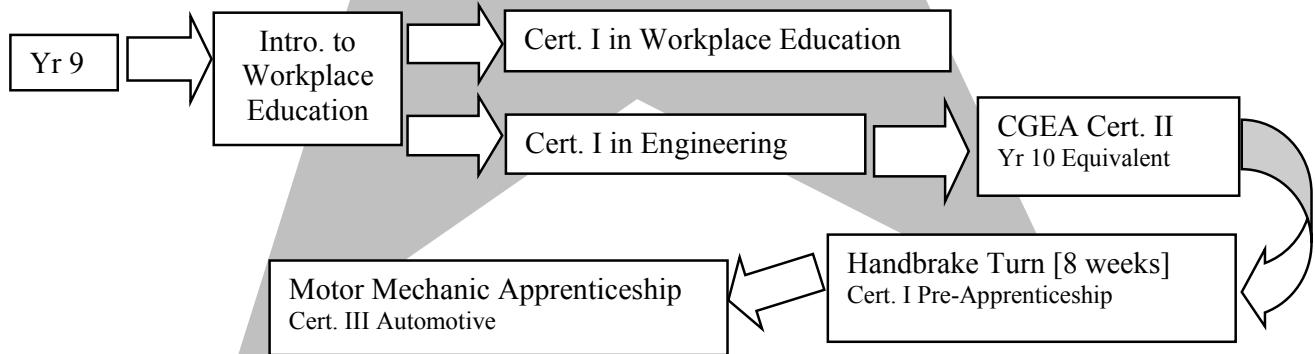


Timothy Broadbent – Automotive

Tim left school after Year 9 unsure of what he wanted to do. He received advice about an introductory course in Workplace Education. He did the first year and then went on to a second year of the program, Certificate I in Workplace Education: preparing for office work, retail, hospitality, learning about industries computer skills. But Tim had a tough year – he had to move out of home and didn't quite complete the course.

Later that same year Tim started another Certificate I course in Manufacturing Engineering. This 3 month program covered industry training: lathe, welding and metalwork. The next year he attended a Year 10 equivalency program at Swinburne TAFE, the "Youth CGEA". This got him back into some classroom-style learning and brushed up his maths and English skills.

After completing his CGEA he found out about the 'Handbrake Turn' program, a pre-Apprenticeship Motor Mechanic course. From there Tim applied for an apprentice position with Jefferson Ford that was advertised on the Centrelink computer system (through KYM Employment Services) and was successful. He's now preparing new vehicles for delivery, does general servicing and washes vehicles. He plans to complete his apprenticeship and gain the qualification so he can consider starting his own mechanic business or partnership.

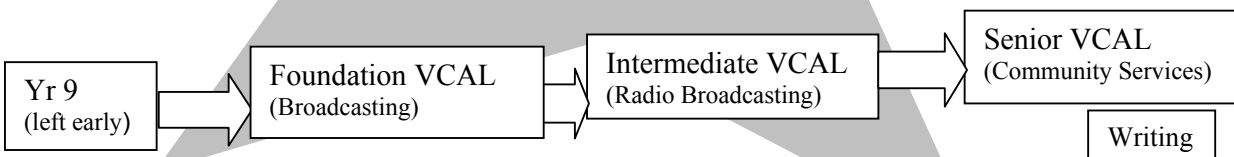


Jasmine Luke – VCAL Student

After leaving school early in Year 9, Jasmine did a Foundation VCAL at Swinburne TAFE, with a Broadcasting component. She then went on to Intermediate VCAL at TAFE the following year, a completed a Cert. II in Radio Broadcasting.

Jasmine is currently completing her Senior VCAL at TAFE with a Community Services VET. Her VCAL pathway has given her experience in a variety of certificates and through it she has become familiar with TAFE environments and the TAFE style of learning.

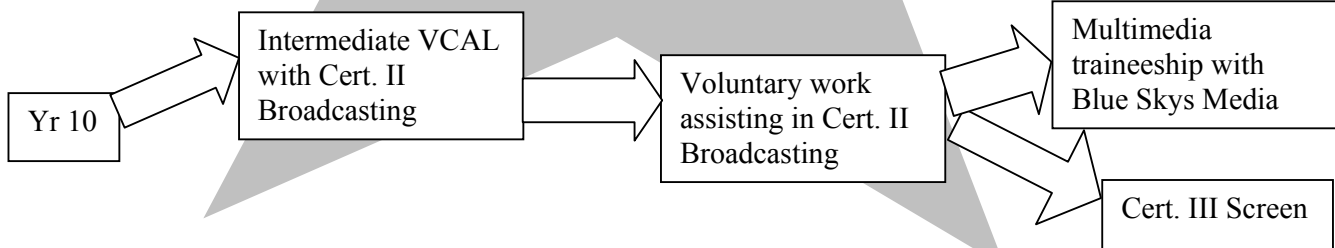
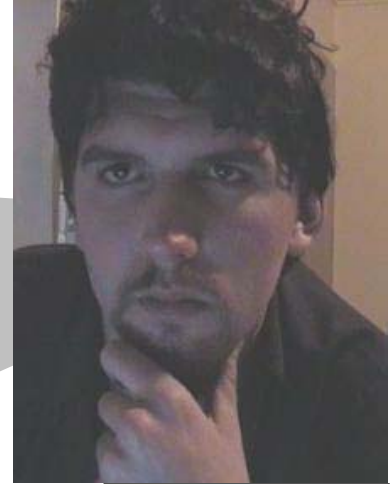
After a turbulent time in high school, Jasmine has been successfully engaged in education for three years in a row now, and her story proves that it is possible to experience different interest areas without interrupting continuous studies. Jasmine is planning to complete the full Community Services certificate, and then may go on to study Child Care (her work experience through Community Services will be helpful). She also enjoys writing and has been published in Careers magazine. She is considering pursuing her writing whilst following her childcare pathway.



Matt Kelly – Multimedia

Towards the end of my time at school I was feeling increasing pressure to leave the school, not so much in a direct way, but more in the sense that people stopped supporting me within the school environment – except in the areas of leaving school (i.e. careers counselling etc). I was very interested in doing something in the film and TV sector, and although there was a media class and photography class at my school, I never found them particularly engaging.

At the time though I was also doing Cert. II in Radio Broadcasting in my VCAL, and towards the end of the year when it was becoming apparent that I'd be leaving school I started looking around for bits of work to earn some extra money. Once I began to explore this it soon turned into a full-blown traineeship which now has me assisting in the technical training in my old Cert. II Radio Broadcasting class, and working/volunteering at *Blue Skys Media*. Along with that I'm also doing Cert. III in Screen at NMIT, a 1 year part-time course in television production, mainly with an on-location and post-production focus, with a tiny bit of in studio work. In the future I'm aiming to be a writer/director.

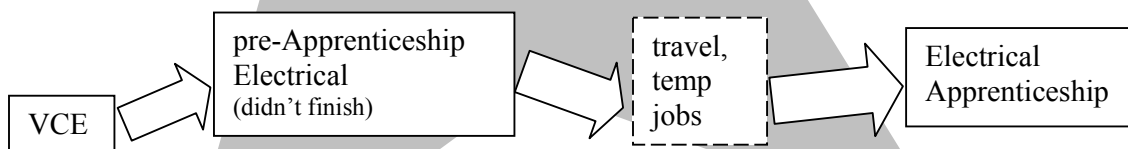


Scott Wallace – Electrical

Scott left school not even sure of his score for VCE, content with the idea of working extra hours in his part time job at the local grocery store. After 9 months, he realised this work was not something he wanted to continue for the rest of his life – it was a 'dead end job'. He enrolled in a 6 month pre-apprenticeship course at Swinburne TAFE, but quit after 3 months to travel. Scott returned and realised he needed to do something more than working for a temp agency and sitting on the couch playing video games.

He applied for an advertised electrician apprentice position but was unsuccessful. Scott then started cold calling companies listed in the Yellow Pages. He found two positions and chose the larger company as he thought it offered wider opportunities.

Four years later: Scott completed his final year last year and enjoys his work. He feels he is going somewhere. It is a harder, more physical job than he ever had, but it is the added responsibility that he enjoys. The position offers good pay prospects and opportunities to work in other places or to open his own business in the future. The Victorian "A" grade qualification is recognised as one of the best qualifications in the field – Scott recently sat the examination.



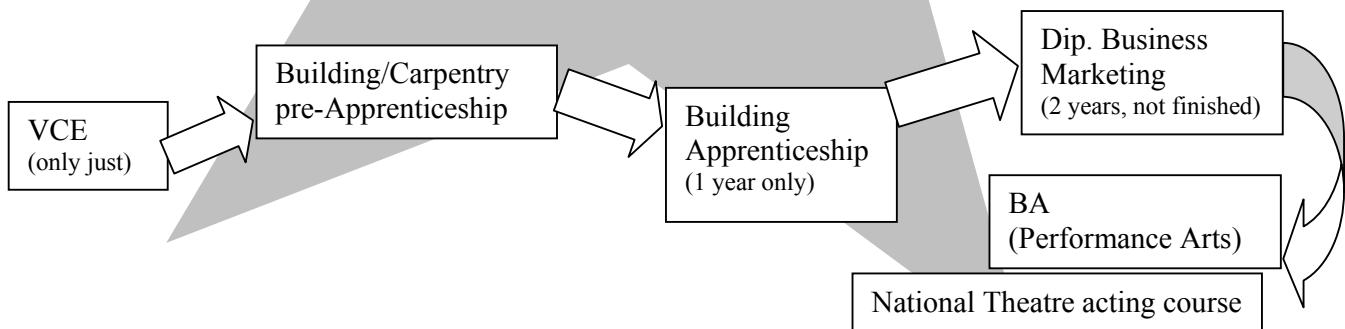
Chris Salvage – Acting

Once Chris completed his VCE he started a pre-apprenticeship as a carpenter/builder, and then got an apprenticeship with a builder which lasted 12 months. He enjoyed it and gained valuable skills, but ultimately decided he didn't want to be a builder.

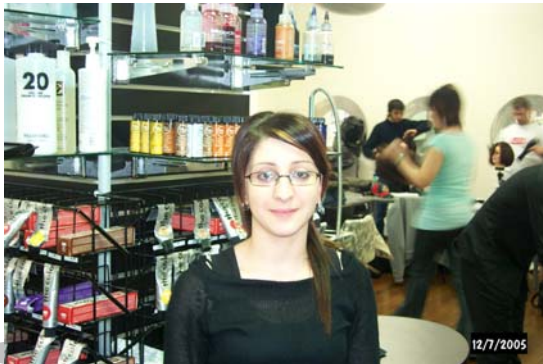
The following year he enrolled in a TAFE marketing course while working part time in a hardware shop and in before & after school care. After the course which he did not complete, Chris worked in many part-time positions, unsure what he really wanted to do. In the back of his mind Chris thought a lot about doing a drama course – he always had an interest in acting of some kind and loves his role as lead singer in a band (has been going for 5 years).

He decided to follow his acting dream when he was 23. He applied through VTAC to enrol in the Victoria University Performance Arts course. This didn't require a year 12 pass because entrance into the course was by interview. Chris was accepted into the course because he was able to show he was committed and willing to dedicate himself to completing the degree. This year he was also accepted into the National Theatre acting course, one of the most highly regarded drama schools in the country.

Vic. Uni will assist Chris at the end of the course by providing pointers and options to help him progress his career. He feels that age does not matter at Uni and you should never be afraid to try new and different things.



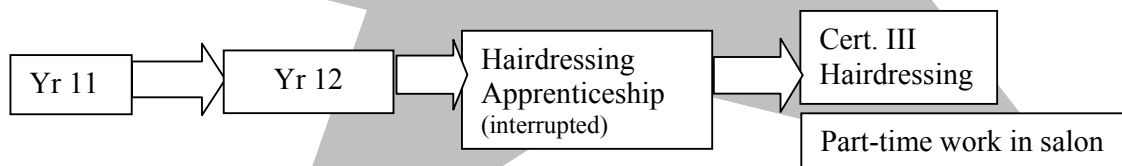
Michelle Scollo - Hairdressing



Michelle finished Year 12 but did not sit exams. During Year 11 and 12 she had been working 2 nights a week in a salon as an assistant. She knew she wanted to be a Hairdresser so she set about gaining an Apprenticeship.

Michelle found an employer to take her on and was 10 months into her Apprenticeship when the owner decided to close the business as the landlord had increased the rent substantially. Although she couldn't continue her apprenticeship, Michelle knew that she loved hairdressing and decided to fast-track her career by studying full time with Headmasters Academy. With this option Michelle gained a Certificate III in Hairdressing qualification in 12 months.

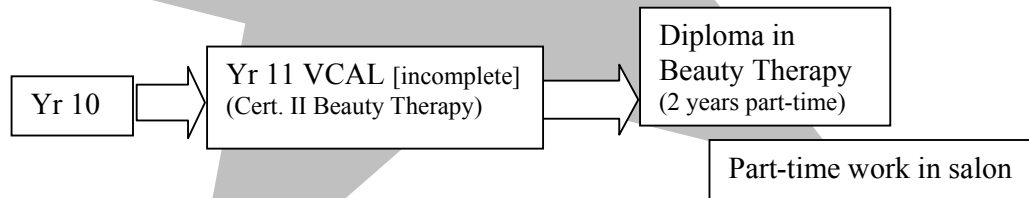
"By studying full-time I have gained much experience as I work on clients daily. My listening and communication skills have improved and I am able to give the better customer service. I have had the opportunity to work in Fashion Parades, Hair shows and expand my skills. I am also working part-time alongside my full time studies. In the future I hope to run or own my own salon."



Victoria Lanini – Beauty Therapy

Victoria has always been interested in Beauty Therapy, but had no particular experience or knowledge about it. In Year 11 she undertook VCAL with a Cert. II in Beauty Therapy VET. Victoria wasn't doing very well at school and didn't enjoy it, but did like the Beauty Therapy part. So after Semester 1 she decided that she would study full time Beauty Therapy. Victoria realised through doing her VCAL course that Beauty Therapy was the career for her.

"I started my Diploma course in May and already have a part-time position at a Beauty salon (started last month) which I enjoy – and it helps fund my education! We do make-up like a general beauty course, but the therapy part means things like facial treatments, body treatments (scrubs & wraps), massage, electrolysis, manicure and pedicure are included."



Luke Stockdale – Graphic Design

After leaving school Luke wasn't sure what to do. He had a natural talent in graphics but did not see how he could achieve his goal. His first year was spent doing odd jobs and he felt he was going nowhere. After working and saving money for another two years, Luke enrolled in a private graphics school. He began to do really well, gained confidence and started to compile a portfolio. He decided to apply to RMIT and his hard work and determination paid off. He was accepted into the elite course. He now realises that in the graphics industry you have to keep on top of your workload. Luke believes anything is achievable if you put the effort into it. He advises: if your first choice doesn't work out there are many other ways to achieve your career goal. The result can be very satisfying.

