



RIVERLAND & MALLEE VOCATIONAL AWARDS 2010-2011

Friday February 10th 2012

Message from the District Governor of District 9520



Reach Within to Embrace Humanity

Congratulations to each of the finalists to these Riverland & Mallee Vocational Awards for 2010–2011.

The awards program has been held for over 29 years and is certainly recognized as one of the best award programs of its type conducted in Regional Australia.

Rotary first took up the challenge to create an award that recognized the talents and skills of apprentices and trainees in local businesses in 1982. Since then the program has grown and recognized many worthy recipients under the stewardship of the Rotary Club of Renmark.

Last year saw a change in the direction when the Rotary Club of Berri stepped in and offered to host the awards when the future of the program looked uncertain. I congratulate the Rotary Club of Berri members for accepting the challenge and continuing the magnificent record of the Rotary Club of Renmark.

Rotary International is a worldwide community of business and professional people whose focus on health, hunger, clean water and literacy spans over 100 years. Our motto of “Service Above Self” reflects our ideals of peace, understanding and goodwill for all. With over 1.2 million Rotarians, in over 34,000 clubs in over 200 countries, Rotarians are committed to making a difference in the lives of people around the world.

Rotary uses the skills of many people to carry out their projects and programs such as this, and this provides an excellent grounding for younger people to consider working in the community to achieve a better place to live in.

There is no doubt that each of the nominees to these awards follow a similar ideal as they strive to be successful in their respective fields. Whatever the result, each of them will share in the accolades of their contribution to their employment and to the community by that exemplary approach to their vocation and training.

Congratulations once again to the finalists, the organising committee, the Rotary Club of Berri and the sponsors for supporting such a worthy event that recognises the outstanding achievements of young people.

Yours in Rotary,

Bruce Richardson
District Governor 2011 – 2012

History of Awards

Welcome to the 29th Riverland & Mallee Vocational Awards!

The Rotary Club of Berri is pleased to be able to Host these prestigious & nationally recognised awards for the first time.

The awards were developed by the Rotary Club of Renmark based on a concern for the lack of recognition given to the outstanding achievements of young apprentices in the Riverland and Mallee. The Club was mindful of the great contribution apprentices made to our region, many of whom would complete their training and go on to employ a whole new generation of apprentices

“...lack of recognition given to the outstanding achievements of young apprentices in the Riverland and Mallee.”

We acknowledge the Rotary Club of Renmark & dedicated commitment of their Members in particular Laurie Wilkinson (also assisted by his family) since 1982.

The Renmark Club started planning a way to identify, select and reward these young people.

It soon became apparent that this was going to be a huge project so the Rotary Club turned to local and national businesses seeking sponsorship to turn the idea into a reality.

The initial response was overwhelming and for the past 28 years the ongoing generosity of a diverse range of sponsors and supporters has enabled these awards to flourish and grow bigger and better each year. For the awards to go beyond this year it is important that the generosity of business continues

Since commencement of the awards, over 800 nominations have been received, ¼ million dollars in sponsorship and many young people of this region recognized for their achievements”.

In 1991 the Rotary Club of Renmark expanded the awards to recognise the growing significance of traineeships across our region.

Then in 2001 the Club developed the awards even further by joining with Department of Education Children’s Services Futures Connect to present an award to the most outstanding Vocational Education Training student from the Riverland high schools.

In 2009 recognition of Australian School Based Apprenticeships were added to the award presentations.

Tonight, we celebrate the achievements of young people from the Riverland and Mallee region and in doing so acknowledge their vital contributions to our communities.

The Rotary Club of Berri believes these awards are an important step in the development of apprentices and trainees and there is no doubt that participation alone equips them well as they follow their chosen career.

The Riverland and Mallee Vocational Awards are the largest of their kind in regional Australia which is a fantastic achievement and underscores the hard work not only of apprentices, trainees and students, but also the dedication of the Rotary Club members and the generous and continuing support of both employers and sponsors.

The awards give recognition to the success, endeavour and enthusiasm of young outstanding members of our community.

For vocational service, these awards truly epitomise Rotary in action.

“The Riverland and Mallee Vocational Awards are the largest of their kind in regional Australia”

Menu

Alternate Drop

Entree

Warm Lamb & Chickpea Salad

Served with Roquette, Spiced Yoghurt & Capsicum Coulis

Paprika, Parsley & Garlic Marinated Prawn Skewers

Served with a Petit Salad & Lime Aioli

Main

Chicken Saltimbocca

Prosciutto Wrapped Chicken

Breast Infused with Sage

Served on a Parmesan & Polenta Cake with Creamy Garlic Sauce

MSA Grade Porterhouse Round

Served on a Sweet Potato & Spinach Rosti with Mushroom Ragu & Rich Jus

Dessert

Warm Chocolate Hazelnut Brownie

Served with Chocolate Ganache & Double Cream

Strawberry Shortcake Tart

Served with Chantilly Cream & Raspberry Coulis

Tea & Coffee

Program

Host | Bruce Mellett

Welcome | Robin Foley - *President of the Rotary Club of Berri*

History of the Awards | Presented by Christopher Karvountzis - *SA Works*

**2009 Apprentice
of the Year** | Jason Nagy

**Acknowledgement of
the Sponsors** | Bruce Mellett

Judging Panel

Vocational Education & Training

Michael Pater - *Industry Skills Program*

School Based Apprenticeships

Kerry Woolston - *Trade Schools for the Future*

Apprentices & Trainees

John Chase - *Growsmart Training*

**Presentation of
Finalist Certificates** | **Apprentices & Trainees**
Bruce Mellett & Christopher Karvountzis

**Presentation of
Industry Awards** | **Hairdressing Industry Award**
Maria Vaughan - *Jarahs Hair* & Jo Freund - *Redken*

Building & Construction Industry Award

Sue Lamkin - *Employers Mutual*

Automotive Industry Award

Jim Rosenthal - *Rosenthal Automotive*

**Presentation of
Industry Awards cont.**

Engineering Award

Andrew Gower - *Business SA*

Electrical Industry Award

Tim Kruger - *Water Engineering Technologies*

**Presentation of
Major Awards**

Vocational Education & Training

Student of the Year

Tom Ziniak - *Quality Automotive Training*

Australian School Based Apprenticeship

Student of the Year

Chris Marks - *Trade Schools for the Future*

**Presentation of
Special Awards**

Geoff Ablett - *Growsmart Training*

**Trainee of the
Year Runner-up
Trainee of the Year**

Brad Perry - *Editor Riverland Weekly*

**Apprentice of the
Year Runner-up
Apprentice of the Year**

Lyn Johnson - *Region Manager WIN Television*

Closure

Apprentices

Amanda Schulz

Hair Factor
Hairdresser



Meeting new people is part of the everyday life of Amanda Schulz.

The apprentice hairdresser at Hair Factor finished in February and is now in a full time role.

"I love meeting new clients, I love the social aspect of having different clients to spend time with everyday, it's not just the same person," she said.

"It was something I've always been interested in doing."

Ashlee Glazbrook

Halmani Hair Salon
Hairdresser



There is certainly plenty of variety in hairdressing and Ashlee Glazbrook knows how to use it to her advantage.

The talented hairdressing apprentice, who finished last year, always wanted to get into the industry, so an opportunity at Halmani Hair Salon was her choice.

"I love the variety of everything you get to do, the cutting, the colouring, it is never the same thing, you get to mix it up and try new things," she said.

Ben Wehrmuller

*ROW Engineering
through SMGT*
Metal Fabrication



To Ben Wehrmuller working on fixing a boat through welding is the best part of the job.

With an apprenticeship in metal fabrication, Ben has been showing off his skills at ROW Engineering.

"I enjoy being out in the elements and I love welding," he said.

"There is a vast variety of things from welding to going out on site and messing around with farm machinery."

Bryce Eagle

Angoves Family Winemakers
Fitter & Turner



Hands on work is what Bryce Eagle does best.

The Angoves Family Winemakers fitter and turner apprentice finished last year and continues in his full time role.

"I like working with my hands being able to build stuff, being able to fix stuff and just work with mechanical components," he said.

"I had an after-school job doing that type of thing and liked it, so I just stuck with it.

"It's in the family working with your hands and mechanical stuff."

Christopher Jericho

SA Water
Fitter & Turner



Hard work paid off for Chris Jericho with him taking on a full time job at SA Water following his fitter and turner apprenticeship.

The often technical aspects of his work is part of what inspires him.

"On certain jobs you're not doing one certain process, you have got a lot of processes to complete on one job," he said.

"The mechanical skills from it will be quite handy in a lot of different areas and I decided to do something different and a lot of skills from this job would benefit many other jobs."

Josh Obst

Rosenthal Crash Repairs
through *Statewide Group Training*
Panel Beater



Third year apprentice panel beater Josh Obst always wanted to work with vehicles.

When the opportunity at Rosenthal Crash Repairs arose, he took it without hesitation.

"I just wanted to do something with cars and then the job came up, I applied for it and then I've just loved it ever since," he said.

"It's an enjoyable job and I've always loved working on cars."

Joshua Ridgway

Steer Electrical
Electrician



Lameroo apprentice electrician Josh Ridgway, who finished this year, is thankful to be able to work for Steer Electrical.

Josh finished his apprenticeship in January and enjoys remaining in the Mallee where he works in communities he knows well.

"I like the variety of the job, you do lots of different thing, do airconditioning as well as electrical," e said.

"I did work experience there and enjoyed it and decided to keep going for it."

Apprentices

Mathew Barry

Michael Kregar Building
Carpenter



Apprentice carpenter Mat Barry planned to move home to the Riverland but his opportunity would come quicker than he thought through Michael Kregar Building.

“Being in Adelaide, I eventually did want to move back to Loxton but probably not as soon as I planned but it turned out that way and I couldn’t be happier,” he said.

“I get to work hands on, you are out in the sun and I’d be inside, stuck in an office, its not really my thing.”

Matthew Littlelyke

KOM Glass & Glazing
Glass & Glazing



Working for his parents business at KOM Glass and Glazing has been an enjoyable way to enter the workforce for Matt Littlelyke.

The glass and glazing apprentice believes the industry is growing and he is happy to be a part of it.

“I’ve grown up with it being mum and dad’s business and it’s just so different to anything else that’s out there,” he said.

“There’s only 15 first year apprentices in the whole state every year and it’s becoming a bigger industry than most others and the trade of glazing is going to be in high demand.”

Michael Cannella

SA Water
Electrician



Determined is a word that could be used to describe SA Water third year apprentice electrician Michael Cannella.

Once completing his current apprenticeship, he is hoping to possibly go onto another apprenticeship to further his skills.

“I like the variety, we do lots of different things, I look after filtration plants, the salt scheme, we look after all the Locks, there is a lot of different equipment we use all the time, it’s very interesting,” he said.

“You get to use your hands and your head and get to think about things and do it all safely.”

Mitch Winen

Advanced Designed Kitchens
Cabinet Maker



Apprentice cabinet maker with Advanced Designed Kitchens Mitch Winen loves to see the finished product.

His responsibilities includes cutting, painting, sanding and installing kitchens and cupboards.

"I always wanted to get into a trade, so I did a bit of trade based stuff at school like woodwork," he said.

"I enjoy all the responsibilities I get."

Nathan Platten

SA Water
Electrician



SA Water electrician Nathan Platten entered an apprenticeship in an industry he was interested in and keen to learn.

"I wanted to get a trade of some sort and I looked at building and electrical," he said.

"All my family have never done anything like this before, so I did this.

"I did work experience at the start and enjoyed that.

"With this job you've got your domestic, commercial, industrial so it's not just the one thing everyday."

Rex Biggins

Riverland Farm Machinery
Diesel Mechanic



Rex Biggins grew up on a farm, so it was a natural choice that he would work in the industry.

Currently he has almost completed a diesel mechanic apprenticeship for Riverland Farm Machinery.

"I always grew up on farms, I always grew up with tractors and working on tractors and loved doing it and it just felt right to get into it," he said.

"It is always interesting working on huge machinery and when you get a job done it's the satisfaction you've finished your job and you've got a farmer on his way to put it back out on the paddocks."

Stephen Beelitz

Berri Estates/Acolade Wines
Fitter & Turner



Apprentice fitter and turner Stephen Beelitz is well respected by his peers.

Working at Berri Estates/Acolade Wines, Stephen is passionate about his role, finishing his apprenticeship in November.

"I love being able to machine something within point zero one of a millimetre and have it in two parts and then they slide together perfectly at the end," he said.

"I enjoy the opportunity for that precision work and for the variety of work too."

Stephen is also involved in a number of community groups.

Apprentices

Thomas Baker

Waikerie Plumbing Service
Plumber



Thomas Baker enjoys everything about plumbing, well almost everything.

“Everything except blocked drains,” he laughed.

The fourth year plumbing and gas fitting apprentice with Waikerie Plumbing Service likes travelling to different parts of the region to work.

“I’ve wanted to be a plumber since year eight,” he said.

“I love plumbing work outdoors.”

Troy Tschirpig

CAPA
Fitter & Turner



Working on top vehicles is something CAPA Performance apprentice Troy Tschirpig is proud of.

With just six months of four year course remaining, Troy is looking forward to a long career.

“I’ve always been a hands on sort of guy from a kid, racing go karts, motorbikes and that sort of things so moving into a field like this, it’s just like your always having fun with what you’re doing,” he said.

Troy said he was the first school based apprentice in the region in what he described as “trial and error”.

“I’ve got a good group of people that I work with and I like the cars and working on things like that,” he said.

Ty McKenzie

Gibbs Auto Electrical
Auto Electrician



The automotive industry has always appealed to Ty McKenzie.

His auto electrical apprenticeship with Gibbs Auto Electrical finished in November and he is enjoying the hands on work.

“I do something different every day, you are not sitting doing the same thing, you come to work not expecting to know what you are going to do,” he said.

“I always had an interest in the automotive industry, I grew up loving cars as a kid and always wanted to do something with cars and fixing things.”

Trainees

Andrew Faehrmann

Berri Barmera Council
Civil Construction & Plant Operations



Andrew Faehrmann is certainly a busy man.

The trainee in civil construction and plant operations with the Berri Barmera Council is creating a very bright future for himself.

"I just really like machines, constructions, earthmoving and all that sort of stuff," he said.

"Ever since Tonkin toys in the sandpit, I've always really, really enjoyed it and I just like doing a good job and making people happy."

Andrew also has created his own business from home and is an active member in the Monash CFS.

Jake Langdon

Almondco Australia
Sales & Marketing



Fourth year sales and marketing trainee with Almondco, Jake Langdon is good at what he does.

Interacting with customers is crucial in his role and that is the aspect Jake likes the most.

"I was always interested in being in sales just for the people aspect," he said.

He said the travel is also an added bonus in his role, where he deals in account management and with customer relationships.

Kate Wegner

Schwarz Motor Repairs
Automotive Office Administration



Studying at university and living in Adelaide, Kate Wegner decided it was time to move home.

She was able to begin a traineeship in automotive office administration with Schwarz Motor Repairs in Loxton and has enjoyed the experience.

"I was in Adelaide at the time and I'd just finished year 12 and I was studying in Adelaide and didn't really think that was the right thing for me and came across the job and I just applied for it and decided to move back to the Riverland," she said.

"The people skills is probably the main thing that I value and all the different types of people that I come across."

Trainees

Neil Drogemuller

*Renmark Paringa Council
Horticulture*



Working in the community and seeing results is what drives Neil Drogemuller.

Neil, who finished his traineeship in horticulture with the Renmark Paringa Council last year, is proud of the difference he makes.

"It's great doing the work and achieving something in the end and making the place look a lot prettier," he said.

Neil works in the Renmark Paringa district parks and gardens, maintains the ovals, mows and trims trees among his jobs.

Rebecca Flack

*Riverland Division of General Practice
Business Administration*



The variety of work in her role has been the most enjoyable part of Rebecca Flack's traineeship in business administration with the Riverland Division of General Practice.

Previously Rebecca worked at the Renmark Paringa Nursing Home and a traineeship was just what she was looking for.

"It was totally different from what I'd done before working in the nursing home, so I thought I'd try something new and ended up loving it," she said.

"I've been involved in so much different training that I would have never had access to, I'm helping an aboriginal community quit smoking at the moment and doing all types of different things, healthy tune ups around the Riverland."

Reece Pash

*Murray Pest Control
through Statewide Group Training
Pest Management*



When Reece Pash began his traineeship in pest management he thought it was something very different.

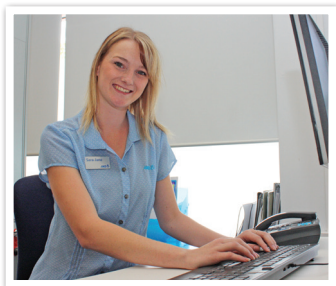
Now he is busy applying what he has learnt for Murray Pest Control, exterminating bugs.

"There is all the travelling you do, you get to meet you new people and deal with customers," he said.

"I thought pest management would be interesting to get into, you don't really hear as much about it as your other main trades."

Sara-Jane Wharton

*ANZ Berri
through Statewide Group Training
Service Consultant*



Working as an ANZ service consultant under a traineeship has been an important life opportunity for Sara-Jane Wharton.

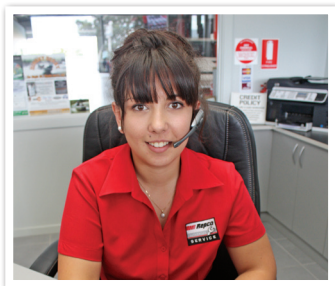
"I applied for a casual position and then I was told about the traineeship opportunity, I hadn't really read too much into it but the more I read into the more I realised how much of an opportunity it is," she said.

"I've always been interested in banking and finance, I love the cash handling side of it, I love being able to help people reach their goals and being in a banking role, that is exactly what you do everyday.

"I would love to manage my own team, so at some stage I'd like to either be in a senior personal banking position or a branch manager position."

Shalimar Smith

*Renmark Auto Service
Business Administration*



Shalimar Smith enjoys being able to work for her family's business.

The business administration trainee at Renmark Auto Service has found her place at the company, especially with her interest for cars.

"Even though we all come home to the same house, it's still really good, we get along really well," she laughed.

"I wasn't sure what I wanted to do with myself and I thought I'd give this a go and I really enjoy it.

"It's a never ending challenge to learn about cars, I'll never stop learning about them."

Zoe Dick

*Evella Skin & Body
Beauty*



Client interaction is a key reason behind Zoe Dick's reason to be a trainee in beauty services at Waikerie's Evella Skin and Body.

Sister rivalry also drove her to choose her current employment.

"It's always been a childhood dream," she said.

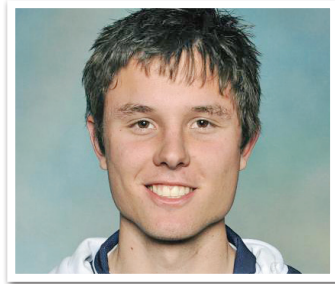
"I chose this particular field because as a kid I always wanted to do beauty therapy and then my sister starting doing beauty and then I didn't want to do the same thing as her.

"What I love about my job is it's so versatile, every client is different they don't have the same treatments."

Australian School Based Apprentices

Cameron Jacob

*Lameroo Regional Community School
Murraylands Training & Employment and
Haig & Menzel Contractors Pty Ltd, Murray Bridge
Certificate III Plumber*



I would recommend a School Based Apprenticeship to any one who aspires to take on a trade as their profession because it gives you the best of both worlds; studying towards a profession while still obtaining your SACE. It has enabled me to stay at home for another year and with the responsibility of a job I have matured and feel more content with what I am doing.

My School Based Apprenticeship has enabled me to stay at school, complete my SACE and start my apprenticeship as a Plumber.

I started a Certificate III in Plumbing as a School Based Apprentice in October 2010.

Cassandra Golding

*Waikerie High School
Northside Produce (SA) Pty Ltd
Certificate III in Business*



I value the opportunity the School Based Apprenticeship has provided, and the future it has opened up for me.

After completing my Certificate III in Business, I was offered full-time employment with Northside Produce (SA) Pty Ltd. I value the skills learned through my work and study.

I have successfully completed my SACE at Waikerie High.

This has given me self-confidence and beliefs that when hard work is put in, great achievements can be made. It shows to myself and my employer that I am capable of hard work, needed, to achieve everything I aspire for.

Kyle Pedler

*Loxton High School
Flight Motors Loxton
Certificate III Mechanic*



My future goal is to achieve to be the best mechanic, I possibly can and strive towards my dream becoming a light/small motor mechanic. I value the opportunity Flight Motors have given me and I enjoy the excellent working environment and friendly and helpful team who assist me in my day to day duties. This award would build my confidence and give me great satisfaction to be able to reward my employer for all their training and assisting me with my future studies and career.

My School Based Apprenticeship has enabled me to complete my SACE and start my apprenticeship as a Mechanic.

Vocational Education Training Students

Briony Winen

Glossop High School
Certificate III Children's Services
Certificate II Retail



Through my Traineeship I have confirmed my desire to undertake a career working with children. I have love watching them learn new skills and have felt such an achievement knowing I have played a part in their learning. The staff at the Barmera Kindergarten have been fabulous and I have loved being included as part of the team.

My goal is to become an early childhood educator and to return to work in a country region. I plan to achieve this by attending University and completing studies to become a junior primary school teacher. The studies in Children's Services has been a wonderful founding to my future career as well as a valuable employment pathway.

David Hoffmann

Waikerie High School
The VET (MultiTrades) Course



The VET (MultiTrades) Course with WHS & GHS at Berri TAFE gave me the opportunity to select subjects out of the "normal" subject range for senior school students.

I have now gained an Apprenticeship with Australia Industry Group Training Services, and will be undertaking my apprenticeship with Intercast & Forge in Wingfield Adelaide.

The satisfaction of achievement of being part of a highly recognised VET Training Course is an achievement I will appreciate. Recognition of this status will enhance my resume for future employment application. I will be able to endorse VET courses for future students who are undecided to which study pathway they should undertake.

Maryann Turner

Renmark High School
Certificate III Aged Care



I have valued my VET Course in Aged Care as a pathway to my future. This also has given me the opportunity to show others wanting and thinking about doing a VET course, how all the work you do, does pay off. You get qualifications, awards, certificates and a lot of experience. Doing a VET course you get real life experience, a lot more than a normal school subject. I also got to meet a lot of new people around the region it was great!

My goal for the future is to complete Year 12 and go to University to become a Registered Nurse.

Rachel Claxton

Waikerie High School
Certificate III Aged Care



My VET course in Aged Care, has given me goals to use my knowledge and learning from my Certificate III as a pathway to continue onto University where I wish to study to be a Registered Nurse. My long term goal is to continue my studies to become a midwife.

VET has given me a sense of achievement and reward for the study and work I have put into successfully completing my Certificate III in Aged Care, this has opened up a pathway to pursue in the health profession.

Past Winners

Apprentices

1982	Stirling Sykes	1992	Andrew Doecke	2001	Peter Barr
1983	Brian Zanker	1993	Robert Sully	2002	Sean Turnbull
1984	Shane Doevendans	1994	Colin Gordon	2003	Daniel Kerr
1985	Gordon Boyce	1995	Stephen Warren	2004	Dale Liston
1986	John Neumann	1996	Thomas Bawden	2005	Darren Quinn
1987	David Krollig	1997	Brenton Woon	2006	Callum Benda
1988	Gregory Twigden	1998	Scott Sneath	2007	Rachel Hameister
1989	Wendy Webb	1999	Timothy Rothe	2008	Mathew Affleck
1990	Bradley Menz	2000	Leigh Kennedy &	2009	Jason Nagy
1991	Monte Vigar		Anthony Armstrong		

Trainees

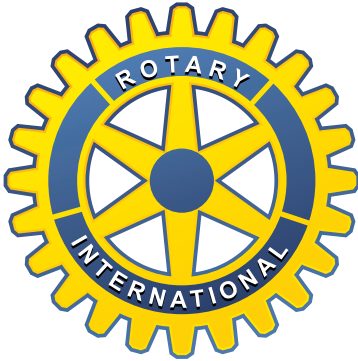
1991	Kristina Spilios	1998	Ann Louise	2004	Dale Lewan
1992	Louise Mann		Gruzlewski	2005	Jessica Swanbury
1993	Sarah Garvie	1999	Melissa Walsh	2006	Hayley Smart
1994	Luigi Valente	2000	Holly Allen	2007	Danika Morgan
1995	John McMartin	2001	Amanda Hood	2008	Kristy Friends
1996	Hayley Powell	2002	Dereck Clark	2009	Pamela Perre
1997	Gary Armstrong	2003	Melissa Wilksch		

Australian School Based Apprentice

2009 Stacey Beer

Vocational Education Training Students

2001	Rachael Braun	2006	Amy Shaw
2002	Karina Ziersch	2007	Leah Bell
2003	Nicole Warland	2008	Lani Nicholson
2004	Nathan Jericho	2009	Jai Blackley
2005	Benjamin Riddle		



Riverland Weekly
Distributed free every Thursday throughout the Riverland



QUALITY AUTOMOTIVE
TRAINING

SouthAustraliaWorks
linking people, skills and jobs



Government of South Australia
Department for Education and
Child Development



Since 1910
**Employers
Mutual**

jarahs hair
creating beautiful hair and excellent education

REDKEN
5TH AVENUE NYC

print dna



Patrick Secker MP

Phillips Surveyors

Robin Foley Mortgage Brokers Pty Ltd