

FEDERATION TRAINING RPL HAZELWOOD PROJECT

When maintenance crew worker Brian Krznic got wind of Hazelwood Power Station's imminent closure he set about redesigning his career path.

Together with his clear vision, a dedicated program by Federation Training was just the ticket to helping the 50-year-old Newborough man achieve his goals.

Brian is among several former Hazelwood workers already employed after special exemptions established by the training institute allowed them to fast track their courses.

Through the Recognised Prior Learning (RPL) program many of Federation Training's courses – particularly in trades areas – received exemptions from the requirement that students be employed as apprentices or trainees.

According to Brian it was like doing a trade in three months, enabling him to quickly gain his Certificate III in Civil Construction and focus on returning to the workplace and earn hours towards plant equipment tickets.

"Once I heard that things were being put in place to finalise (Hazelwood's) closing, I decided I needed to broaden my horizons before everyone else starting trying," Brian said. "So I started talking to people about job opportunities for my age and experience."

After finding two local companies he'd like to work for, he volunteered his time to gain experience and find out precisely what tickets and qualifications he needed to become their "number 1, go-to casual".

Armed with this knowledge, Brian approached Federation Training's RPL Hazelwood Project team, who helped him identify his existing skills and focus on filling the gaps.

Commencing in January this year, the RPL Hazelwood Project is set to run until 31 March 2018.

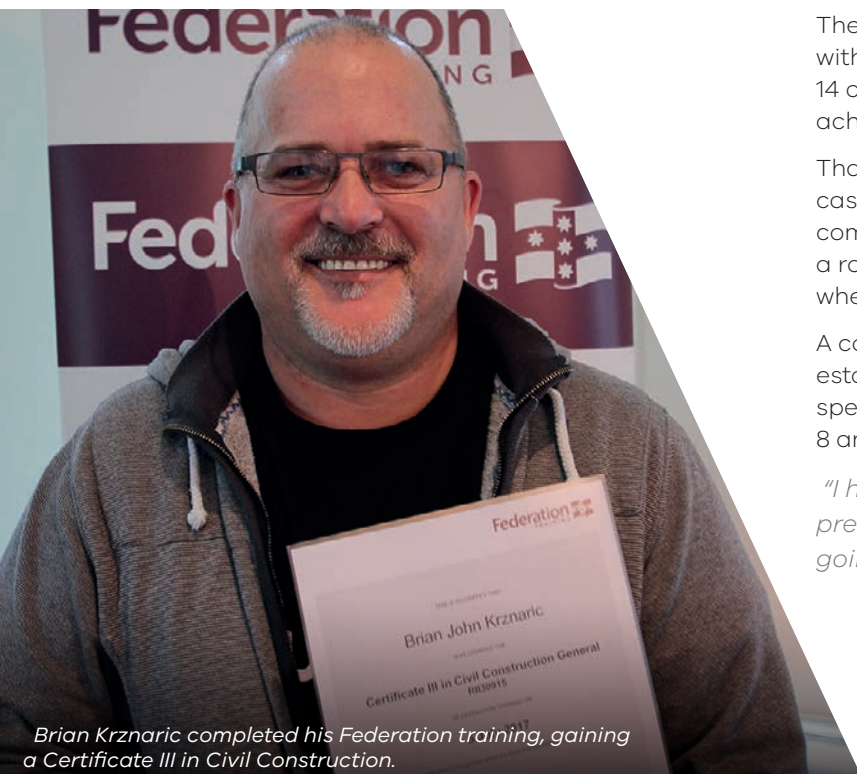
Managing Director of Federation Training Jonathan Davis said the institute's Skills and Jobs Centre was helping retrenched workers move into sustainable employment by providing free workshops on employability skills as well as a range of support services to help connect job seekers with training opportunities and local employers.

There are currently 399 workers engaged with the centre, with 24 of these currently undertaking the RPL process, 14 completing it and 10 – including Brian – successfully achieving their full qualifications.

Thanks to his single-mindedness, Brian has secured casual work as the escort driver for a local house removal company and hopes to cement another casual role with a road repair business he has previously volunteered with when they reopen in spring.

A confessed family man, Brian said he was intent on establishing a work/life balance that ensured he could spend quality time with his wife and two daughters aged 8 and 15.

"I haven't applied myself this hard in years, but I am pretty confident it will all pay off and that things are going to look good for me," he said.



Brian Krznic completed his Federation training, gaining a Certificate III in Civil Construction.