

The Steering

Wheel

June 2026, Volume 66



THE STEERING WHEEL

June 2026

VOL.66



Thankyou and congratulations to the team at Pickering Transport Group, taking delivery of their first of the new generation ISUZU trucks!

The latest ISUZU model range ushers in a new era of safety, technology and driver comfort, setting a new benchmark within it's category.

-The Truck Specialists

We were pleased to be involved in the Trades at Deakin event this week (WEEK ending 21/06) , helping showcase career opportunities in the transport and heavy vehicle industry.

Please see the below article in the Sunraysia Daily. Oscar Hill is our 1st year apprentice pictured in the article.

A great example of the success of this program is Oscar Hill, one of our first-year apprentices based in Buronga.

Oscar initially attended this event last year and subsequently completed work experience with our workshop through his school.

He then commenced a school-based apprenticeship before transitioning into a full-time apprenticeship with Pickering Transport.

Oscar's journey demonstrates the value of industry events such as Trades at Deakin, providing students opportunities to explore careers and gain practical experience can lead to long-term employment.

-Matt Lang

Men's Mental Health Week 9-15 June

- ♥ 50% of Australian truck drivers experience moderate to severe psychological distress.
1 in 5 truck drivers under 35 experience this.
- ♥ 19.4% have been diagnosed with a mental health condition, including anxiety or depression.
- ♥ Almost 1 in 3 truck drivers live with three or more diagnosed health conditions.
- ♥ 44% experience chronic pain lasting longer than three months.
- ♥ Around 75% of Australia's non-bulk domestic freight is transported by road, highlighting the vital role truck drivers play in keeping Australia moving.

Remember: A simple conversation can make a big difference. Check in with your mates—it could change a life.

References - PubMed, Comcare, BMC Public Health, National Road freight data

Prospective VETs try trades

Denika Anderson

YEAR Nine and 10 students from across the region got to try their hands at different trades through interactive workshops earlier this week.

The annual Trades@Deakin Day gave students interested in VET, or Vocational Education and Training, subjects including automotive, engineering, electrical, furniture making, building and construction, hospitality and cookery the chance to have hands-on experience and hear directly from industry professionals.

Students attended The Deakin Trade Training Centre, which was established to help increase the proportion of students achieving Year 12 or its equivalent, while addressing the national skills shortages in traditional trades and emerging industries and providing local industry connections.

Through rotating workshops students heard from industry experts from Sun-raysia Bread and Butter Bakery, Hauslers, Pickering Transport Group, Mildura Truck Centre, SuniTafe, Garraway Development, and Azzco Engineering.

Pickering Transport Group workshop supervisor Matt Lang spoke about opportunities that had come about through his apprenticeship, including working in the mining sector in Western Australia for about 15 years "having the time of (his) life".

"We were doing something different all the time, just amazing things in the countryside, it really was the best," he said.

"I'm just a regular person, I'm like everybody else, but opportunities when they come, you need to grab them with both hands, just go and do it because what have you got to lose?"



Students at the Trades@Deakin Day got to hear from a range of industry experts, including current apprentices. Picture: Denika Anderson