



Challenger
Institute of Technology

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waves
MAGAZINE

Runway success...

for next generation of fashion designers
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A message from the managing director, Liz Harris

Challenger New institute

Welcome to the first edition of Waves for 2010.

Challenger is proud to welcome in the new year with a new corporate identity – Challenger Institute of Technology.

The refreshed Challenger brand has come in response to the State Government's call to provide public training organisations with greater independence, giving them the opportunity to become more flexible, innovative and effective in a more competitive training market. Our new brand was launched on 15 December by Minister for Training and Workforce Development Peter Collier. This significant occasion has positioned us to move forward into a new era of training in Western Australia.

Challenger has grown rapidly over the past three years to become a centre of excellence in vocational education and training with a strong state, national and international reputation. The breadth and volume of training delivered by the organisation has increased significantly, with a 35 per cent growth in government funded training in the past three years and a 65 per cent growth in revenue from competitively and commercially funded training and grants. Challenger is now working internationally in nine countries, with our most recent contract to deliver Australian qualifications with a training institute in China.

2009 was another successful year for Challenger as our services were increasingly accessed by industry and community partners, and our students and programs continued to win national and state awards. Notably was the fantastic achievement of ACEPT student Adam Selby who was runner up trainee of the year at the Australian Training Awards.

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Late last year Challenger signed a multi-million dollar contract for training with BHP Billiton Nickel West and increased its training delivery to Woodside, particularly in the area of recognition of prior learning. Challenger is now the second largest training provider of RPL in WA.

As the registered training organisation for many large resource companies such as Woodside, BHP Billiton, Apache Energy, Chevron, TiWest and Australian Worldwide Exploration, Challenger is playing a significant role, through ACEPT, in providing skills training for the forthcoming massive state resource industry projects. This will be a major priority for the institute in 2010.

This year Challenger will grow from strength to strength and continue to build on its partnerships with industry and the community. An exciting example of our commitment to collaboration is a new partnership with Murdoch University that has seen the development of a number of jointly developed and delivered applied vocational degrees. This exciting initiative was launched by Minister Collier in December.

The institute has also begun planning for the new \$28 million building and construction centre at our Rockingham campus, a development that will focus on ensuring high level construction skills training in this rapidly growing region.

This edition of Waves highlights a range of Challenger's work and achievements in recent months, and demonstrates the creative and innovative ways we are delivering training in response to the increasing demand for skills in the workplace.

I trust that 2010 will be another year of achievement and success for Challenger Institute of Technology, and for the organisations and communities we serve.

Warm regards,

Liz Harris
Managing Director
Challenger Institute of Technology



Challenger has welcomed the beginning of a new era of training in Western Australia with the unveiling of a new corporate identity.

Managing director Liz Harris said WA's most diverse training provider had been renamed Challenger Institute of Technology in response to the State Government's call for public training organisations to become more competitive centres of excellence.

Training and Workforce Development Minister Peter Collier launched the new brand on December 15.

"With an intake of 26,000 students a year, Challenger Institute has grown rapidly over the past three years to become a centre of excellence in vocational education and training with a strong national and international reputation," Liz said.

Challenger Institute governing council chairwoman Paddi Creevey said the organisation's future as a successful government enterprise in an increasingly competitive environment was bright because it provided training that was responsive to workforce needs.

"Challenger Institute is well positioned to move forward into the new era of training in WA and does so with a refreshed corporate identity - an identity that promises an even greater focus on industry-responsive training and collaborative education pathways," Paddi said.

Education

A unique partnership between Murdoch University and Challenger Institute of Technology is set to increase the number of people in the Rockingham and Peel regions undertaking tertiary studies.

takes up the training challenge



Challenger
Institute of Technology

Training and Workforce Development Minister Peter Collier and Liz Harris with Murdoch University vice chancellor John Yovich at the co-launch of Challenger's new brand and higher education partnership.



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partnership to **boost regional job outcomes**

The partnership will enable Challenger students completing selected diplomas to transfer straight into the second year of a related degree at Murdoch University. Local students will then have the opportunity to receive a full bachelor degree with an emphasis on practical skills with a solid theoretical foundation.

Launching the courses last month, Training and Workforce Development Minister Peter Collier said the initiative was an exciting example of a training institute partnering with a university to boost the skill levels and job outcomes of local people.

"The diploma-degree initiative will make a significant contribution to the educational and wider communities of the Rockingham and Peel regions, which have tertiary participation rates significantly lower than metropolitan Perth and higher levels of unemployment," Mr Collier said.

Challenger and Murdoch have developed a suite of new degrees for the Peel and Rockingham campuses that link to existing diploma courses at Challenger. Students with specific Challenger diplomas can enrol into accounting, information technology, events management, and sustainable development degrees. These will start in 2010, with a new joint diploma-degree course in social work expected to be offered at Peel from the start of 2011.

Challenger Institute managing director Liz Harris said the institute's co-location with Murdoch University's Peel and Rockingham campuses had enabled the development of seamless pathways between the two institutions.

"Challenger equips students for the workplace, and we see the new joint courses as being ideal pathways for students who want to build on the strong vocational skills they have learned through our diploma programs," she said.

Halls Head students trade books for tools

Local high school students got a taste of a career in carpentry and joinery when Challenger Institute of Technology visited Halls Head Community College recently to teach the basics of the trade.

The students were participating in Challenger's popular Try A Trade program, which encourages young people to enter pre-apprenticeships in the building and construction industry.

Program coordinator Michelle Jagger said about one third of the students who participated in the four-day program went on to either enrol in the VET in Schools construction course or a pre-apprenticeship in carpentry and joinery at Challenger.

"Most students who sign up for the program are unsure of what they would like to do after school, so this provides them with an attractive and viable option," Michelle said.

"The Try A Trade program is ideal for those year 10s who aren't suited to classroom learning, and it is a fantastic opportunity for students to get outside and get their hands dirty."

With lecturer Shane Williamson's guidance, the Halls Head Community College students built two benches for a grassed area at their school.

Shane said some of the students found they were naturally skilled in the trade, which gave them a boost to their self-esteem and a sense of achievement when the project was completed.

The Try A Trade program is funded by the Building and Construction Industry Training Fund.

BCITF strategy and communications manager Eamon Moore said the program opened up training pathways for students into the construction industry by giving them hands-on experience.

"It's a great way for students to discover the trades, have fun and then be able to make a more informed choice about their VET in Schools options, as well as future career pathways," Eamon said.

"The Try A Trade program is ideal for those year 10s who aren't suited to classroom learning" ...

Challenger's Try a Trade gives Halls Head students an opportunity to work with their hands.



Life's now a breeze for Aboriginal boat skippers



Recreational skipper's ticket graduates (l-r) Jarrod Ninnette, Henry Blanket, Mark Smith, Rohan Narkle, Garry Gower, Wayne Lawrence and John Narkle.

Eight Aboriginal men from the South Perth area are sailing towards brighter futures after gaining their recreational skipper's ticket at Challenger Institute of Technology.

The men, members of the Moorditj Keila ('happy, healthy dolphin') program that aims to improve the health and wellbeing of local Aboriginal people, met socially once a week and found they had a common love of the ocean.

Moorditj Keila's family support coordinator Garry Gower said the group decided to do the recreational skipper's ticket course at Challenger because it would enable them to spend time on the water while training for an industry-relevant qualification.

"I contacted Challenger because the group wanted to complete a course that would allow them to actually get out on the water rather than be stuck in a classroom all day," Garry said.

"Generally the group members have come from difficult situations, including long term unemployment, and have lacked the confidence and skills to be able to explore new ways of learning.

"The course has been an extremely positive experience for my guys who have a new found confidence and enthusiasm to go on to achieve bigger and better things."

Manning resident Wayne Lawrence said the experience had been so rewarding he planned to enrol in higher-level studies at Challenger's WA Maritime Training Centre in Fremantle.

"I feel so proud of my achievements and I now have the determination to work towards a career in the maritime industry," Wayne said. "It is my dream one day to run my own charter boat specialising in cultural tours."

"The course has been an extremely positive experience for my guys who have found new confidence and enthusiasm..."

New age of fashion takes centre

Perth's fashion industry converged on the Deckchair Theatre for a glitzy preview of the next generation of designers at Challenger Institute of Technology's annual fashion show and awards night.

Challenger Institute training services general manager Jill Jamieson said the event, now in its 15th year, showcased the cutting edge skills of graduating fashion design and technology diploma students.

"The fashion show is part of the Fremantle Community Fringe Festival and highlights Challenger's close links with the fashion industry, in particular local designers Megan Salmon, Morrison, Love in Tokyo, Ashe, Kelly Rose and Hustle," Jill said.

"The runway, a feature of the event, has proudly given rise to a number of successful local fashion designers, some of whom recently featured in the Perth Fashion Festival."

Award winners Felicia Nadi, Isabel O'Neill, Veronica Soloman and lecturer Julie Calabrese celebrate the graduation.

Jill said the students' training involved real-life experience at the Visage Fashion Studio in the heart of Fremantle's West End, where the institute worked closely with the fashion industry – in particular Fremantle's iconic designers.

"Students work alongside industry to undertake live work briefs involving research, design and dealing with clients," Jill said.

"The two-year diploma provides students with the practical skills and knowledge to design and produce a range of garments and ensure that safety and quality standards are met.

"Students learn how to construct complex patterns, estimate costs for fashion products, develop and present design concepts and produce fashion illustrations."

Fremantle fashion designer Megan Salmon said Challenger's training was innovative because the institute paired each fashion student with a designer to create a piece for the designer's range.

"As a designer, there is nothing quite like putting yourself on the line and committing to a student's design," Megan said.



Training gives young fashion designer the edge

Stunning pieces from *The Butcher and the Crow*, former Challenger Institute of Technology student Elisha Quintal's label, were showcased in the opening parade of the institute's annual fashion show.

Elisha's label was launched in 2008 and is a creative example of her design, art and clothing construction background.

The Perth resident studied fine arts at university until she discovered fashion was her passion. After completing a degree in fashion and textiles, she enrolled in clothing production at the Visage Fashion Studio to gain hands-on industry skills.

"While university gave me a solid theoretical background, the training I did at Challenger equipped me with the trade skills I needed to produce my clothing designs," Elisha said.

Elisha provides inspiration and advice to young fashion students through her work as a fashion technician at Challenger. This work has enabled her to learn about fabric cutting, purchasing, product sourcing and pattern making in a workplace environment.

Elisha Quintal is now creating beautiful fashion for stores throughout Perth.



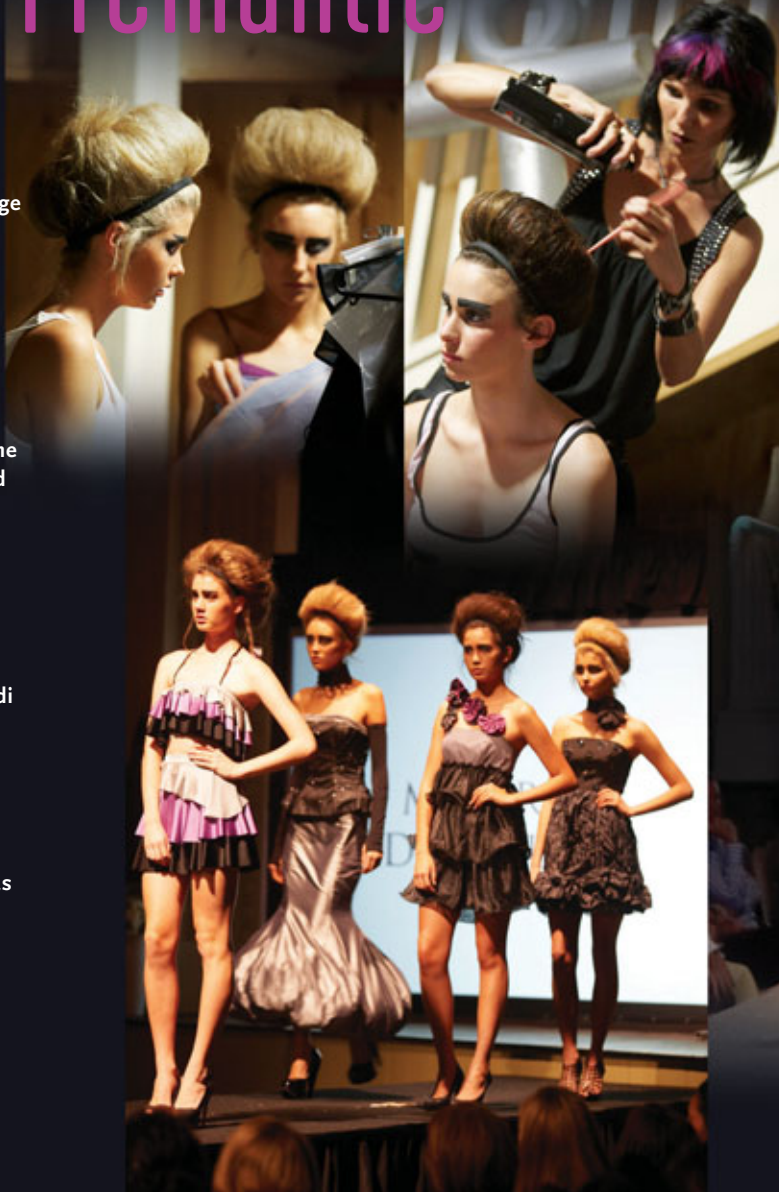
stage in Fremantle

“It really makes the student aware of the issues that have to be addressed in designing a range that has to sell to a market.”

The theme of the runway was Architextile, with students exploring how architectural design and construction related to the creation of fabric and garments. The students presented an interpretation of the theme in an edgy, functional and modern summer range.

Three awards were presented to outstanding students. Veronica Soloman was the winner in the category of best construction, Isabel O’Neill won most innovative range and Felicia Nadi was highly commended for her designs.

Challenger’s Visage Fashion Studio offers certificates and diplomas in applied fashion design and technology, as well as certificates in clothing production.



Fashion students showcase their sewing skills

Challenger Institute of Technology’s Visage Fashion Studio in Fremantle was proud to host the only WorldSkills competition in WA to showcase garment production last October.

The institute’s fashion lecturer Sonia Vivienne-Thorp said the regional WorldSkills competition was a wonderful opportunity to recognise the technical skills of those involved in the behind the scenes work of garment production.

“Usually, competitions revolve around fashion designing with the emphasis on the glamorous side of the industry,” Sonia said.

“Garment production, which includes such skills as pattern-making and sewing, are crucial to the success of the industry.”

Four of Challenger’s Certificate IV in Clothing Production students were among eight competitors in total.

Their task was to assemble a skirt and a blouse to be judged by the production team at local label Morrison.

Challenger students Aiden Beyer, Louise McMahon, Emma Hicken and Peng Feng sew up a storm.



Students get hooked on fishing

Training and Workforce Development Minister Peter Collier and Paddi Creevey congratulate graduates of the Hooked on Fishing Youth Maritime Program.

Photo courtesy of the Community Newspaper Group.



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About 200 year 10 students have benefited from an innovative maritime training program developed by Challenger Institute of Technology, Mandurah Offshore Fishing Club and Street Net.

The Hooked on Fishing Youth Maritime Program offers new pathways in the maritime industry for disengaged school students.

Training and Workforce Development Minister Peter Collier and Challenger governing council chair and Mandurah mayor Paddi Creevey helped celebrate the graduation of the most recent students in September.

Ms Creevey said that the initiative provided a solid foundation for young people to pursue a rewarding career in the maritime industry.

“Many students have already gone on to work in a number of areas, such as fishing, maritime tourism, shipbuilding, environmental protection and hospitality,” she said. “The program has also opened up opportunities for further study in the maritime and fishing industries.”

Three courses are run each year for students up to year 12 who gain a Certificate I in Fishing Operations, a Recreational Skipper’s Ticket and a senior first-aid certificate.

Show-stopping success for young florists

The future is looking rosy for three Challenger Institute of Technology floristry students who wowed judges at last year’s Perth Royal Show.

Emma Hunter, Monique Kealy and Jo Teal took out three first prizes for their creative floral designs in individual categories.

Challenger floristry lecturer Leonie Joss said the institute was very proud of the students.

“They all work consistently hard to build their knowledge of floristry,” Leonie said. “Their winning entries

were very different, but they all demonstrated real talent and a high level of technical skills.”

Emma, 20, who won first place, impressed judges with her originality and interpretation of the theme ‘That’s Entertainment’.

“I represented the movie *Singing in the Rain* with white flowers cascading down a black hat stand,” Emma said. “I enjoyed designing this piece and it’s great to know that the standard of my work is high enough to be selected from among so many first-class competitors.”

Shortly after her success at the Royal Show, Emma went on to win first place in the regional WorldSkills Australia competition at Challenger’s Murdoch campus last November.

A rosy future for (l-r) Jo Teal, Emma Hunter and Monique Kealy.





A journey through art for Challenger students

(l-r) Challenger art coordinator Shaaron du Bignon with prize-winning students Patricia Richardson and Patricia Nolan.

An exciting exhibition featured the best work produced by graduates of the visual arts and contemporary craft program and the Aboriginal cultural arts program in Rockingham in November.

Journey was the culmination of a highly successful year for these Challenger Institute students, two of whom were recent winners of the City of Rockingham PhotoVoice competition.

Student Patricia Richardson won first prize in the modified section of the adult category for her photographic piece entitled *Teamwork* - a montage depicting a group abseiling.

"The course at Challenger has given me the confidence to explore my creativity, fine-tune my skills and enter competitions such as PhotoVoice," Patricia said.

Aboriginal cultural arts student Patricia Nolan also entered the competition, winning third prize for her photographic piece in the student category.

"Completing the course at Challenger has provided me with an avenue in which to explore different art mediums and experiment with new techniques," Patricia said.

Challenger art coordinator Shaaron du Bignon said the graduating students were very gifted and it was a pleasure to watch their confidence grow throughout the course.

"The students have experimented with a variety of mediums throughout the year that have challenged their abilities and pushed them out of their comfort zones," Shaaron said.

"The students should be proud of what they have achieved and the exhibition provides the perfect opportunity to show off their new skills."

Challenger student of the year wins national training award



Australian Centre for Energy and Process Training (ACEPT) graduate Adam Selby has proved an inspiration to his peers around Australia after winning a national training award.

Adam was named runner-up Trainee of the Year at the Australian Training Awards in November. The accolade followed his Trainee of the Year award at the WA Training Awards last year as well as two awards presented to him by Challenger Institute of Technology - 2008 Student of the Year and Trainee of the Year.

The Australian Training Awards held in Canberra recognise the outstanding achievements of apprentices, trainees and vocational students, and the contribution of training providers throughout the nation. There were eight West Australian finalists in the awards, seven of whom were either winners or runners up.

Challenger Institute managing director Liz Harris said Adam's win was a fantastic result, showing the wealth of talent at Challenger and excellence in training.

"Adam is testament to the world-class trainees that ACEPT is continuing to produce," Liz said.

Challenger explores WA's training future

Members of the West Australian training councils met with Challenger Institute of Technology's executive team recently to discuss strategic directions in training.

Managing director Liz Harris said the breakfast meeting provided an opportunity for the executive to highlight the institute's achievements and goals, and for the councils to provide feedback about their roles and priorities.



WA's training landscape is undergoing significant change...

The meeting revealed a shared understanding that WA's training landscape was undergoing significant change, with training organisations needing to build upon their relationships with industry to provide informed and relevant skills.

The 10 WA training councils advise the State Training Board and contribute to preparation of the State's training profile and the vocational and education training system funding priorities.

Training councils receive a wide-range of input from key stakeholder representatives, including peak employer, employee and industry organisations. They provide a leadership role in promoting training industry, including partnerships between industry and the training sector.

Challenger Institute's Liz Harris and Jill Jamieson discuss training strategies with WA training council members (L-R) Mal Gammon, Debra Dixon, David Love, Rod Twedde, Jillian Dielesen and David Nissen.

Challenger's managing director wins top business women's award

Challenger Institute of Technology's managing director Liz Harris has been named WA's top female leader of a government organisation.



Liz won the Telstra WA Business Women's Award (White Pages Community and Government) last October.

Nominated by LunchBox List founder Wiggy Saunders, Liz was selected from a field of six outstanding finalists in the community and government category and was one of 21 West Australian business women named finalists in five Award categories.

Now in its fifteenth year, the Telstra Business Women's Awards recognise the achievements of women in business of all types and sizes, from up-and-coming young business women to corporate leaders, innovators and those working in the not-for-profit sector.

Liz's win is testament to her strong and inspirational leadership of Challenger Institute, and is a worthy acknowledgement of her commitment to building the organisation into a world-class centre of training and technology.

Liz said her success in these awards could not have happened without the standards of excellence delivered throughout the institute by staff every day.

"I would like to acknowledge the behind the scenes contribution that each staff member has made to this award and to making Challenger a leading Australian educational institution," Liz said.



Training gives students a menu for success

Zac Olliver, Paddi Creevey, Mariaj Sandford and Graham Read at Challenger's Peel training restaurant.

The confidence of local high school students with learning disabilities is being boosted through a unique hospitality training program at Challenger Institute of Technology.

Mandurah City mayor and Challenger governing council chairwoman Paddi Creevey said the institute was giving year 11 and 12 students with disabilities the chance to learn cooking skills and gain work experience with local restaurants.

"This program is a wonderful example of Challenger working with the community to give students with disabilities the experience and confidence to enter the workforce after school," Paddi said.

"The six students who graduated with a certificate are already showing promise and passion for the industry, and they now have a career pathway available to them."

Hospitality lecturer Grahame Read said the students trained at the Peel campus training restaurant one day a week over three terms, starting with basic cooking skills and progressing to planning menus and creating dishes.

Through Challenger's industry links, the students were placed in work experience two days a week.

"We provide the students with industry standard training so that on completion of the program, they are able to work very competently in the workplace," Grahame said.

Mandurah Career Education Centre principal Jacquie Barbera said without the program, local students with disabilities would not have the skills or confidence to find work.

"Chef Read is compassionate and motivates students to exceed beyond the often misinformed perceptions of the capacity of people with a disability," Jacquie said.

"Meeting his high expectations has significantly improved student self-esteem and their sense of pride and self worth has grown enormously."

...already showing promise and passion for the industry...

Maritime walks the tourism hall of fame

Challenger Institute's WA Maritime Training Centre has entered the WA Tourism Hall of Fame after winning top accolades at the WA Tourism Awards for the third consecutive year.

Kingsley Waterhouse with marine tourism students.

Claiming the gold medal in the tourism education and training category for its unique marine tourism program, the institute was once again recognised for the creative, sustainable and professional delivery of its maritime training.

WA Maritime Training Centre director Kingsley Waterhouse said he was delighted to receive the award.

"This honour adds to our well-established reputation as a centre of excellence in maritime training and confirms our prominence as a key skills provider for the maritime industry," Kingsley said.



INDUSTRY TRAINING CENTRES

WA Applied Engineering & Shipbuilding Training Centre
WA Centre for Leadership, Community and Cultural Development
WA Horticulture & Environmental Science Skills Centre
WA Maritime Training Centre – Fremantle
WA Wool Technology Training Centre
Australian Centre for Energy and Process Training (ACEPT)
Automotive Technology Skills Centre
Construction Industry Skills Centre
Community Services Training Centre
Information Technology & Business Skills Centre
Quinlan's Hospitality & Tourism Training Centre
Visage Training Centre for Health & Lifestyle
plus Access, Bridging & Transition Programs

SPECIALIST TRAINING & SUPPORT

Kadadjiny Mia – Centre for Aboriginal Learning
Peel Education and Challenger campus

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Waves magazine

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