

Real Training for Real Jobs

DUSTIN CROSS

FINALIST - 2017 TRAINEE OF THE YEAR

Dustin's training pathway to the farm gate

At 16, Dustin Cross learned to shear sheep. Two years later he had a mobile shearing business on weekends, catering to hobby farmers.

This shearing enterprise at such a young age illustrates Dustin's long-held passion for working in the agricultural industry, and ultimately in achieving his dream of one day running his own farm.

Now at 21, Dustin works for farm owners Janmac Pastoral Company supported by Skillsinvest where he undertook traineeship and studied a Certificate IV in Agriculture with agricultural college, Longerenong College.

He is now studying an Advanced Diploma in Agribusiness Management. Once he graduates, Dustin plans to take the next step towards his dream of being a farmer, seeking employment as a stock agent.

Dustin's passion for agriculture continues outside work and study - in the past two years he has won several novice sections of shearing competitions at agricultural shows in the Wimmera region. At 19, he joined the local agricultural society to become a councillor, stewarding for the shearing competition and hosting the dog high jump competition. In 2016, he was awarded the Horsham Show Junior Ambassador title.



“With regards to encouraging young people to take on studying a traineeship, my simple answer is to ‘give it a go!’ The training pathway I took has had great benefits, as I’ve been able to work full time and study as well.”

Trainee of the Year

The Trainee of the Year Award is presented to a Victorian Trainee who has been outstanding in all aspects of their traineeship.

Recognise and honour outstanding achievements in training



2017 VICTORIAN TRAINING AWARDS



Education
and Training

ABOUT THE VICTORIAN TRAINING AWARDS

Each year, the prestigious Victorian Training Awards recognise and honour the outstanding achievements of vocational education and training students, teachers, training providers and employers.

The Awards celebrate excellence in the training and TAFE system, highlight student achievements and the businesses' who train them. Showcases innovation and collaboration between industry and training providers - continuing to put Victoria's top achievers in the spotlight.

Through *Skills First*, the Victorian Government is delivering a trusted training and TAFE system that delivers real training for real jobs. The Awards bring confidence and pride to vocational educational and training.

AWARD CATEGORIES

Individual Categories

- Vocational Student of the Year
- Apprentice of the Year
- Trainee of the Year
- Koorie Student of the Year
- School-based Apprentice/Trainee of the Year
- Teacher/Trainer of the Year

Training Provider Categories

- Small Training Provider of the Year
- Large Training Provider of the Year
- Community Training Provider of the Year

Employer Categories

- Small Employer of the Year
- Medium Employer of the Year
- Large Employer of the Year
- Employer Award for Apprenticeship Development

Industry Collaboration Award

Lynne Kosky Memorial Award for Lifetime Achievement

Australian Training Awards

There are five Australian Training Awards categories open for direct entry:

- National Achievement Award
- Excellence in Language, Literacy and Numeracy Practice Award
- International Training Provider of the Year Award
- School Pathways to VET Award
- Australian Apprenticeships - Employer Award

WHY APPLY?

The Awards set the standards for vocational education and training in Victoria; promoting high quality training and workplace skill development.

Being a finalist puts organisations at the forefront, building brand recognition and a strong industry reputation. In turn attracting a better standard of employees.

Students have the opportunity to showcase skills and their journey within the training and TAFE system. Plus students have the chance to network with industry experts and employers from across the state to help build their careers.

Award winners receive \$5,000 prize money.

Winners go on to be ambassadors for the Victorian Training Awards and have the opportunity to represent Victoria at the Australian Training Awards (in aligned categories).

For more information visit Victorian Training Awards www.education.vic.gov.au/vta

For all enquires email victorian.training.awards@edumail.vic.gov.au phone 03 9907 6635.

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