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## **Marion Fitzpatrick from Northern Sydney TAFE named National Trade Teacher of the Year**

### **The Institute for Trade Skills Excellence Recognises Excellence in trade skills teaching**

Marion Fitzpatrick from Northern Sydney TAFE in Ryde, New South Wales has been named the National Trade Teacher of the Year at the National Training Awards held in Hobart on the 8<sup>th</sup> of November.

The Trade Teacher of the Year Awards are in their inaugural year and recognise excellence in training and teaching across the eight industry groups of focus of the Institute for Trade Skills for Excellence, covering the: Automotive; Building & Construction; Electrical; Hospitality and Personal Services; Manufacturing; Metals and Engineering; Mineral Resources and Rural and Farming.

Across the eight industry groups 18 inspirational trade teachers were awarded trade teacher of the year in their respective trade training areas. Each winner received \$10,000 prize money, which was awarded as a \$5,000 cash prize and a \$5,000 developmental activity or program that will contribute to industry and teaching.

Out of these 18 winners, eight Industry Trade Teachers of the Year were awarded at the Trade Teacher of the Year awards dinner held in Sydney on the 31<sup>st</sup> of October. (Details on the eight finalists are outlined below).

At the National Teaching Awards in Hobart on the 8<sup>th</sup> of November, Marion Fitzpatrick the winner of the Hospitality category was named the overall Trade Teacher of the Year. Marion was named the 2007 Trade Teacher of the Year award for her outstanding commitment to developing young chefs and improving the quality of teaching offered in the hospitality sector.

Marion impressed the judges by her commitment to actively promote and develop excellence in cookery students, especially through mentoring, including taking students all the way to the World Skills Olympics.

The CEO of the Institute for Trade Skills Excellence, Brian Wexham said that Marion was an inspirational teacher.

“Marion is one of those people you meet who instantly motivates and excites you and it is clear that she has done this countless times for her students, many of whom have gone on to achieve greatness in the cookery field”.

Mr Wexham also said that Marion enjoys helping students achieve their goals.

“Marion regularly adapts her teaching strategies to accommodate student diversity and needs and also shares her expertise and the insight she gained from many years working in the industry”, said Mr Wexham.

Marion said she plans to use the prize money to identify record and share best practice models.

“As a result of implementing a number of e-learning resources I am continually discovering new and innovative delivery approaches and I want to investigate other innovative practices around Australia and the various models that are meeting the challenges of training in rural and remote areas” said Marion Fitzpatrick.

### **Background on the Trade Teacher of the Year Awards**

The awards were developed by The Institute for Trade Skills Excellence, which is funded by the Federal Government and led by three industry groups: The Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry; the National Farmers’ Federation; and the Australian Industry Group.

The Chief Executive Officer of the Institute for Trade Skills Excellence, Brian Wexham said that the Trade Teacher of the Year Awards were an important initiative.

“The Institute has been established to promote and advance learning, teaching and training in Australian trades education. One of our three key purposes is to foster and recognise excellent standards and teaching in trade’s education and training.”

Mr Wexham also said that the Awards enabled teachers to further develop their teaching.

“The Trade Teacher of the Year Awards are an excellent way to recognise teachers who excel in their chosen fields, amongst their peers and also provide the teacher with some funding to further develop the teaching practices in their industry, which in turn will also reward the students. This is an important initiative as this specifically recognises and awards teachers within the vocational trade training arena” said Mr. Wexham.

#### **Industry Trade Teacher of the Year Winners** (announced in Sydney on 31 October)

<b>Trade Industry</b>	<b>Industry Trade Teacher of the Year</b>	<b>Registered Training Organisation</b>
Automotive	Livio Tomas	Kangan Batman TAFE
Building & construction	George Dragovic	TAFE NSW Illawarra Institute
Electrical	Steve Waye	TAFE NSW Hunter Institute (Belmont Campus)
Hospitality	Marion Fitzpatrick	TAFE NSW Northern Sydney Institute
Manufacturing	Nicholas Viney	Kangan Batman TAFE
Metals & Engineering	Wayne Tierney	SkillsTech Australia
Mineral Resources	Lesley Wemyss	Crestfern Pty Ltd
Rural	Graeme Harris	Farrer Memorial Agricultural High School, Tamworth

#### **About the Institute for Trade Skills Excellence**

The Institute for Trade Skills Excellence (The Institute) has been established to promote and advance learning, teaching and training in Australian trades education and elevate the status of traditional trades and trades education as career choices.

The Institute is an industry led, Government funded body that promotes the advancing learning, teaching and training in Australian trades education.

The Institute for Trade Skills Excellence will achieve its vision and purpose through:

- Developing strategies to improve the profile and status of trades and encourage the recognition of the importance of trades in the general community;
- Recognising high performing registered training organisations (RTO's) with preferred provider status;
- Fostering and recognising excellent standards and teaching in trades education and training, in areas of skills shortage represented by eight Industry Reference Groups.

**ENDS**

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