



APPRENTICE NEWSLETTER

August 2010



Training & Apprenticeship Employment
DIVISION OF MPA GROUP

Message from the Apprenticeship Employment Manager

The recent changes we have had within our department has direct benefit to all apprentices. Firstly, Nicole Thackray, Wayne Wilson and Chris Proctor have revamped On-Site Evaluation forms that you need to be aware of because they are all about you and YOUR apprenticeship. There is a focus on how you go about your work and what separates an excellent apprentice from an ordinary one. When you have a visit from your Field Officer it's your responsibility to ask as many questions as you can about what you can do to improve.

Nicole's interest in all aspects of your time with MPA Skills has always been fantastic and Chris and Wayne are more than keen to 'be there' for our plumbing apprentices so please make the most of their skills, dedication and interest in you.

Over the next few weeks we welcome over 20 new apprentices across both trades. It's great to have you on board – it's your apprenticeship so go your hardest! Likewise, we say farewell to 17 completing apprentices over August and September. All of us at AE – Kate, Meagan, Nicole, Wayne, Chris, Malcolm and I wish you well. Please feel free to call us for advice or just a chat as you move into the world of a tradesperson!

Brad Cecins, Apprenticeship Employment Manager

UNIFORMS

ATTENTION ALL PAINTING & PLUMBING APPRENTICES!

The process for buying uniforms has changed. Please note that from now on, if you require uniforms, you will need to fill out the form attached, get it back to Kate Miles by fax, post, email or drop it in the letter box out the front of MPA Skills Maylands. Uniforms will be ordered once a month and you will be notified via sms when the uniforms have arrived.

If you have any questions regarding these changes, please don't hesitate to give Kate

APPRENTICE COMPLETIONS

We would like to congratulate the following apprentices who successfully complete their apprenticeship in August:

Mark Lambrou
JJ Antram
Alistair Burgis
Robert Hunt
Luke Byrne
Chun Chan
Daniel McGibbon
Hubert Wojcieszki

SUMMER IS COMING - BRILLIANT!



Looking forward to summer? Thinking about spending time at the beach or going to outdoor concerts or just spending time in the sun?

I'm guessing most of you said **YES** to this?

Let me ask you another question:

Applying plenty of sunscreen before spending time at the beach / outdoor concert / in the sun, or where you spend most of the hot summer days: **AT WORK?**

I'm guessing many of you said **NO** to this?

Please read on.....

MELANOMA - Wikipedia definition: Melanoma is a malignant tumor of melanocytes. Such cells are found predominantly in skin.....

MEL-A-NO-MA - add the word to your vocabulary.

On the *Sunday Night* program there was a very interesting article about skin cancer. For anybody who is not aware, there are three main types of skin cancer. '**Melanoma**' is the most aggressive form of the three and then we have '*Basal cell carcinoma*' and '*squamous cell carcinoma*'.

The good news is that the last two are known as '*non-melanoma skin cancer*' - that's a relief isn't it? No need to worry about that odd looking scaly thing on my face then - right?

WRONG! WRONG! WRONG!

What most people don't know is that **melanomas** are in the minority when it comes to skin cancers. The much more common group of cancers, the '*non-melanoma skin cancers*' may not have the same death rates as **melanomas**, but they can cause major disfigurement - usually to the face. Doctors have more than one million consultations each year for '*non melanomas*'. Patients present with a small scaly patch of skin and if left untreated that annoying mark on your skin can burrow into your body - and in some cases, can reach your brain. Finding and dealing with these marks early can mean a simple treatment - cream; freezing; laser for example. However, if left untreated, major surgery or death can happen.

Scared yet? So you should be - here is the result of a 'scaly dry patch' left untreated:



But the really scary thing is - how much damage is already going on **UNDER** the skin? Is this *non-melanoma skin cancer* heading towards the brain? One would hope not.

To finish off and to be really boring, please don't forget to **SLIP** on a long sleeved shirt; **SLOP** on sunscreen 30+; **SLAP** on a hat; **SEEK** shade; **SLIDE** on your sunnies and **CHECK YOUR SKIN** on a regular basis for changes.

Trust me - in this case, prevention **IS** much better than cure.

As an apprentice, my week flies by. That is unless I *want* it to end, of course. Funny how that works, isn't it? Full time work consumes a lot of one's week, and so it can flash by quite quickly. The week is often already over before I realise how little I've done outside of work and attending events others have organised.

I doubt I knew what I was getting into when I started my apprenticeship! Did I know I'd be working five days a week (sometimes six) for three years? Yes and no, I guess. It didn't really dawn on me 'til now, as I write this article, how much my life would be affected by my job, not only time-wise, but also as a person.

It hasn't been a bad thing, don't get me crooked, I've enjoyed and benefited from it so much. I don't think I'd be almost ready to step out into the scary adventure of owning an investment apartment, be writing for potentially hundreds of readers, or painting my parents house if not for my training as a painter. Full time work, along with a great desire to write, did part of that necessary maturing for me. I could never have gone to university to learn what I have. That's just not how I'm wired.

So, summing up my thoughts, I didn't realise I'd learn so much about life by my job, particularly about the world of work and responsibility. It has been a blast (in more ways than one). I invite you to do the same. Experience the unknown. Mature. Finish your apprenticeship. I wish you all the best.

Cheers, Pete signing off.

WIN A PRIZE!

A man was murdered one Sunday morning and his wife immediately called the police. The police questioned the wife and the house staff and they gave the following stories:

- The Wife said she was in bed reading a book
- The Cook said she was cooking breakfast
- The Gardener said he was planting seeds
- The Maid said she was getting the mail
- The Butler said he was polishing silver

The police arrested one of these people for the murder. Who killed the man and how did the police know?

To win a prize, be the first person to call Meagan on 9471 6606 at **9:30am on Thursday 2nd September 2010** with the correct answer.

July's Question

I am at the start of war and at the end of sorrow.
You can't express wisdom without me, but I am at the heart of dimwits.
You may find me in waves but never in oceans.

WHAT AM I?

The answer to July's question was The Letter W. The winners were Stephen Mueller and Paul Temov. Congratulations guys!