TAFE Illawarra is entering a new era. The vocational education and training sector is changing as the economy changes and the skills needed by the workforce of the future change. We are building TAFE for the future. We are introducing a number of changes to the way we operate. TAFE Illawarra will continue to evolve as a competitive, commercial, adaptive and customer-focused training provider, delivering quality education into the future. Our focus will remain on continuing to change people’s lives, build strong communities and contribute to a healthy and thriving NSW economy.

TAFE Illawarra is committed to making campuses safe and healthy environments for staff to work and students to learn. From 28 April 2014, all TAFE Illawarra campuses became smoke free. We worked with the NSW Health and the Cancer Council NSW to support staff and students during the implementation phase. This was an important health initiative.

In February 2014, the Board of Management endorsed a new governance model to enable us to operate in the new changing business environment. The main governing body of the Institute is the TAFE Illawarra Executive Group. This Group provides strategic direction and advice for the Institute operational units, and monitors performance against those strategic directions.

The Executive Group is supported by three committees:

- Audit and Risk
- Partnerships and Positioning
- Workforce

The Institute Reregistration Audit was conducted by the Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA) in March 2014. The rigorous audit was undertaken to review compliance against the VET Quality Framework. TAFE Illawarra was successfully granted registration until 2019 with no conditions. This demonstrates our commitment to quality.

In September, Team Illawarra’s 21 strong WorldSkills team impressed the judges by winning a record nine medals in total at the National WorldSkills competition in Perth. This outstanding result reflects the high quality training provided by TAFE Illawarra across a range of industry areas, and the professional commitment of our staff to excellence.

As the region’s largest and most successful training provider, TAFE Illawarra will continue to provide highly skilled, work ready graduates supporting the aspirations of our communities and the success of our business partners.
LEADERSHIP IN SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

YOUNG@HEARTS PROGRAM

The Young@Hearts program made it possible for people aged 35 years or less to undertake six units of competency from Certificate III in Aged Care with the assistance of a mentor from the industry. These graduates are now trained to work in aged care. The program was funded by TAFE Illawarra and Commonwealth Department of Industry through the Workforce Innovation Network and supported by the Illawarra’s Industry Reference Group for Aged Care. Minister Ajaka MLC, Minister for the Illawarra attended the graduate presentation.

Since the program was first delivered in the Illawarra Priority Employment Area, 78 young people, previously unemployed have found their career in aged care.

NSW FOOD AND WINE FESTIVAL

Award winning Lorenzo’s Diner chef, Lorenzo Pagan and Chifley Hotel’s Executive Chef, Peter Washbourne assisted TAFE Illawarra’s hospitality students present a food and beverage feast. The NSW Food and Wine Festival presented a five course meal for guests with local wine at TAFE Illawarra’s Twenty Twenty Restaurant at Wollongong campus. Regionally sourced produce was highlighted in every course.

Students prepared and served with special support from Lorenzo and Peter which allowed students to gain invaluable experience. Food and Beverage students matched quality local wines with the menu served.

30/30 EMPLOYMENT STRATEGY

TAFE Illawarra Nowra was the venue for the Habitat Personnel Indigenous 30/30 Employment Strategy Launch. The strategy aimed to place 30 Indigenous jobseekers into 30 jobs over 30 days. The guest speaker was Warren Mundine, Executive Chair of the Australian Indigenous Chamber of Commerce who addressed over 90 business owners, senior managers and service providers on engaging Indigenous people in their workforce.

ADULT MIGRANT ENGLISH PROGRAM

The Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP) contract was extended with TAFE Illawarra continuing to offer the program from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2017. The English Language Centre at Wollongong has seen its student numbers grow by 30% due to the large settlement of refugees in the Wollongong area.

TEEN AND SINGLE PARENT PROGRAM

Under the Helping Young Parent initiative in the Shellharbour Local Government Area, a group of young parents completed the Transition to Study course at TAFE Illawarra Shellharbour engaging in a range of “taster” programs in hospitality, children’s services, community services and first aid. Over 500 single parents across all TAFE Illawarra campuses have received mentoring and support to assist them to continue with their studies.

ANNUAL CELEBRITY CHEF SCHOLARSHIP DINNER

Each year, TAFE Illawarra’s Annual Celebrity Chef Scholarship Dinner gives regional students the opportunity to work alongside and learn from Australia’s leading chefs.

In its 12th year, the 2014 event took place at Destiny’s Restaurant at TAFE Illawarra Nowra and featured highly acclaimed My Kitchen Rules judge, Colin Fassnidge, from the hatted restaurant Four in Hand.

Three talented TAFE Illawarra graduates who participated in the 2013 Celebrity Chef event were awarded scholarships at the dinner: Natalie Ricetti – awarded a Diploma of Events scholarship; Emily Johnston and James Willoughby – each awarded a Commercial Cookery scholarship.

Scholarship recipients each received a week of supported work experience and accommodation at hatted restaurant Biota Dining, with 2013 Celebrity Chef James Viles.

GREEN ARMY – OPERATION YALLAH WOODLAND

Working to protect endangered species and cultural heritage were some of the exciting tasks in store for the Green Army team at TAFE Illawarra Yallah.

Over six months a Green Army team of nine participants completed Operation Yallah Woodland. The Green Army provided an opportunity for young Australians aged 17 – 24 years to gain training and experience in environmental and heritage conservation fields, and explore careers in conservation and land management. The participants obtained all the benefits of learning and training on the job throughout the hands-on scheme and training in fields such as horticulture, conservation and land management, and landscaping. The team worked on implementing the conservation plan of the protected woodlands area on Yallah campus.

RENATE RIVIERE – CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS AUSTRALIA, SENATOR THE HON. CONCETTA FIERRAVANTI-WELLS, DARREN O’CONNELL – TAFE ILLAWARRA, BOB DOWD – GREEN ARMY TEAM SUPERVISOR AND SOME OF THE PARTICIPANTS.
DELIVERING QUALITY OUTCOMES

The overall student satisfaction rating was an impressive 93%, with employers giving TAFE Illawarra an excellent overall satisfaction rating of 90%. These results reflect the commitment of staff to providing quality vocational education and training within TAFE Illawarra.

STUDENT SURVEY RESULTS

The feedback received indicates that the Institute is performing well with an overall satisfaction rate of 93% remaining the same as 2013 results. TAFE Illawarra performed best in the area of Competency Development (96% satisfaction rate) with the highest levels of satisfaction in response to “I have identified ways to build on my current knowledge and skills” and “Trainers had an excellent knowledge of the subject content” and “I developed the skills expected from the training”.

Many positive comments were reported indicating satisfaction in the style of training, in particular learning stimulation and active learning; and the quality of trainers.

EMPLOYER SURVEY RESULTS

Many positive comments on teacher quality, flexible learning and course content and assessment were received. Overall TAFE Illawarra performed best in the area of Trainer Quality (93% satisfaction rate) and Effective Assessment (92% satisfaction rate) with the highest level of satisfaction in response to “Trainers had a good knowledge and experience of the industry” and “The training focused on relevant skills”.

ASQA AUDIT

As a deliverer of nationally recognised training, TAFE Illawarra must meet a range of mandatory requirements to ensure that it can deliver training and assessment to the high standards expected by students, and by Australian industry and employers.

The Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA) conducts audits to gather data about the operations of registered training organisations. Audits are an opportunity to benchmark our quality provision of VET, showcase our great staff, practices and facilities, and identify areas for improvement.

In 2014, 21 qualifications were audited with the audit team visiting Wollongong, Wollongong West, Yallah, Dapto, Shellharbour, Cooma, Bega, Moruya and Nowra campuses.

The auditors noted that overall there was general compliance across all standards. Very positive comments were made about good teaching practice and the quality and standard of facilities, infrastructure, resources and range of learning materials.

Positive comments were also made on our structured approach to engagement with industry and our quality improvements in customer service.

TEAM ILLAWARRA’S RECORD WIN AT WORLDSKILLS

Team Illawarra’s 21 strong team impressed the judges, clinching a record nine medals in total at the National WorldSkills competition held in Perth in September 2014. The five TAFE Illawarra competitors who won gold included:

- Sam Spong – Bricklaying
- Nick Roman – Joinery
- John Reminis – Retail Baking (Bread)
- Matt Sawers – Turning
- Kallon McVicar – Welding


TAFE Illawarra teacher Paul Condran was also recognised for his commitment to WorldSkills and the International competition for his work as a welding judge and expert receiving the award for International Expert of the Year.

Image credit: Photo by WorldSkills Australia. All rights reserved. Used by permission.
BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS - COMMUNITY AND INDUSTRY ENGAGEMENT

JOINT DELIVERY PROGRAM
Kyrgyz State Technical University (KSTU) in Kyrgyzstan and TAFE Illawarra have jointly delivered the Certificate IV and Diploma of Business. More than 40 students were enrolled in the Certificate IV in Business. Mr Ken Brunker, Teacher of Business at Wollongong Campus co-delivered the program from KSTU with one local teacher in a period of nine weeks. Ken also trained KSTU faculty in a state wide research project to ensure a professional and successful delivery model utilised a person centred approach that flexibly accommodated individual learning needs and post-career goals. Following consultation with community stakeholders, TAFE Illawarra formed a partnership with Growing Abilities and Greening Australia… The course provided opportunities for the students to access training focussed on local employment opportunities… Following consultation with community stakeholders, TAFE Illawarra formed a partnership with Growing Abilities and Greening Australia… The course provided opportunities for the students to access training focussed on local employment opportunities…

HEALTHY LITERACY PROGRAM
The General Education and Access Programs faculty participated in a state wide research program conducted by the University of Sydney in partnership with TAFE NSW. Students enrolled in the Certificate I in Access to Vocational Programs conducted at TAFE Illawarra Queanbeyan, Wollongong and Bega received a structured training program on healthy literacy, ‘being healthy’ and ‘staying healthy’. The program is designed to provide socially disadvantaged adults with knowledge and skills to better manage their health in addition to work health and safety… The program acts as a bridge between school and TAFE and encourages students to focus on goal-setting, career planning and exploring all study pathways for their senior years.

AMEP MIGRANT YOUTH GROUP
TAFE Illawarra commenced delivery of an AMEP Migrant Youth program in Semester 1 2014. The program, delivered for the first time, in partnership with Wollongong City Council Youth Workers, provided students with English language skills and focused on pathways to further study.

STUDENT ART SUCCESS
Two Advanced Diploma of Visual Arts students achieved recognition for their work. Lawrence Vella held a solo exhibition at the Art Arena Gallery in Wollongong and Bettina Purdie was commissioned by Shellharbour City Council to create sculptures to raise awareness of the impact of storm water pollutants on Lake Illawarra. The sculptures of a pelican, fish and turtle were installed on the foreshore as part of Shellharbour City Council’s art trail.

AUSTRALIAN INDIGENOUS MENTORING EXPERIENCE
TAFE Illawarra’s Aboriginal Education Unit partnered with the Australian Indigenous Mentoring Experience (AIME) to deliver mentoring to Year 11 and 12 students across TAFE Illawarra. TAFE Illawarra and AIME worked with the students to provide the ‘best fit’ for the students to achieve their goals at TAFE.

TASTE OF TAFE LIFE
A group of local Year 10 students now have a clear vision for their future careers having completed an 18 week High School Taster Program at TAFE Illawarra Ulladulla and Nowra. The Ulladulla High School students had the opportunity to taste everything from hospitality, automotive, horticulture, construction, bricklaying and work health and safety. The program acts as a bridge between school and TAFE and encourages students to focus on goal-setting, career planning and exploring all study pathways for their senior years.

PATHWAYS PROGRAM
TAFE Illawarra Community Services and University of Wollongong (UoW) pathways program provided Diploma of Community Services students who completed their qualification in 2014 with an opportunity to participate in a six week workshop program which introduced them to the Faculty of Social Sciences at UoW. The workshop program was linked to two units of study in the Diploma and students also gained skills to assist in the transition to university study. Students had the opportunity to apply for a scholarship with the UoW reimbursing their TAFE fees for 2014 if they successfully completed the Diploma.

BUILDING TOWARDS A CAREER
A group of Indigenous men completed an intensive course prior to working on construction of the South East Regional Hospital (SERH). Their 10 day Certificate II in Construction course was offered through Bega Campus. On completion of the course the trainees were employed full time by Brookfield Multiplex on SERH worksite for 12 months. While onsite, the trainees were rotated through different trades to gain an understanding of what trade they would like to pursue in the future.

ROOKIE DRAGONS PREPARE FOR LIFE AFTER FOOTBALL
TAFE Illawarra in partnership with the National Rugby League (NRL) provided training and educational expertise to conduct Playwise Workplace Training, a five day intensive program for the November rookie St George Illawarra Dragons intake. The program supports the holistic development of young rugby league players in the National Youth Cup competition by navigating pathways from school.

GROWING ABILITIES AND GREENING AUSTRALIA
A group of students with disabilities enrolled in Certificate II in Horticulture at TAFE Illawarra Goulburn. The course provided opportunities for the students to access training focussed on local employment opportunities. Following consultation with community stakeholders, TAFE Illawarra formed a partnership with Growing Abilities and Greening Australia. The delivery model utilised a person centred approach that flexibly accommodated individual learning needs and enabled each participant to realise their potential.

DELEGATIONS AND STUDY TOURS
International delegations visited TAFE Illawarra from:

- Beijing Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, China
- Bright Linkage - Sino Campus group, China
- Ningbo Bureau of Education, China
- China Scholarship Council Programme, China
- China Scholarship Council Programme, China
- Bright Linkage – Sino Campus group, China
- Meta University College, Korea

The delegate’s primary interest was in the areas of children’s services and trades training. This included opportunities to co-deliver certificate and diploma level qualifications in Early Childhood Education and Care.
INNOVATION AND LEARNING

DUCERE FOUNDATION

TAFE Illawarra has signed an agreement with Ducere Foundation for the co-delivery of nationally recognised programs developed and delivered by Ducere. The delivery is supported by case studies from global leaders including Presidents, Prime Ministers and CEOs from some of the world’s largest companies. Programs that students undertake are based on industry requirements allowing students to be job ready on completion of their course. TAFE Illawarra was selected by Ducere in recognition of the success and quality of its online programs.

TAFE ONLINE

TAFE NSW Online (TOL) has been implemented to provide students with consistent high quality, interactive and engaging learning experience. TAFE Illawarra has been actively involved with TOL course development and the Certificate IV in Underground Coal Operations and Diploma of Work Health and Safety were offered for delivery. These courses are accessible from any smartphone, tablet or computer. Thirteen courses were approved for development by TAFE Illawarra in 2015 with a further three scheduled in 2016.

CELEBRATING OUR SUCCESS

INSTITUTE AWARDS

At the Sydney Engineering Excellence Awards, TAFE Illawarra and the University of Wollongong’s Illawarra Flame House was a joint winner of one of two President Awards. The Illawarra Flame House also received Highly Commended in the Environmental and Heritage category.

STUDENT AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

A design that draws on flowers of the forest in exquisite detail brought the winning prize for Design to a student team from TAFE Illawarra Yallah in the 2014 TAFE NSW Landscaping Challenge at the Royal Easter Show. The TAFE Illawarra display was also awarded second in the Construction category. The team of students studied Certificate III in Landscaping Construction.

Entering the competition for the first time, a team of Certificate II and III in Floristry students from TAFE Illawarra Yallah were highly commended for their Minnamurra Rainforest inspired Floral Display. The 2014 AWEX/TAFE National Graduate Woolclasser Competition was held at the Royal Easter Show in April. The competition brings together the best graduate woolclassers from across Australia to compete for the ‘Golden Stencil’. The 2014 winner of the Golden Stencil was Ally Horan from Goulburn. Ally graduated from TAFE Illawarra and was trained by Greg Bush and Alex Wilson who received the Dennis Teasdale Perpetual Trophy. This was the first time that a NSW graduate and training organisation have taken out the coveted titles.

Wollongong spray painting apprentice Jay Knick was recognised as a future leader of the smash repair industry. The Future Leaders of the Industry Award, developed by The National Collision Repairer Magazine and sponsored by NRMA Insurance, recognises outstanding apprentices in the autobody repair industry and provides recipients with funding for additional training and development. Jay was nominated for this award for his commitment to learning and his passion for the industry.

Three TAFE Illawarra students were recognised at the NSW Training Awards. Jonathan Clack received the Excellence in Electrotechnology, Mitchell Conley was acknowledged as the Top Apprentice in Vehicle Trades and Stephen Coyle won the award for Excellence in Trade Skills. These awards recognise excellence in their studies as well as demonstrating their capabilities in the workplace through the application of their learning.

With grand garden design in mind, the compact ‘Ribbon Balcony’ won two major awards for teams of TAFE Illawarra’s Yallah Campus Landscape Construction students at the Australian Garden Show. This show is the country’s peak horticultural competition. The students were awarded gold in the construction category and silver for overall excellence. The competition was judged by Australia’s horticulture and design experts and celebrities.

STAFF AWARDS

Gail Jones, part time teacher of Business Administration at TAFE Illawarra Shellharbour received the Regional Excellence in VET Teaching for 2014. Gail teaches TVET students with varying learning abilities and special needs. Gail initiated learning JAWS (a vision impaired program) to assist with teaching one of her students and also found her Language, Literacy and Numeracy skills were necessary when preparing material for others. One of Gail’s students won the Student of the Year Award for Business Services and is continuing with her studies after gaining early entry into a double degree in Law at university.

CITATIONS

Twenty and 30 year citations acknowledging long and outstanding service to the Department of Education and Communities were presented to nine staff.
INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

HR/PAYROLL

The new HR/Payroll solution was successfully implemented in the Illawarra in January 2014. The majority of HR processes are now part of the HR/Payroll solution, providing efficiency through online workflows. Employees have immediate access to leave information and requests and can change personal information directly in the system. Line managers can approve employee requests online, track team activities and directly access reports to support informed decision making.

WI-FI UPGRADE – NOWRA AND MOSS VALE CAMPUSES

A project to upgrade and expand the wireless network (Wi-Fi) at Nowra and Moss Vale was completed in 2014. The project delivered a significant increase in Wi-Fi availability for students and staff across these campuses. Coverage at Nowra campus is approximately 85% of all teaching and administration buildings and Moss Vale has 60% coverage.

GOULBURN HIGHER EDUCATION HUB

To develop more effective partnerships with industry, enterprises and other higher education providers to support regional skill needs development and pathways to higher education, TAFE Illawarra established a specialist higher education eLearning centre. The Goulburn Higher Education Hub is located on the Goulburn Campus and utilises industry standard specialist network access and video conferencing services in a secure self-contained facility for afterhours use.

The primary focus is the provision of pathways to higher qualifications for students through the delivery of TAFE Higher Education programs and higher education qualifications delivered in partnership with university providers.

EXCELLENCE IN SUSTAINABILITY

GREEN TABLE AUSTRALIA ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION

TAFE Illawarra’s Twenty Twenty Restaurant and Café V at Wollongong received Green Table Australia Environmental Certification from Restaurant and Catering Australia. The Green Table Australia program recognises Australian restaurants, cafes and catering businesses that commit to and utilise environmentally sustainable products and practices. Twenty Twenty Restaurant and Café V satisfied all the environmental criteria and now holds the Environmental Certification for two years.

SUSTAINABLE LUNCH

The Food and Beverage section at TAFE Illawarra Wollongong hosted ‘Awareness Grazing’ – an education for sustainability community event in Café V. Over 60 people attended the event which involved workshops and activities on how to raise backyard chickens, grow a fresh produce garden, and keep a worm farm for recycling food scraps. A sustainable lunch was prepared using fresh produce sourced from within 100 kilometres of the campus.

SUSTAINABLE FOOD BUSINESS

The Sustainable Food Business program, a community partnership with Bega Valley Council and the South Coast Producers Association, was delivered at TAFE Illawarra Bega. During the program, students researched the local market and made products using locally sourced produce for a market day held at Bega campus.

RESTAURANT STAR RATING

Bega Valley Shire Council environmental health coordinator presented TAFE Illawarra Bega’s Tourism and Hospitality section with five star ‘Scores on Doors’ accreditation for The Barracks Restaurant at Bega campus. The program is a star rating system based on the outcome of a routine unannounced food hygiene and safety inspection of a food business. The program was introduced as part of the NSW Food Authority’s work to reduce food-borne illness in NSW.

TRANSFORMATIONAL TECHNICAL TRAINING (TTT) BUILDING

The final touches were installed to the new TTT Building at TAFE Illawarra Yallah when a 29 kWp solar photovoltaic system was commissioned in late 2014. This solar array will generate enough electricity to make the building ‘zero net energy’ - enough electricity to power 100% of the building’s needs. Designed to a 5-star Green Star Design rating, the TTT Building is now well utilised for training, meetings and special events.

FRESH PRODUCE GARDEN AT NOWRA CAMPUS

With the assistance of Nowra Correctional Centre and Slow Food Shoalhaven, the TAFE Illawarra Nowra’s fresh food garden was expanded and maintained throughout 2014, supplying fresh vegetables and fruits to the commercial cookery kitchens on campus. New worm farms are now in action, breaking down the kitchen food scraps into compost for use back in the garden.

SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPING AT CHILDREN’S CENTRE

During 2014, students studying the Diploma of Children’s Services at TAFE Illawarra Shellharbour liaised with local businesses to create a sustainable landscape around their campus building. A range of different themed gardens were designed and created to stimulate the young minds and senses of the 0-5 year old children attending the Centre. This project was part of the student’s study requirements using recycled products, old items and donations from local businesses.

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DEVELOPING OUR PEOPLE

DISABILITIES PROJECT SUPPORTING COMPLETIONS

Jodie Hoger, Teacher Consultant for blind and vision impaired students gathered resources on accessible learning resources for a professional development program to assist teachers develop inclusive course materials. Jodie also developed support processes for the students who were dispersed across a large geographical area, to assist them in making peer connections. Options considered included smart phone apps such as Zello and accessible web conferencing options to improve staff engagement with students.

MOVING TO MOODLE

A successful Moving to Moodle program was held at TAFE Illawarra Moss Vale. The program was designed to enable teachers to develop their skills in creating online learning and assessment resources (primarily using Moodle) through a work-based project. The structure of the program incorporated group learning in face-to-face training sessions, coaching sessions in pairs, hands-on development of learning resources in Moodle collaboration and sharing of ideas.

MULTICULTURAL ENGAGEMENT

Customer Service Centre staff from TAFE Illawarra Wollongong and Shellharbour participated in a communication skills workshop in January in preparation for Semester 1 enrolment. The program focussed on developing customer service appropriate to people from culturally diverse backgrounds.