



2008 Try'aTrade Evaluation Report

“Trade Careers can be challenging, lasting and lucrative”

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Try A Trade – Background:

Try'aTrade is a Worldskills Australia interactive program that allows students to "have a go" at various trade areas. Professional Tradespeople and Apprentices provide accurate career information and interactive skill focused activities directly relating to the trade.

Try'aTrade has been a success in the Northern Territory since commencing in 2003 and is organised by a consortium of organisations comprising of Charles Darwin University, Group Training Northern Territory (GTNT), Territory Construction Association and Department of Education, Employment and Training (DEET). Since commencing in Darwin four years ago, Try'aTrade made it to Alice Springs this year. Try'aTrade is funded by the Northern Territory Government and also by the GTNT foundation.

Program Aims:

The program aims to address the critical skill shortage currently faced by our trade industries, by providing a variety of educational initiatives, which introduce students to general concepts and skills associated with employment within the trade industries. It also provides an opportunity to facilitate partnerships between schools, industry, employers, government departments and training organisations.

Alice Springs Try A Trade 2008 Overview

Try A Trade 2008 in Alice Springs was held over two days.

The first day was predominately targeting students from remote schools with the industry focus on areas that students could gain employment in remote communities.

Hi Worship The Mayor, Damien Ryan, launched Try A Trade at a an official opening ceremony conducted during the lunch break.

This was followed by an outdoor music concert run by the Centralian Senior Secondary College students enrolled in VETis Music at Charles Darwin University.

Both days were deemed successful by students, teachers, VET Lecturers and Industry representatives.

Remote schools students especially enjoyed the opportunity to participate in hands on activities that they had not been exposed to in the past.

The two day event hosted 99 students from 6 High Schools, in Alice Springs.

78 students from remote schools also participated

Try a Trade offered Students 8 Trade Activities with the support of 15 local businesses.

Try'aTrade Industry Activity Areas	
Childcare	Media
Automotive	Horticulture
Cookery	Welding/Sheet metal
Construction	Electrical
Health Work	Conservation & Land Management

Participating Schools (Alice Springs)	
Our Lady of the Sacred Heart College (OLSH)	Alice Springs High School (ASHS)
St Phillips College	ANZAC High School
Centralian Senior Secondary College – Transition to work	Centralian Senior Secondary College Alice Outcomes
Tennant Creek High School	Canteen Creek
Laramba	Papunya
Mt Allan	Alcoota
Alpurrurulam	Ampilatwatja
Mulga Bore	Kirrikurra

Students were separated into groups of up to fifteen (15), and rotated through industry sessions, with each session lasting 55mins. Industry sessions were delivered by VET lecturers and qualified industry tradespeople. Sessions provided engaging practical, hands on activities, up to date career information and OH&S requirements for their industry.

Trade Activities

In each of the areas the students worked on a variety of practical activities including:

- Childcare – Students were involved with making play dough making, puppet story telling, reading to children, playing toys with children and preparing basic healthy food for children.
- Horticulture – Students were shown how to propagate seedlings, repot new plants and plant larger shrubs.
- Automotive – Repairing tubes that were deliberately punctured students patched tube and reinflated. Hybrid Car analysis. Students were provided an overview of how the Hybrid car works and were then allowed to operate the various self diagnostic aspects of the car.
- Conservation and Land Management – students were led on a walk through grass lands identifying native plants and animals and land management issues.
- Cookery – Students learned how to prepare chocolate for piping, constructed paper ping bags and piped chocolate garnishes.
- Welding / Sheet metal – Students were split into two (2) groups – Gas Welding (Each student created a wire figurine that required the arms and legs to be welded to the body.) & Fluid Power Hydraulics (Each student received a demonstration on how to construct the components of a Fluid Power simulator and then participated in a “time trial” of the fastest to correctly assemble the pipe work that constructs the simulator.)
- Construction – Students were able to participate in building a small building that was being constructed for sale by CDU
- Electrical – Students were separated into two groups. Group (a) Construction of Extension Cord & Test & Tag. Each student created a 3 meter extension cord, wiring the male & female plugs and then checking the safety of the cord using the

Test & Tag analyser. Group (b) Production of Power and Circuit Demonstrations. Using the University's Electrical Simulators, student put generators together and then created circuits to create switched lights.

- Media – students were shown how commercial television edit footage of events to create a documentary length feature. They then had an opportunity to practice editing video footage of the Finke Desert Race.
- Health Work – students were shown how germs transfer and the proper technique for preparing to dress a wound.

Survey Results – At the end of the day students and staff were asked to complete a Try'aTrade Evaluation Sheet. 90 evaluations were completed. See results below:

Try A Trade 2008 Feed Back Condensed

TEACHERS / Coordinators

Positive

- Loved the hands on
- Loved the music

Negative

- Trades without a task were uninteresting for the kids - need to be more hands on
- Shorter sessions for some trades
- More girls trades – hairdressing
- Lectures communication with kids needs attention
- Lunch time shade

Suggestions

- Have hand outs for kids to take home from each trade giving details on wage, work hours, useful school subjects, useful contacts, career paths etc
- Possibly have trades to choose from prior to the event and longer times to spend doing those of choice
- Outside sessions to be held in the morning (heat)
- Something to take home from the day i.e. something they made, a photo etc

STUDENTS

Positive

- Loved cooking, welding & electrical

Negative

- Trades that weren't hands on were boring

Suggestions

- Would like hairdressing, travel agency, hospitality, media, butchery
- Longer sessions
- Displays with information re career choices

QUESTIONARE RESULTS

Please circle yes or no	YES	NO
1. Do you think Try-a-Trade is a good idea	56	6
2. Did you learn anything from Try-a-Trade	51	5
3. Will Try-a-Trade will help when choosing a job	55	10
4. Would you like to be involved again in Try-a-Trade	48	7
5. Could you suggest how to make it better	22	31

A large component of the organisation and tradespeople who supported the 2008 Try a Trade said that they were very happy with the level of genuine interest most students showed and that they would be happy to offer support for the 2009 event.

The Future

Both the Alice Springs Secondary Schools and the remote schools have expressed enthusiasm for participating in Try A Trade in 2009.

Planning has begun for a two day Try A trade in September 2009.

Recommendations for 2009

Continue to review feed back we receive from all participants'. It is crucial for the evaluation and development of future events. The evaluation process needs to be reviewed annually to ensure that the Events aims and outcomes are still relevant to the needs of Industry and Students.

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Alice Spring Desert Park Nursery
Alice Springs Town Council
Greening Australia
Fluid Power/Transalign ISM
Ross Engineering
Durastand

2008 Try ATrade Committee:

Antony Yoffa: Group Training Northern Territory (GTNT)

Coralie Boyd: YouthTraX (GTNT)

Cathy Clemow: Regional Industry Career Advisor (RICA)

Lyle Mellors: Charles Darwin University (CDU)

Karrina Betschart: Charles Darwin University (CDU)

The Event:

2008 Try'aTrade event was held at Charles Darwin University, Grevillea Drive, Alice Springs on Thursday 18th and Friday 19th September from 9am to 2.30pm.

Budget As attached

Report and Survey Results collated by GTNT YouthTraX
