



Careers in horticulture - skills for life

SkillsOne Television will premier an exciting new documentary series examining careers in horticulture, Australia's second-largest agricultural industry with gross value at the farm gate of around \$7 billion and with more than 100,000 workers.

Eight case studies filmed across four states will be broadcast as two 30-minute documentaries at 3pm on the weekend of 22-23 March on the Aurora channel (Fox Channel 183).

SkillsOne and the Agri-Food Industry Skills Council have collaborated on the research and production of the two documentaries. They offer fresh insights into careers in horticulture, its people and workplaces and the endless range and volume of produce, from the food we eat to flowers and the large-scale production of seedlings for farmers and horticulturalists from a variety of geographic locations and backgrounds.

SkillsOne showcases the entrepreneurial horticulturists who have found a niche and in many cases created a family business spanning generations.

One case study features Tony Har, who came to Australia from Hong Kong 30 years ago and began growing Asian vegetables in the Sydney Basin. Today, the Sydney Basin produces the bulk of fresh vegetables consumed by the city's four million residents, where some 2,000 small farms grow 90 per cent of Sydney's perishable vegetables, almost 100 per cent of its Asian greens, 80 per cent of its mushrooms and most of the tomatoes, snow peas, Lebanese cucumbers, herbs, spring onions and shallots.

Like many other growers in the area, Tony took certificate courses in horticulture provided under arrangements with the NSW Government, where teachers visit the farms to deliver the training on site.

Another study explores careers at Withcott Seedlings in Queensland's Lockyer Valley, the major supplier of vegetable seedlings to the east coast of Australia and the Asia Pacific, producing more than 400 million vegetable seedlings each year.

SkillsOne television and the Agri-Food Industry Skills Council, have produced these two landmark documentaries with funding support from Horticulture Australia Limited and contributions from major horticulture peak organisations: Horticulture Australia Council, the Nursery and Garden Industry Association, Growcom Queensland and AUSVEG Ltd and TAFE NSW.

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About SkillsOne

SkillsOne is the multi-media platform of The Institute for Trade Skills Excellence and Australia's first interactive information channel. All content can be downloaded at www.skillsone.com.au which features television and web programming that focuses on people who are passionate about what they do, career opportunities and the skills that are in high-demand.

About SkillsOne Television

SkillsOne Television is a series of short television interviews and case studies showcasing inspiring content for career counselors, parents and students interested in skilled trades. SkillsOne screens on the Aurora Community Channel (Channel 183 on Foxtel) 2-6pm on Saturday's and Sunday's and Monday to Friday between 9-10am and 5-6pm.

About skillsone.com.au

SkillsOne.com.au allows viewers and web users to access content from SkillsOne Television anytime, anywhere with the click of a mouse.

About the Agri-Food Industry Skills Council

The Agri-Food Industry Skills Council (AFISC) is a private sector company that works in collaboration with the agri-food industry and governments to support the development of quality training products and services, including training packages. AFISC is funded through the Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.