Conference Overview 2017

The past quarter century has been one of the longest continuous economic expansions in Victoria’s history. A key factor underpinning this has been our highly skilled and productive workforce.

In a period that has seen rapid change in the education sector, TAFE’s role as a leader and fundamental contributor to the economic and social prosperity enjoyed by all Victorians continues unabated. TAFE’s physical presence is unparalleled, with more than 100 campuses across the state. Offering the most comprehensive range of courses for industry, community and individuals, the TAFE network continues to play the central role in providing the education and training that is the foundation of our prosperity.

But rapid change brings both opportunities and threats. While there is much to celebrate, there is a need for continued vigilance to ensure that the Victorian TAFE network is robust and effective, pro-active and responsive to continue to contribute to Victoria’s prosperity.

The 2017 VTA State Conference program will consider these and other related issues, challenging assumptions, celebrating the past, and looking to the future. With a cavalcade of exciting international and national speakers, the 2017 VTA conference promises to be thought provoking and one not to be missed.

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## PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP

**1.00pm – 4.00pm**  
**Equipping Victoria’s Workforce in Transition**

- **A Valley in Transition** (Federation Training)  
  Owen Chapman, Industry Engagement Coordinator, Skills and Jobs Centre

- **Skilling the Bay: preparing Geelong for the jobs of the future** (The Gordon)  
  Carley Brennan, Skilling the Bay Manager

- **Bridging the Gap: helping skilled, professional migrants enter the Australian workforce** (AMES)  
  Marg Davis, Counselling and Career Development Coordinator

- **Implementing Relev my Training relevant to the NDIS rollout** (Box Hill Institute)  
  Angela Hoare-Lippman, Acting Executive Director Educational Delivery – Schools and Contracted Delivery

- **The Role of TAFE in Youth and School in Engagement in Regional Victoria** (GOTAFE)  
  Jodee Price, Manager Skills and Employment

Facilitator: Helen Kronberger, Director Victorian TAFE International  
(open to VTA members only)

## MEETINGS

**1.00pm – 2.00pm**  
**Victorian CEO Council meeting**  
(open to Victorian CEO Council members only)

**2.15pm – 3.45pm**  
**Association Council meeting**  
(open to Victorian CEO Council members and Board Chairs only)

**4.00pm – 6.00pm**  
**Victorian TAFE Board of Chairs’ meeting**  
(open to Victorian TAFE Board Chairs only)

## DINNER

**6.30pm**  
Pre-dinner drinks

**7.00pm**  
**State Conference Dinner**  
Celebration and recognition of Victoria’s WorldSkills’ Gold Medal Winners
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Presenter/Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8.15am</td>
<td>Registration open</td>
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<tr>
<td>8.45am</td>
<td>Conference Opening</td>
<td>MC – Lindy Burns (ABC Radio presenter)</td>
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<tr>
<td>8.55am</td>
<td>Welcome Address</td>
<td>Hon. Gayle Tierney MP, Minister for Training and Skills, and Minister for Corrections</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.15am</td>
<td>Keynote address</td>
<td>Ute Hippach-Schneider, Senior Researcher, Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training, Germany</td>
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<td>10.15am</td>
<td>Morning tea</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.45am</td>
<td>Panel: TAFE at the heart of community prosperity</td>
<td>- Associate Professor Ruth Schubert, Associate Director, LH Martin Institute</td>
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<td>- Mark Fidge, Chief Executive Officer, South West TAFE</td>
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<td>- Neil Coulson, Victorian Skills Commissioner</td>
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<td>Facilitator: Lindy Burns, MC</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.45am</td>
<td>Future of work</td>
<td>Jan Owen AM, Chief Executive Officer, Foundation for Young Australians</td>
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<td>12.30pm</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<td>1.20pm</td>
<td>Panel: Addressing the gap between graduates and employment</td>
<td>- Mark Stone AM, Chief Executive, Victorian Chamber of Commerce and Industry</td>
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<td>- Justin Hanney, Head of Employment, Investment and Trade, Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources</td>
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<td>- Craig Robertson, Chief Executive Officer, TAFE Directors Australia</td>
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<td>- Stephen Billett, Professor of Adult and Vocational Education, School of Education and Professional Studies, Griffith University</td>
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<td>Facilitator: Lindy Burns, MC</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.20pm</td>
<td>Preparing students for work</td>
<td>Marc Nichol, Teacher, Holmesglen Institute (2016 Victorian Teacher/Trainer of the Year)</td>
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<td>2.50pm</td>
<td>Afternoon tea</td>
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<td>3.10pm</td>
<td>Plenary Panel</td>
<td>- Ute Hippach-Schneider, Senior Researcher, Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training, Germany</td>
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<td>- Marc Nichol, Teacher, Holmesglen Institute</td>
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<td>- Louisa Ellum, Chief Executive Officer, International Specialist Skills Institute</td>
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<td>- Stephen Billett, Professor of Adult and Vocational Education, School of Education and Professional Studies, Griffith University</td>
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<td>4.00pm</td>
<td>Conference concludes</td>
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MEET OUR SPEAKERS

MC
Lindy Burns
ABC Radio presenter

Lindy Burns is one of Australia’s senior radio broadcasters. During the past 27 years, she has produced and presented a range of programs for the ABC including sports reporting for Triple J, presenting the state-wide Sunday program in NSW, eight years hosting the Drive and Afternoon programs in Newcastle, before being coaxed to Melbourne twelve years ago. Lindy has been twice nominated for Broadcaster of the Year award for ABC radio.

Hon Gayle Tierney MP
Minister for Training and Skills

Gayle has a strong connection with rural and regional communities. Apart from being an advocate for regional infrastructure and employment, Gayle is also a strong supporter of environmental sustainability, gender representation, social inclusion and community development. She was the first woman to become a State Secretary of the Vehicle Division of the traditionally male-dominated Australian Manufacturing Workers Union, serving in this role from 1993 to 2006, and also as the Federal President from 2000 to 2006. Gayle also served on the Executive of the Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU) from 2000 to 2006. In 2006, Gayle was elected to represent Western Victoria in the Legislative Council. Gayle was appointed as Minister for Training and Skills, and Minister for Corrections in November 2016.

Ute Hippach-Schneider
Senior Researcher
Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training (BIBB)
Germany

Ute Hippach-Schneider is Senior Researcher at Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training (Bundesinstitut für Berufsbildung in German, or BIBB), a position she has held since 2001. Founded in 1970, BIBB is recognised as a centre of excellence for vocational research and for the progressive development of vocational education and training. Ute is a member of BIBB’s “International Cooperation in Vocational Education and Training, Education Marketing” Section, where she has authored and edited almost 40 publications, including Tertiary vocational education in Europe – examples from six education systems, which seeks to raise the visibility of vocational training in the form of work-based learning in the tertiary education sector, giving it a higher level of appreciation and contributing towards its heightened understanding. Prior to joining BIBB, Ute was a Press Officer and a lawyer at the Press and Information Office of the Federal Government of Germany.

Associate Professor Ruth Schubert
Associate Director
LH Martin Institute

Ruth Schubert joined the LH Martin Institute in 2014 as the Program Director, VET and has since been appointed Associate Director. Ruth was previously the Director, Business Transformation with TAFE SA, taking on the role at a critical mid-way point three separate South Australian Institutes merge into one organisation. Ruth also has experience in private RTOs, the schooling sector, and 15 years in executive positions in TAFE Institutes. Ruth’s research interests are in leadership, social capital, building successful communities and the structure and positioning of the Tertiary Education sector. Ruth is currently leading two major research projects, the first profiling institutional diversity of vocational education providers across Australia, and the other investigating quality teaching in the Victorian VET sector.
MEET OUR SPEAKERS

Justin Hanney
Head of the Employment, Investment and Trade Group
Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources

Justin Hanney’s role encompasses economy-wide work to attract and facilitate international and domestic investment, grow employment and expand Victoria’s offshore trade. Within this, Justin has responsibility for development of the State’s key sectors which includes: Food, Fibre and Agriculture; Resources; the Creative and Visitor Economies; International Education; Medical Technologies and Pharmaceuticals; Defence, Transport, Construction and Manufacturing, Digital Technology; Retail and TDL; and Professional Services. He is also responsible for oversight of key entities including Regional Development Victoria, Visit Victoria, Development Victoria, Agriculture Victoria, Trade and Investment Victoria, Small Business Victoria as well as the delivery of Victorian Government nominated major projects. With the Group providing a primary interface between business and Government, Justin oversees a network of domestic and international Victorian Government Business Offices responsible for delivering information, advisory and referral services to Victorian businesses.

Mark Fidge
Chief Executive Officer
South West TAFE

Mark Fidge has been CEO of South West TAFE since early 2015. Prior to becoming the CEO, Mark was the Executive Manager – Corporate Services incorporating the role of Board Secretary and Chief Financial Officer. As CEO, Mark is responsible for implementing the strategic direction of the Institute and ensuring efficiency across the Institute to meet the requirements of Government, enterprises and individuals.

Neil Coulson
Victorian Skills Commissioner

From 1999-2007, Neil held the role of the Chief Executive Officer at the Victorian Employers Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VECCI), before moving to Australian caravan manufacturer Jayco Corporation as the Chief Executive Officer from 2007 to 2012. He ran his own consulting business from 2012-2015. More recently, Neil was the Deputy Reviewer for the Governments independent VET Funding Review in 2015. Neil’s experience places him in an ideal position to advise government and industry on how Victoria’s training system can meet Victoria’s educational and economic needs.

Jan Owen AM Hon DLitt
Chief Executive Officer
Foundation for Young Australians

Jan Owen is a highly regarded social entrepreneur, innovator, influencer and author who has spent the past 25 years growing Australia’s youth, social enterprise and innovation sectors. In 2012 she was named Australia’s inaugural Australian Financial Review and Westpac Woman of Influence; in 2014 she received the Doctor of Letters (honoris causa) from the University of Sydney; and was awarded membership to the Order of Australia in 2000. She is the author of Every Childhood Lasts a Lifetime (1996) and The Future Chasers (2014). Her lifelong mission is to unleash the potential of young people to lead positive change in the world.
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*Victorian Chamber of Commerce and Industry* |
| Stephen Billett | Professor of Adult and Vocational Education  
*School of Education and Professional Studies*  
*Griffith University* |
| Marc Nichol | Teacher, Tourism and Events  
*Holmesglen Institute* |
| Louisa Ellum | Chief Executive Officer  
*International Specialised Skills Institute (ISS Institute)* |

**Mark Stone AM**

Mark Stone is the Chief Executive of the Victorian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VCCI), an Australia Day Ambassador and Fellow of the Williamson Leadership program. Prior to joining the VCCI, Mark was the Chief Executive of Tourism Victoria. This followed a 12 year period as Chief Executive of Parks Victoria, which manages one fifth of Victoria’s land area, employs 1200 staff, and has a $4 billion asset base. In 2016, Mark was recognised for his contributions, being made a Member of the Order of Australia for contributions to commerce and industry.

**Stephen Billett**

Stephen Billett is Professor of Adult and Vocational Education, School of Education and Professional Studies at Griffith University, Brisbane, Australia and an Australian Research Council Future Fellow. Stephen has authored a number of books in the vocational education area, *Integrating practice-based learning experiences into higher education programs* (2015). He is the founding and Editor in Chief of Vocations and learning: Studies in vocational and professional education, an international forum on vocational learning. Stephen has received numerous accolades for his work, including a Fulbright scholarship, a national teaching fellowship, an honorary doctorate from Jyvaskala University in Finland, and election as a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences of Australia.

**Marc Nichol**

Marc Nichol has been working in the events industry since 2001. In 2011, seeking a career change, Marc looked for opportunities to pass on his experience to the next generation of event professionals. After taking on sessional teaching work in the events program at Holmesglen, he soon realised he felt right at home in a VET environment. While at Holmesglen, Marc has actively sought to enhance students’ experience within the programs he has developed and delivered. He continues to focus on best preparing students for the workplace through the initiatives he has driven including internships within industry and international study trips. Marc was awarded the Victorian TAFE Teacher / Trainer of the Year in 2016.

**Louisa Ellum**

Louisa has worked extensively across the education and training, not-for-profit and philanthropic sectors over the past 20 years. She is a leader in organisational and cross-sectoral partnership development and collaboration, organisational innovation and strategic development. Louisa is currently the Chief Executive for the ISS Institute that works to facilitate international Fellowships in areas of skills enhancement, innovation and education, training and industry development. She also holds the position of Chair at YACVic (Youth Affairs Council of Victoria) and has worked in and contributed to program knowledge and advice in the youth transitions area of government policy – State and Federal.
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The peak body for Victoria's TAFE network