

## **QUEANBEYAN AGE COLUMN 30 May 2008**

**Trades Scholarships** - Queanbeyan Business Council has extended its scholarship program with an offer to the Australian Technical College now operating in Bayldon Road. QBC Members visited the site last week at the invitation of College Principal David Perry and Chairman Cr. Tim Overall.

Final details have not yet been announced, however the total Scholarship will match the \$1000 Scholarship programs previously offered to Queanbeyan High School Trade School and Queanbeyan residents attending CIT's Tourism and Hotel Management Centre.

The Scholarship program is aimed at highlighting and addressing the shortage of trade skills in the Region.

The Australian Technical College, a Federal Government initiative, has a schools based approach and operates in partnership with trade organisations such as MBA, HIA and MTAA. It has also formed a close association with CIT, Queanbeyan Technical College and local High Schools with which it can share facilities.

On completing year 12, students will have a Year 12 Certificate plus the equivalent of First Year Apprenticeship. During their ATC period they are employed by the Trade Association and can thus move from employer to employer.

Teachers are brought in from the trades associations to provide practical experience and a strong literacy and numeracy program will prepare students for future employment or self-employment.

Mr. Perry has invited QBC to hold its next Executive Meeting at the College. This will be held on Tuesday, 24 June starting at 12.30 pm. QBC members who are employing, or are intending to employ, apprentices are encouraged to attend so they can see for themselves how the College operates.

Contact QBC Secretary Simon Mitchell-Taverner on 6299 7152 or through the Meetings page of our website [www.queanbeyanbusinesscouncil.com.au](http://www.queanbeyanbusinesscouncil.com.au).

**Canberra Technology City (CTC)** - As reported previously, Queanbeyan Business Council is enthusiastic about this regional opportunity which could make Canberra Region a world leader in secure data handling.

In our support submission to ACTPLA, we believed that, given the impeccable environmental credentials of ActewAGL, and the vast global experience of Galileo Connect, the most stringent environmental guidelines could and would be met.

In terms of economic benefit to the Region, this project had the potential to install ACT as a world leader in secure data handling with major employment benefit and economic return from Australian and overseas clients.

The proposal has now been reduced in scale, however we believe this is still a wonderful opportunity for our Region.

**Queanbeyan Fire Station** – QBC has written to Commissioner Mullins of NSW Fire Brigade offering our strongest possible support for the current proposal to extend the Queanbeyan Fire Station to 24 hour manning.

Queanbeyan Fire Station has provided invaluable service to the community, and we believe a return to 24 operation is long overdue. We hope there will be a funding announcement shortly.