Trade skills centre an exciting addition to Highlands school

By INGRID HOLMES, Leader of Learning, Technology and Applied Studies (TAS) Chevalier College

CHEVALIER College has exciting new additions to its extensive educational offerings.

The just completed Chevalier Highlands Trade Skills Centre will soon be ready for students and comprises of two new purpose-built educational buildings - one for teaching construction courses and the other is for primary industries courses. Students undertaking VET (Vocational Education and Training) courses in these areas can gain qualifications in Construction pathways or Agriculture. These are practical pathways to careers in these areas.

The new state-of-the-art facilities were designed specifically to allow students to gain nationally recognised qualifications that are endorsed by the Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA).

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 showroom with theatre seating for showing cattle, and an outdoor cattle holding area for students to examine and learn about the animals. This new building complements the wonderful working farm on the Chevalier College property.

Currently on offer at Chevalier College is the Certificate II Construction Pathways course, leading to careers in the construction industry such as carpenter, plumber, electrician, painter or other related occupations. The other course on offer at the new TSC is a Certificate II Agriculture that leads to Primary Industries careers in beef, dairy and poultry production, to name but a few.

The certificates that students achieve can go towards an apprenticeship and are equivalent to what students would undertake at TAFE. With strong connections to the local industries and employer groups, students can continue their learning through local apprenticeships.

The Veolia Mulwaree Trust has recently made a grant of $30,000 towards the fit-out of equipment for the Chevalier Highlands Trade Skills Centre. In addition local firms, Home Timber and Hardware, Mittagong and Gubbins Home Timber and Hardware, Moss Vale have each committed to $30,000 supply of tools at cost price. Donations and contributions from regional businesses such as these are always greatly appreciated and we express our very sincere thanks to the Trust and these local businesses for their support. For information regarding donations and contributions, please contact the Chevalier College Community Liaison & Development Manager Paul McShane on 4861 0549.

BRAND NEW: Part of Chevalier College’s Highlands Trade Skills Centre development, the Animal Holding Bays and the Primary Industries Building. (Photo supplied by JDH Architects)