

DAVID FOOTE

DIRECTOR

INDUSTRY SKILLS AND TRADES – (IST)
AGRICULTURE, HORTICULTURE, CIVIL
CONSTRUCTION, ENGINEERING, TIMBER STUDIES,
BUILDING DESIGN, WAREHOUSING, LOGISTICS,
TRANSPORT & MOTOR SPORTS TRAINING AUSTRALIA



WODONGA INSTITUTE OF TAFE

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

Currently a director at Wodonga TAFE for the Institutes largest delivery department following some six years of service has come from a journey through the Vocational Education and Training sector spanning approximately sixteen years.

David started out his working life as a farm hand, left school at the end of year ten, soon realized the need to improve his career and employment prospects through seeking out a trade. Living in North East Victoria near Wangaratta, the largest employer at that time was a local textile manufacturer which provided the means for his first Vocational Education experience where he trained as a Mechanical Fitter and Machinist.

Having worked in the textile industry for six years, the opportunity arose to purchase a neighboring farm to his parent's property at Oxley. This was the beginning of a successful family farming enterprise partnership which lasted 12 years before taking over complete management of the mixed farming operation that had by then grown to incorporate a harvesting and fencing contracting business.

Over the next 14 years, the property and farming enterprise grew in size necessitating employment of staff including Agriculture Trainees. This along with training experience gained from a role as a senior officer in the local community run fire brigade (CFA) sparked an interest for involvement in Vocational Education and Training.

Being an active member for the local branch of United Dairy Farmers of Victoria led to representation on committees which planned and set curriculum for Victorian Agriculture Traineeships. Along this journey at every opportunity, there was training and qualifications gained to ultimately enable the capability for a career change into becoming a teacher – Agriculture coordinator for the local Wangaratta campus of Goulburn Ovens TAFE (GOTAFE).

This move resulted in many changing roles on a journey with GOTAFE and National Centre for Dairy Education for some nine years including periods of time working at Melbourne Universities Dookie Agricultural College and Ballarat University's Victorian Farm Safety Centre to write Farm Safety Guides for WorkSafe Victoria.

In May 2009, he joined Wodonga TAFE to build Agriculture into its programs which previously for the area focused mainly on Horticulture. Within twelve months the business had grown enough to employ additional trainers and the opportunity for him arose to secure the department Team Leader role. Within a short period

the department Manager position was applied for and gained which covered such Industry areas as Agriculture, Horticulture, Timber Studies and Building Design.

Following Wodonga TAFE taking over Driver Education Centre of Australia (DECA), the role changed again for him to become a Delivery Director with additional departments encompassing Engineering, Fabrication and Welding.

Over this period he placed significant effort into Wodonga TAFE forming quality Agriculture training relationships which resulted in securing some very successful partnerships that still endure today. These partnerships involve amongst others major stock and station agents who have branches all across Australia.

From the 2009 beginning at Wodonga TAFE with what was then the smallest department to the present day, the department Director tenure has gained what was formerly the National Centre for Industrial Skills and Training encompassing areas of Civil Construction, Transport, Warehousing, Logistics and Motor Sport which combined all together with his existing departments are collectively now the largest delivery department at Wodonga TAFE. This area has combined to make a significant contribution toward Wodonga TAFE winning 2015 Large Training Provider of the Year Award for Victoria and being placed as a runner up for the Australian Large Training Provider of the Year Award.

A significant success has been the management of staff, networks and partnerships which encourage responsibilities that flow from tapping into team member's strengths. These attributes have helped bring effective financial success to all departments within his tenure over a period when most Vocational and Education providers have struggled. The Wodonga TAFE Agriculture delivery area has to the end of 2015 resulted in becoming one of the largest in Australia having trained approximately six hundred Trainees. The future looks bright!