

Horticulture Industry

Duncan, through VCAL, has started his career in the horticulture industry:

Lynne Munro and the staff at Batesford Plant Nursery have been involved in VCAL right from the start. In 2002 she sent Tony one of her employees to speak to a group of students at a local secondary college. He impressed them so much that he was offered a job as a trainer in VET Horticulture at the local TAFE who work in partnership with the college.

The cycle has now turned full circle as Tony was then able to recommend Lynne's latest employee Duncan. Tony said Duncan, who was studying VET Agriculture

and Horticulture as part of his learning program, was the 'pick of the crop' and showed a lot of potential.

Lynne said that Tony's recommendation was really important for enabling Duncan to complete his structured workplace learning at Batesford Plant Nursery.

"In the nursery and horticulture industry, networking and word of mouth referrals are really important. We supply to Geelong, Melbourne, Bendigo, Warrnambool, Ballarat and interstate so we need to ensure that we provide quality plants to keep our reputation, so employees have to have the right training."

"Duncan showed an inclination towards the industry and a real passion for it once he'd spent some time here through his VCAL program," says Lynne.



EMPLOYER:

"That's why VCAL is good from the student's and the employer's perspective because they get the workplace experience while at school and I get to see what they're like in a workplace situation without the initial fulltime employment commitment."

Lynne Munro

Batesford Plant Nursery

The Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL) is a hands-on option for Years 11 & 12 students. It gives students practical work related experience and the literacy, numeracy and personal skills they need to take them into further training or their ideal job. Like the VCE, it's a recognised secondary qualification. **For more information about VCAL, phone 1800 828 262 or visit www.vqa.vic.gov.au**