



**Greater Northern  
Skills Development Group**  
Incorporated Association

**Committee Meeting Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> August 2021 online via TEAMS**

Commenced: 12:02pm

**Present:** Robert Walters (Chair), Bede Maher, Tania Walsh, Eleze Drew, Virginia Fenwicke, Giorgia Foley, Peter Rickard, Debbie Taekata, Bronnie Cocking, Emily Coles, Fiona Sweeney, Karly Brogan, Jocelyn Ullman, Ryan Hanrahan, Sue Maher,  
Guest: David Errington

**Apologies:** Peter Wynn, Casey Trevithick, Stephen Viles

**Conflict of Interest:** Nil

**Item 1: Acknowledgement of Country:**

*"I'd like to acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the Land on which we meet today, the people of the Gomeroi Nation and pay my respects to Elders past and present"*

**Item 2: GUEST SPEAKER:** David Errington, Managing Director of Apollo Engineering, Tamworth

- An extensive machinery and fabrication organisation
- Is an established manufacturing facility that targets Industry cleaning equipment and Food waste equipment
- 40 Full time staff
- Bought technology and increased staff. Invested in capital equipment including robotics
- Last 18 months of COVID has been good for the company.
- Exports to 26 countries
- Broad range of skillset required onsite. Skilled labour is very difficult to acquire
- Next 5 years anticipate skillset requirements to include Machine shop ie C & T machinery and good apprentices. Currently there is nowhere to send employees for training. Only able to train "in house". Currently use RTO's from Community College however no RTO has a curriculum for advance manufacturing and C&T machinery.
- Apollo already has the required equipment, why not partner with TAFE to train apprentices on Apollo site thereby TAFE would not require to finance investment in specialised high-end equipment which is a current blockage to providing courses
- Has an employee with Cert 4 Assess & Training who provides in-house training
- Seeking the following from GNSDGD – shared ideas, reciprocal trade, broadening of network and collaboration
- Trying to build on skills base and keep trained employees in our region

#### **Item 4: Updates from Skills Brokers: (Jocelyn)**

Brokered - 1200 positions in NE region in first 12 months

##### **Skill Up from Home Program**

This is a new program that has been launched as a result of people unable to work due to the public health orders. Training is all on line with a wide variety of different skill sets on offer. See link below.

[https://education.nsw.gov.au/skills-nsw/skills-initiatives/skill-up-from-home?mc\\_cid=e9980e77ce&mc\\_eid=UNIQID](https://education.nsw.gov.au/skills-nsw/skills-initiatives/skill-up-from-home?mc_cid=e9980e77ce&mc_eid=UNIQID)

##### **Young Leaders Program**

Training for young leaders in the metal fabricating/engineering/fencing industries along with a number of students from Tamworth Regional Council in Tamworth will be going on-line and is being delivered by Forsythes.

##### **Productivity Boot Camp**

Skills Brokers and RIEP officers are working on developing a mini productivity boot camp that will be run over summer skills. This involves negotiating with RTOs.

##### **GNSDG Inc**

Feedback has been received questioning the relevance and outcomes for Greater Northern Skills Development Group moving forward.

#### **Item 5: Updates from RIEP staff: (Karly and Ryan)**

##### **Karly:**

- COVID lockdown has put a hold on programs and Industry Connections
- PCYC Gunnedah has a Rise Up program. RIEP partnered with PCYC to support the delivery of the industry component to the program. 13 students attended along with 4 supervisors from NSW Police and PCYC staff.
- It was great to showcase the employers and students have the opportunity to gain work experience, SBAT opportunities and future employment opportunities.
- Delivered three tours before COVID lockdown. Students attended industry tours at the end of July and beginning of August at: Fox in The Woods – Manilla, Narrabri Fish Farm, Stripes Engineering Gunnedah. Great feedback
- Moree Secondary School were completing the process for White Card delivery for an upcoming project at the school and community. Along with ChemCert down the track. COVID has stopped access to this delivery.
- Generally, having some great conversations with industry and exciting leads. A lot of planning in the background and hopefully able to deliver postponed and upcoming programs in the near future.
- Receiving great industry leads and program ideas. Waiting for lockdown to lift so can get back into schools

**Ryan:**

- Big push to online options.
- Walcha and Armidale schools are producing daily webinars with Department of Industry
- Virtual work experience opportunities for 500 kids state-wide in Hair and Beauty – includes 100 NE children
- Five new schools have signed up with Ground shake for online skill level training
- T4 Social media for trades. 100 children are currently training for their white cards

**Item 6: Acceptance of Minutes Tuesday 20 July, 2021:**

Adopted as a true and accurate record: Moved: Tania Walsh, Sec: Bede Maher

**Item 7: Business Arising from Previous Minutes:** Nil

**Item 8: Inwards Correspondence:** (Bede) - NIL

**Item 9: Outwards Correspondence:** (Bede, Tania, Sue Admin)

- Emails to Amy Allerton re: updating the website
- RTO various funding opportunities becoming available
- Outstanding membership invoices

**Item 10: Chairperson Report:** (Rob)

Motels are empty, Hospitality and travel suffering – let's try to support our local businesses, asks committee members to send through any ideas of support

**Item 11: Finance Report** (Tania)

Balance of Account as at **28 July, 2021 is \$7,857.28**

Term Deposit maturing **23 July, 2021 is \$73, 487.36**

- Two Training Award winner cheques outstanding, \$200 & \$1000.00
- \$1600.00 outstanding individual memberships
- Six members have resigned from membership
- Apollo and HVTC are now paid members
- Administration invoices have been paid
- Licensing fees for changed constitution paid
- **Karly Brogan is to be removed as signatory on ANZ account.** Keep signatories to three i.e.: Bede, Bronnie and Tania
- Generated Financials reports up till 18/5/2021: Profit and Loss report, Transaction report, Term Deposit Maturing

**Item 12: Training Awards:** (Tania Walsh)

State Training Awards will be via virtual due to Covid 19. Nationals will still be Face to Face in Perth, propose to invite 2021 Winners to become members of GNSDG and TA subcommittee. Sending EOI for people to join 2022 TA sub committee

**Item 13: Membership Applications:** (Bede Maher)

Updating the Membership email contact list.

Two new Organisation Members:

- Gunnedah Shire Council and
- Australian Training Plus (Merger of Joblink Plus and ATAC)

Moved: Bede Maher, seconded: All Agreed

**Item 14: Skill Shortages: (All)**

Thanks to David Errington for joining us today

**Item 15: Website [www.gnsd.com](http://www.gnsd.com)** (Bede) work continues in the background for the website to be updated by Amy.

**Item 16: Updates from Training Services: (Bede)**

Reported various programs continuing as usual, Skilling for Recovery – Construction part quals, Skilling for Recovery – Regional and Youth part quals, Step Safely Info Construction – PE for SFR construction, Business as usual part quals, Agskilled 2.0

**New Initiatives:**

Pacific Labour Scheme Pilot ready to start, no TNI's as yet, Trade Pathways Program – Construction Industries Pilot has stalled due to COVID, Clubs NSW Regional Cub Training Employment Program, Skill up at Home – fee free online training courses, *Summer Skills*

**Item 17: General Business:**

**COVID 19 Impact: *Lock down for STATE.*** Update region.

*16/8 Corporate Office texts to Employers, Apprentices, Trainees, RTO's*

Hindered to online confines. Get vaccinated, Stay at Home, support each other, Stay safe

Peter Rickard has been in contact with Business Australia to encourage and promote a model for businesses to be proactive and thereby be awarded with a Covid Tick if the Business complies with the following: Be informed and aware, Encourage the double job, make a statement committing the business or organisation to following and practicing the Public Health Guidelines to Safe Covid Practices

**GNSDG Inc Sponsorship strategy:**

*How is the organisation going to meet demand for sponsorship requests?*

Need a benchmark/policy of parameters for GNSDG providing sponsorships including risk and monetary. Provide opportunity to offer individual sponsorships for transparency, could be in the form of money, time or advice

**Updates from Committee members:**

**Peter Rickard:** Numbers are higher than ever. Employers are eligible for wage subsidies up to \$7000.00 until March 2022 however they cannot then claim job keeper or other wage subsidies. Volume of claims is very significant. It is a challenge to pay claims through an extremely hard and complex process. Paying on 20% of first attempts. Employers are finding the application very difficult. Required an extra 35 staff members to process the claims

