÉ HAIRCUT

To inspire the students further, Rich announced a giveaway of a free haircut at his salon for the student who showed the most promise. **WINNER: Leonidus, Westfields Sports High School**



MILLER TECHNOLOGY HS PRINCIPAL DR. K. EDGE & CAREERS ADVISER M. BENITEZ CONGRATULATING AMBITION PLUS LAPTOP WINNER - YOUSEF



VET SUMMIT LAPTOP WINNER - EVITA FROM BOSSLEY PARK HS



WELLBEING SUMMIT LAPTOP WINNER - LILLY (RIGHT) FROM BONNYRIGG HS