

## MATTHEW HAS THE EDGE

Corpus Christi College's motto says that they are a "Catholic community, committed to empowering every learner to serve and enrich our changing world", and ex-student Matthew O'Sullivan is testament to this.

With the help of EDGE, Matthew last month successfully completed his Apprenticeship in Horticultural Parks and Gardens. Matthew's passion for horticulture stretches right back to when, as a Year 10 student, he undertook a work experience placement with the Grounds Department at the school. "I knew right from the start that I wanted to work outdoors in parks and gardens", said Matthew. "And it was great, by the time year twelve came around I was attending one day a week at Challenger TAFE, doing a turf management course".



Matthew O'Sullivan pictured here at the work at Corpus Christi College.

After graduating at the end of Year 12, Matthew took up an apprenticeship with the school in their Grounds Department and quickly established himself as a reliable and important team member. The apprenticeship which allowed Matthew to work and receive formal training provided by Challenger TAFE was a success right from the start. Sam Kronja the Business Manager for the school said that "Matthew gives his best shot every day. He is hardworking, always willing to learn and very proactive towards his work and colleagues alike. Matthew is an asset to Corpus Christi College".

EDGE Employment Solutions is currently supporting 38 New Apprentices across a vast array of occupations including; automotive, business, plumbing, hospitality, engineering, butchery and pastry cook. "With the current skills shortages companies are looking at ways of developing their own staff and we know that if you combine work with formal training that the chances of a successful outcome for people with disabilities are greatly improved", said Sue Robertson, the Managing Director of EDGE Employment Solutions.

If you are an employer or jobseeker and would like to find out more about New Apprenticeships please contact EDGE Employment Solutions.

## WA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING RECEIVES LEADING EDGE EMPLOYER AWARD



Sue Robertson is pictured presenting the Executive Director of the Education Department, Alby Huts with their Leading EDGE Award.

The WA Department of Education and Training was recently recognised for its efforts in the employment of people with disabilities. Alby Huts, Executive Director Human Resources, was presented with the Leading Edge Employer Award on 26 May by Sue Robertson, Managing Director EDGE Employment Solutions.

The Leading Edge Employer award acknowledges employers who have made a significant contribution in creating opportunities for people with disabilities in Western Australia.

The Department's relationship with EDGE dates all the way back to 1984. EDGE has placed and supported 42 people with disabilities in various positions within the Department over the past 22 years. Currently, there are 19 people originally placed by EDGE who remain employed. This is a significant achievement and demonstrates the Department's strong commitment to equity and diversity within its workforce. Sue Robertson said, "The Education Department was the first government department to employ a person with a disability, and is now the largest single public sector employer of people with disabilities through EDGE."

## TEN YEARS ON AND STILL GOING STRONG

When it comes to retail staff, there are not too many people who can say that they have worked for the same employer for more than ten years. In a sector which is notorious for its high turnover, Robert Ballucci is indeed a rare gem with over ten years continuous service at Target in Bull Creek. He had previously worked for the Coles Myer group for three years at Coles Booragoon as a trolley collector.

Paul Richardson, the Target store manager, recently presented Robert with a certificate in recognition of his lengthy service. "Robert started with us a retail assistant, but has moved into the goods receivable area and it is here where he has really shone", said Paul.

Robert, pictured here, was delighted with his award and said, "I really enjoy working at Target as a storeman. The other staff are great and I'm looking forward to getting the next award for working twenty years!"



Robert Ballucci and his award for 10 years service at Target Bull Creek.

## EDGE AWARDED WA BUSINESS NEWS SPONSORSHIP



Some of the other major sponsors involved with the WA Business News Leadership and Success Breakfast series.

Once again EDGE has been recognised as a leading not for profit organisation by being awarded the WA Business News Success and Leaderships Breakfast Series Sponsorship for 2006. This award (valued at \$12,000) recognises not for profit organisations that demonstrate excellence and professionalism in their chosen field.

The breakfast series attracts more than 400 of the Who's Who of Western Australia's business community. EDGE hosts a table of eight at each breakfast at no cost. At the same time, EDGE is invited to display signage around the room and place promotional material on every table.

With presenters ranging from the CEOs of major corporations to the Premier of WA, the WA Business News Success and Leaderships Breakfast Series Sponsorship is greatly appreciated and valued by EDGE as it provides an excellent opportunity to profile the employment credentials of people with disabilities.

## EDGE WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBER

Derek La Ferla, a high energy, high skills corporate lawyer with a reputation for achieving results, has recently been appointed to the Board of EDGE Employment Solutions.

His expertise includes mergers and acquisitions, capital raising, ASX listings, due diligence, and corporate governance. Derek takes a highly strategic approach to legal practice that strives to ensure clients achieve their goals in the most direct and efficient manner. A natural communicator, Derek aims to keep his clients fully informed every step of the way and to ensure that their expectations and concerns are not only met but, most often, exceeded.

Derek will bring to EDGE a large network of business contacts and an important set of skills to build upon the great work already undertaken by the Board members of EDGE.



New Board member Derek La Ferla is bound to add his considerable expertise to the Board of EDGE.

## BACK TO THE BARRY BAKER STORY



Barry Baker at work at Coles Garden City.

In the September 2005 issue of Inside EDGE, we profiled a story about Barry Baker at Coles Supermarket in Garden City and how he had received a letter of commendation from the State Manager praising his high level of customer service.

Since then, Barry has been nominated by the store for the Coles Myer 'Celebrating Excellence Award', an award recognising outstanding excellence in customer service. This is an Australia-wide award and Barry had an opportunity to represent Western Australia at the National finals later in the year. The State final was held at the Esplanade Hotel in Fremantle and, although Barry did not win on the night, it was a great achievement for Barry and a great credit to his work ethic.

Well done, Barry!