

REPORT
ANNUAL FLORISTRY CONFERENCE 2008

SOUTHBANK Institute of Technology QLD

Katina Callas: TAFE Sydney Institute Ultimo College Floristry Dept.

DAY 1: Thursday 18th September 2008

- Welcome by Neryl Robertson to Southbank Institute of Technology and housekeeping details for the duration of the conference.
- Welcome by Brett Kapernick – Faculty Director
- Welcome by Lynda Robertson – Design Arts & Hospitality, Head of School for Creative Industries.
 - Lynda mentioned that she was appointed to the position recently and was pleased to be invited to the conference

- TAFE College Presentations

Each state was welcomed and offered to present an insight to their college: student achievements, enrolment numbers, new courses introduced, improvements to their training facilities and future plans for their section.

- South Australia represented by Maria
 - has been established for 5 years
 - 7 x Certificate II classes
 - has a retail simulated facility
 - participated in Tri – a – trade
 - won the Nationals
- Brisbane North represented by Courtney
 - Went through an audit
 - 60 x trainees (QLD), conduct 2 week block training

- Canberra
 - New facilities being built
 - 1st mid year enrolments offered
 - 1st statement of attainment offered (set of core units / 4 hours – 20 x weeks)
 - 2009 – full delivery of Advance design
 - Floriade
 - Canberra centre – floristry information night

- NSW represented by Katina
 - Certificate IV – small business units introduced
 - 2nd place in ABC Gardening show
 - assisted in Worldskills
 - audit – 2007
 - 2007 & 2008 graduations supported by Events and Hospitality students. Different sections working together (booked in advance) throughout the year to support student learning (experience and assessment tasks).
 - Possibility of a floristry retail shop opening 2009
 - TVET, 3 x cert II, 1 x Fulltime class, 2 x Cert III, 1 x Advance Design, 1 x Cert IV, Outreach – La Perouse.
 - We have proposed to hold the 2009 National Floristry Conference with a European guest designer – greater detail to be provided last day of conference.

- WA, Murdoch represented by Leonie and Beverley
 - Classes for Cert II, Cert III, Cert IV – P/T making a difference for business skills
 - Couple of short courses for 2008: advance skills (full fee) 10 x weeks – week on week off to allow development of skills.
 - Mentoring program – Stacey – students and staff (3 new trainers)
 - Events: Graduation @ Town Hall, Showcase Cert IV

- Padstow represented by Joanne Hynard
 - 📌 Mid year Cert II accommodates mums – 2 x days p/w 4 x hours (10 – 2:30pm)
 - 📌 Mid year classes
 - 📌 Juvenile Justice program
 - 📌 Outreach
 - 📌 Retail shop operates on special calendar events
 - 📌 Have secured space in the old block near canteen to operate a retail shop for floristry – 5 x day's p/w - 3 star rating Horticulture (NSW)
 - 📌 Received Flower Grower's Scholarship
 - 📌 Received Gold at World skills 2008
 - 📌 Interflora challenge cup – 1st, 2nd (overall) & 3rd individual places
 - 📌 Talk of a class commencing at a different location. Teachers from Padstow will be conducting the classes.
- Innovations: Leonie from WA

Presentation of diploma of Floristry – a handout was provided for each Institute.

- 📌 CSSN Funded Project / CAG Customer and Personal Services
- 📌 Aim is to increase Australia's profile in the International arena – Australia's floristry standard is as good as overseas florists and we should be able to offer our florists a higher qualification than a Cert IV.
- 📌 Why re-invent the wheel? Leonie would like to be able to gather input from florists on a national level.
- 📌 Greater detail of proposed units to be offered provided in the handout.
- 📌 WA have an increased demand on Cert IV business skills units and strongly believe that the Cert IV should only be delivered as a complete certificate, i.e. you cannot choose to do Advance Design (Statement of Attainment) only.
- 📌 There was a discussion between the representatives at the conference that not all students want to do the business units as this is not the career path they wish to take – they should be allowed to choose to increase their advance floristry skills or choose to advance their business skills or both.

- Discussion of the new floristry training package presented by: Service Skills representatives – Peter Collins and Karen Banks.
 - Introduction to Service skills: who are they, what it does and which national industries it represents
 - Discussion on Phase 1 recommendations of the new floristry training package (handout provided).
 - Phase 2 further explores the issues from Phase 1 and will allow for specific action requiring any amendments to the training package documentation.
 - There was a great deal of discussion regarding Service Skills approach to past recommendations that had not been included in Phase 1 and apparently continuously disregarded. Great discussion that Service Skills are not listening to industry and educators regarding the timing of Phase 2 deadline (timing is poor – Christmas holidays, Valentine’s Day rush).
 - The Service Skills representatives were made aware also that the majority of floristry shop owners are not aware of the existence of the Floristry Training package and its review and how these changes will affect the education / training of future florists – their employees.

- Presentation from Cecily Martina
 - Liaison Librarian for Floristry School of Creative Industry – tour of the library and presented available floristry resources for the students and teachers.

- Faculty tour presented by Neryl Robertson
 - Tour of Southbank’s new floristry rooms and cool room.

DAY 2: Friday 19th September

- Guided tour of the Roma Street Parklands
 - The Spectacle Gardens
 - The Forest
 - The Lake Precinct

- Session with Service Skills – How to identify Trigger words in Training packages.
 - Handout provided for each participant – working in pairs.
 - Discussion as to how the information is translated, used and accessed through service skills.
 - Important to register / subscribe to Service Skills:
www.serviceskills.com.au / www.takingthelead.com.au
- Continue discussion on Phase 2 of the Floristry Training Package
 - Issues: who regulates Nominal hours of the delivery of units – not Services Skills.
 - How does one get nominated to get on the panel to provide input to the Training package other from this meeting? Participants from the conference showed their disapproval that TAFE teachers are not invited to the discussion – they appreciate that they need to meet industry requirements (TAFE teachers still work in the industry), but a lot of the florists do not understand the consequence if they put too much in one unit – there will not necessarily be extra hours nominated to that unit. The participants of the conference mentioned there should make units e.g. Create designs using wiring techniques, smaller: fine wiring / funeral wiring / specialised wiring – increase the number of Florist specific units.
 - Florists from industry do not understand how a training package works
 - Allow for more specialised Floristry units and import fewer units from other training packages – Floristry does not want to be part of the Retail training package!
 - Phase 2 workshops will be held in each state/territory with stakeholders to clarify process for the content development. Workshops to be promoted in Service Skills newsletter, on their website and through state and territory industry advisory bodies.
 - Draft training package will be available for consultation and validation online from December 2008 through to March 2009 – this again provided much discussion from previous day that the timing is inappropriate and that Service Skills have continually disregarded the timing of the review to the Floristry calendar of events.
 - Service skills will consider a possible extension of the Validation deadline.

- Validation workshops will be held from December 2008 through to March 2009 to detail changes and gather feedback on the drafts. Workshops to be promoted in Service Skills newsletter, on their website and through state and territory industry advisory bodies.
 - The draft training package and associated documentation to be made available on the Service Skills website.
 - Once the Training package has been endorsed by the National Quality Council, RTOs will have 12 months to implement the training package from the date of implementation.
 - Proposal to organise a Tele-Conference with all states.
 - Service skills were advised of the 2009 National Floristry Conference date and confirmed their interest to participate.
 - End of Service Skills participation.
- Discussion on Validation and Assessment and RPL.
 - QLD handed out its Institute's *Validation of assessment checklist* and a handout from Business Services Southbank on the *Definition of Validation and Moderation*.
 - NSW Ultimo TAFE confirmed it will host next year's 2009 conference, with approval by all participants present. The conference participants were excited that Europe's master florist Gregor Lersch will be providing us with a couple of theory sessions provided by the Kath Madden sponsorship
 - A draft schedule was provided to each participant (prepared by Christina Lewis)
 - The conference will coincide with World Skills, ABC Gardening show and NSW Floral Art Association's *Flora Australis – An International Floral Extravaganza*.

DAY 3: Saturday 20th September

- Excursion to Toowoomba Carnival of flowers – full day.
 - Grand central floral parade
 - Show N Shine – “Floral Classic”
 - Floristry student competition displays.