

# Highlands Trades Skills Centre opens

THE Chevalier College Highlands Trades Skills Centre was officially opened on July 28.

The exciting new facilities comprise two purpose-built educational buildings for teaching construction and primary industries courses.

The project was completed with generous financial assistance from the Australian Government and the wider business community and \$1.5m funding was received from the Department of Education's Trade Training Centre in Schools Program along with a \$30,000 grant from the Veolia Mulwaree Trust that went towards the fit-out of equipment for the Centre.

In addition, local firms Home Timber and Hardware, Mittagong and Gubbins Home Timber and Hardware, Moss Vale each committed to \$30,000 supply of tools at cost price. Chevalier College expressed its gratitude for the support of both the Veolia Mulwaree Trust and Gubbins Home timber Hardware Moss Vale and Home Timber Hardware Mittagong.

The official opening party included Senator for NSW Senator Concetta Fierravanti-Wells and a blessing of the new facilities was celebrated by the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart Provincial Superior, Fr John Mulrooney msc who was the Principal of Chevalier College from 1996 to 2001.

The Construction Building has a teaching classroom for 24 students, a workshop with the latest machinery and equipment, a covered outdoor workshop area and a large store.

The Primary Industries Building also has a new teaching classroom for 24 students, a large show arena with theatre seating for showing cattle,

and an outdoor cattle holding area for students to examine, wash down and learn about the animals. This new building complements the on-site working farm at Chevalier College.

"While we have been delivering these courses for many years, this marks the beginning for students to study VET courses in agriculture and construction in purpose-built, state-of-the-art facilities, giving them skills and qualifications for future careers" said Bruce Shepherd who coordinates VET courses at Chev.

"Courses now on offer include the Certificate II Construction Pathways course, leading to careers in the construction industry; and the Certificate II Agriculture course that leads to primary industries careers in beef, dairy and poultry production. These certificates can go towards an apprenticeship and are equivalent to what students would undertake at TAFE."

Chevalier College Principal Chris McDermott said the College is well placed as a VET provider, in addition to its academic program.

"Together with our commercial kitchen and cafe for the delivery of hospitality courses and our extensive sports facilities for the delivery of sports coaching, Chev is a fully comprehensive school able to cater for and enhance the learning of all students," he said.

"Our Chev Community is very appreciative of the past and current Federal Governments for their foresight regarding learning and training needs of young people for the future. Their generous financial support has allowed us to construct these facilities."

The advocacy and preparation of the grant application was a successful initiative of the Chevalier College

Foundation Council, with the involvement and support of many past students.

"It has always been and continues to be our hope and desire that these facilities will be part of the Southern Highlands training infrastructure – accessible to the wider community, including, but not limited to, local businesses, other secondary schools, training organisations and particularly TAFE Illawarra with whom the College has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding to explore usage and training partnerships," Mr McDermott said.

"We also wish to acknowledge the very significant support of our own Chev Community, the Diocese of Wollongong Catholic Education Office who are our Registered Training Organisation (RTO), and the Catholic Education Commission NSW. Their very helpful advice, direction and assistance was vital throughout the process of securing and constructing these facilities."

Guests at the opening ceremony included Trustee, Cr Geoff Kettle who unveiled the plaque on behalf of the Veolia Mulwaree Trust; Mr David Wansey of Gubbins Home Timber & Hardware of Moss Vale; Mr Shane Wills and Mr Andrew Ryan of Mittagong Home Timber & Hardware. The College was also pleased to host Stephen Jones MP (Member for Throsby); David Guthrey, Manager, District Operations – Highlands, Illawarra TAFE; Mayor Clr Duncan Gair (Wingecarribee Shire Council); John Fahey AC; Kevin Morrison – Coordinator Capital Programs, Catholic Education Commission; and Graziella Crapis – RTO Manager, Catholic Education Office.



**OPENING:** Pictured with Chevalier College Principal, Chris McDermott (centre) are Cr Geoff Kettle of the Veolia Mulwaree Trust (2nd left), David Wansey, General Manager of Gubbins Home Timber (2nd right), with Shane Wills and Andrew Ryan from Mittagong Home Timber and Hardware. Photo by Jane Lowe, Chevalier College.

**Chevalier College**  
**Highlands Trades Skills**  
**Centre OPENS...**

Courses for careers in construction and agriculture now enhanced.

Chevalier College acknowledges The Veolia Mulwaree Trust and local businesses, Gubbins Home Timber & Hardware - Moss Vale and Home Timber & Hardware - Mittagong for their generous financial support towards the equipment and fit-out of these state-of-the-art facilities.

Chris McDermott - Principal

**ENROLMENT ENQUIRIES**

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