

BUSINESS SOUTH-EAST

Big gun in careers

By CAM LUCADOU-WELLS

MISSION Australia's south-east Melbourne boss is no stranger to dramatic career change.

Tracey Janda's first job of choice wasn't with the welfare agency, but in maintaining the Royal Australian Navy's "big guns" as an electronic weapons technician.

She toured overseas on navy ships before settling down with her naval husband and running childcare centres.

"It was my way of getting to travel the world. I learnt about working as a team, got skills for leadership. I loved every minute," she said of her initial job.

"But I always loved working with children. I realised I wanted to go back to the passion."

The Dandenong-based manager heads several Mission Australia programs to help children, families and the unemployed in the regions.

One of the programs, Connections to Employment, helps 48 clients connected with the Department of Human Services – including those in public housing, disability, child protection and youth justice areas.

They can include the long-term unemployed and those who want to take a plunge on a new career.

The program's unique characteristic is it matches clients to local businesses' skill shortages.

It organises training for its clients in those skills and gives support to the business and client after they are placed together.

There's no shortage of potential clients. In the past year, Dandenong's official unemployment rate has gone up by a full point to 9.1 per cent.

"The key is to get businesses on board and to sign up," Ms Janda said.

Dennis Toogood, owner of home maintenance business Dennis Around the House, said signing on 46-year-old client Dillon from the program had been a success story.

"I really needed someone, particularly someone with painting skills.

"Dillon is really enthusiastic and is loving the chance to be working. I couldn't do without him."

For more information, phone Rosemary Nelson, 9213 2500 or 0427 957 013.



Tracey Janda has marched to her own drum, changing careers from weapons technician to helping others find a job. 123949
Picture: GARY SISSONS



Bullock's Neal Prosser, Marc Landman and Ross Milne from DVJS. 122874
Pictures: STEWART CHAMBERS

Bullock has some pull with workers

By CASEY NEILL

DANDENONG'S Marc Landman still remembers his first day at Bullock Victoria, 20 years ago.

"I was packing gutter brackets. I was a bit nervous," he said.

He's since learnt to operate almost every machine at the zinc die caster and sheetmetal and aluminium component manufacturer.

Mr Landman is a die casting technician, melting zinc to 800 degrees, and has completed a diploma in competitive manufacturing.

But it would have been hard for him to find a job, let alone a career, without Dandenong Valley Job Support (DVJS).

He has an intellectual disability. Catching public transport was a struggle for him in 1994.

Now he owns a car, has travelled overseas solo and in May became the first DVJS employee to notch up 20 years with the one employer.

DVJS's Ross Milne remembers taking Mr Landman – then a 17-year-old Emerson School

student – to Bullock for work experience.

"I went down to the school looking for someone who wanted to go into work," he said.

"He was operating a lathe at school.

"We try to find positions that they maybe have an interest or work history in.

"Their potential, you just don't know.

"We have fellas down there who before coming here all they did was sweep.

"Now they're operating saws and all kinds of machinery.

"Everybody has ability. It's just the opportunity sometimes they lack and need."

Mr Milne regularly visits companies across Greater Dandenong and beyond to find jobs in various fields.

"A lot of these companies are now not manufacturing, they're just importing," he said.

"A lot of the opportunities we traditionally got are hard to find, because it's overseas importing.

"A lot of the work now is in retail and cafes."



Marc Landman die casting. 122874

He said productivity-based wages helped some of his clients find a job.

"They're getting to work at their best rate without being pushed to be equal to everybody else. They're doing their best," he said.

"If their best is 70 per cent, the employer legally can pay 70 per cent award. Their pension just goes up a little to compensate."

Bullock's Victoria and Tasmania manager Neal Prosser employed Mr Landman.

He was the company's first DVJS worker, but many have followed.

"The reliability in the guys has been very high. Work attendance has been very good," he said.

"The reliability, co-operation, attitude and motivation of the employees are the reasons when we have a vacancy, I am happy to offer it to a jobseeker with a disability.

"The qualities displayed and demonstrated by them, makes my job so much easier."

BUSINESS PROFILE

Rev up your dad on Father's Day

IT'S that time of year to make Dad feel special. Here's a great chance to win something special for Father's Day.

McDonald's and Peter Stevens are offering customers the chance to win two motorbikes, a Yamaha model WR250F valued at \$13,990 and a Yamaha model TTR50 valued at \$2499.

Some 22 consolation prizes of \$500 Peter Stevens gift vouchers will also be awarded.

Entry forms will be provided at all participating McDonald's restaurants when you purchase any of the following meals:

- Breakfast Extra Value Meal;
- Large Extra Value Meal; or
- Happy Meal

What is the timing?

Promotion starts: Monday 21 July, 2014.

Promotion ends: Sunday 31 August.

Entries Drawn: 11am Tuesday, 2 September, 2014.

Participating McDonald's Restaurants are: Berwick, Berwick South, Caldermeade, Cranbourne, Cranbourne Express, Cranbourne North, Dandenong, Dandenong North, Dandenong Plaza, Doveton II, Endeavour Hills, Fountain Gate, Fountain Gate Food Court, Hampton Park, Keysborough, Lyndhurst, Noble Park, Pakenham, Pakenham Bypass Inbound, Pakenham Bypass Outbound, Parkmore Shopping Centre, Skye and Springvale.



Denise Nabb (McDonald's licensee Pakenham, Pakenham Bypass Inbound and Pakenham Bypass Outbound) and Ian Seal (McDonald's licensee Berwick, Berwick South, Hampton Park and Cranbourne North).

Picture: Courtesy of Peter Stevens Dandenong.

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THERE is only one place you should be buying your bathroom products, and that is Highgrove Bathrooms.

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They strive to be at the forefront of bathroom design, closely watching the trends in the Australian bathroom industry. Whether you're a home owner, builder, developer or architect, they have the bathroom solution for you.

Their professional advice, along with our love for design, sets them a cut above the rest as they provide you with a large variety of bathroom ideas.



Adam, in the bath, Brian, Paul and Courtney.

Meeting industry standards and regulations is important to them, so they support the WELS scheme and everything that it does for the environment, manufacturers and for you, the customer.

For their full range of products, take a look at their online catalogue or head on down to 2215 Princes Hwy Clayton 9558 5770 and meet their friendly staff.