



YOUR LINK TO A SKILLED WORKFORCE.

NEW
APPRENTICESHIPS
SERVICES

rtohighlights



STUDENT SUCCESS

Geoff Divko

Geoff commenced his career in the Furnishing Industry as an Apprentice Cabinet Maker, employed by Burgess Furniture in Preston. It was always his intention to learn as much as possible about the industry with the goal in mind to one day work for himself or hold a key role in the industry.



Upon completion of his apprenticeship, Geoff enrolled at RMIT University in the Certificate IV in Furnishing Production where he gained knowledge and skills in the areas of presentation drawing, product development, production planning, quality control and basic supervision.

This strengthened Geoff's determination to learn more. On completion of the Certificate IV in Furnishing Production, he articulated into the Diploma of Furnishing (Furniture Technology) RMIT University where he built on his learning from the previous program. He enhanced his knowledge of estimating and costing, materials processes, adhesives and jointing, computer aided drawing and management techniques and small business management.

Geoff is now employed as the factory manager with Alexander J Cook, a well-known, family-owned furniture manufacturer that produces furniture of the highest quality. His role is to manage the staff of cabinet makers, polishers and upholsterers; to liaise with a vast range of clients, including architects and interior designers; to generate the full size set outs and cutting lists; and to cost orders, outsource materials and oversee delivery and installation.

Melanie Karwata

Melanie lives in Victoria's north-west and showed an interest in making furniture while still a student at secondary college. This interest developed into a passion that she wanted to pursue further. Her father, however, wasn't keen on his daughter becoming an apprentice, but this didn't deter Melanie—it only made her more determined.



The only way to follow this passion for the furniture industry was to enrol in a pre – Apprenticeship Furniture Manufacturing (Cabinet Making) program. After initial inquiries at a number of TAFE institutes, she was accepted into a program at RMIT University in the School of Design (TAFE). As part of the program involved learning cabinet making skills, Melanie was assigned a three week work experience placement at Alexander J Cook, where on completion she was offered a cabinet making apprenticeship. She returned twelve months later to RMIT to complete her Certificate III in Furnishing (Cabinet Making). This consisted of core and mandatory courses* as well as a number of elective modules.

With extensive support from her employer and teachers, Melanie combined a number of these elective modules and produced an interesting sideboard that was entered in the Furnishing Training Awards where she won the Apprentice Cabinet Maker of the Year Award for 2002. For the first time in the history of the awards the judges also awarded her Runner-Up Furnishing Apprentice of the Year.

In 2003 Melanie was nominated to represent the Faculty of the Constructed Environment in the RMIT Beazley Award as the Top Apprentice at RMIT. She was conferred an equal winner Award with another apprentice of unusually high standard.



CONTACT

Bryon Stanley—Apprentice Liaison

Phone: (03) 9925 4150 **Fax:** (03) 9925 4826 **Mobile:** 0408 374297

E-mail: bryon.stanley@rmit.edu.au

*Please note: course/s = subject/s



NEW
APPRENTICESHIPS
SERVICES

YOUR LINK TO A SKILLED WORKFORCE.

rtohighlights



FURNITURE MAKING



DID YOU KNOW?

RMIT School of Design (TAFE) offers Certificate III in Furniture Making, which incorporates two streams: Furniture Making; and Cabinet Making (Flat Panel Manufacturing). The employer and apprentice can select the training needs for their workplace environment.



ENROLMENTS

We offer flexible client focused rolling enrolments throughout the year. Day-release training on a Monday, allowing the apprentice to have four consecutive days in the workplace.



WHERE?

We are located at RMIT City campus, 42 - 46 Cardigan Street, Carlton. This training facility is located close to trains, trams and buses, providing easy access from around Melbourne. Parking is also available across the road at Wilson Parking.



WHY RMIT?

Our training facility includes state-of-the-art computer-aided machines forming an integrated manufacturing cell. All phases of training are based around a simulated furniture factory model, creating industry-ready graduates.

Being a dual sector organisation, we have an enriched teaching and learning environment that benefits all students at RMIT, offering qualifications from certificate, diploma, degree, to masters and PhD.

Our furniture making apprentices will be able to engage with other students involved in our Technology and Design certificate and diploma programs. This will provide them with the opportunity to explore further studies and pathways available to them.

PTO >

