

EDGE SIGNS MOU WITH CURTIN UNIVERSITY

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was recently signed between EDGE and Curtin University of Technology and will result in an increase in the number of job seekers from EDGE gaining employment at the University.

According to Vice-Chancellor, Professor Jeanette Hackett, "EDGE is one of Australia's leading open employment agencies for people with disabilities and I am delighted to form this strategic alliance which will see the combined resources of our two organisations benefit these people."

"Not only will EDGE assist Curtin with selecting suitable employees with disabilities, it will assist us in inducting, orienting and integrating these employees," Professor Hackett said.



Pictured at the signing of the MOU from left to right, Sue Robertson, Ian Hughes, Bill Ryan and Lynda Roberts-Hall.

EDGE Managing Director, Susan Robertson, said the MOU will not only benefit people with disabilities, but will be advantageous for Curtin University as well.

"It has been established in multiple studies that, with appropriate training and support, employees with disabilities can deliver equal or better productivity, greater tenure, higher attendance rates and are loyal workers who take pride in the organisations for whom they work," Ms Robertson said.

"Employing someone with a disability can also have a positive effect on staff moral, creating an integrated team environment and a positive corporate image. From the employees' point of view, the opportunity to be employed at Curtin University will deliver greater job security, better conditions, greater workplace flexibility and competitive wages."

Already we are seeing the benefits of the MOU with one lucky, young job seeker being employed in the Research and Development area in a work-based traineeship.

20 YEARS AND STILL GOING STRONG!



Daniel Pictured at work with the City of Swan.

In 1987, Daniel Avery began working at the City of Swan as a gardening assistant, and in the 20 years since he started, he has lost none of the passion for his job. Now his dedication and commitment have been recognised by both his employer and members of the community, whom he has served so diligently.

In May this year Jim Sweetman, Park Co-ordinator for the City of Swan, will be presenting Daniel with a certificate to recognise his 20 years of continuous service.

One of Daniel's main tasks has been working on the Lockridge Community Garden. So impressed with Daniel was Harry Wykman, Project Co-ordinator for the Lockridge Community Garden, that he wrote a letter to the City of Swan to express his gratitude for the work that Daniel has done.

In his letter Mr Wykman said, "Daniel has been a great addition to the garden team. He gets along with everyone easily, has great ideas and contributes usefully from his long working life with the City of Swan Parks Department." Mr Wykman also stated that Daniel will be a "key person in the development of the City's Community Garden Strategy."

Daniel is very proud of his achievements and is happy for his work to speak for itself. On the day we visited Daniel it was particularly hot, but Daniel was still smiling and working hard in the garden. When asked what it meant to receive the recognition, Daniel said, "It's great, but what's even better is the job itself. I love being outdoors and I love working with all the people."

10 YEARS AND STILL GOING STRONG

Long time EDGE client, Nicole Mourad was recently presented with a medal in recognition of her ten years of service at St John of God Hospital in Murdoch. Nicole started working at the hospital shortly after leaving school and has become a much-liked team member.

Currently, Nicole is working in the human resources department, where she assists with many administrative tasks including file creation, distribution of forms, photocopying and handling pre-admission files. Leanne Merchant, Human Resource Manager for St John of God Hospital, said, "It's great having Nicole working here as the work she does frees up other staff to work directly with the patients."

Not only has it been great for the hospital, but Nicole has also benefited by developing a wide range of friendships amongst colleagues and patients and this has greatly enhanced her life outside of work. This was clearly evident on the morning that we met with Nicole to do the article. Whilst we were sitting in the main lobby with Nicole, most staff members stopped to say hello and see what was happening. "I just love working here, the people are so supportive," said a very happy and smiling Nicole.



Nicole still smiling after 10 years at work at St John of God Hospital in Murdoch.

EDGE WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBERS



Steve Scudamore.

EDGE has had a long history of attracting the highly successful professionals, academics and business leaders to its Board of Directors - and its two latest recruits are no exception.

Steve Scudamore was appointed Executive Director and Partner in Charge of KPMG Corporate Finance in Western Australia since 1993, before becoming the National Head of KPMG Corporate Finance's Valuations Practice.

Steve is currently KPMG Perth's Chairman of Partners and is the International representative on the KPMG International ENR Global Group. During his time at KPMG, Steve has provided financial advice to a wide range of companies in a variety of industries particularly in mining and exploration, oil and gas, utilities and government. With his strong financial background, Steve will bring a wealth of expertise and experience to the Board of EDGE.

The Board of the University of Western Australia's Business School has been described as one of the "bluest of blue chip boards in Perth" by WA Business News. EDGE is extremely fortunate to have the UWA Business School's two of the most senior members on its own Board.

Mark Barnaba is the Chairman of both Boards and the Dean of the UWA Business School, Tracey Horton, has also joined the Board of EDGE.

Tracey commenced employment as an economist at the Reserve Bank of Australia. After winning a scholarship to complete her MBA at Stanford University in California, USA, she completed her MBA and was ranked amongst the top graduating students of her year.

Tracey spent the next several years working for the international management consulting firm, Bain and Company, where she provided strategic and management advice to many international clients in the technology, retail and utility sectors: including Pacific Gas & Electric, Microsoft and Nike.

Tracey returned to Perth in 2000, as a partner of Poynton and Partners and GEM Consulting, where her clients included Woodside, Alinta and Iluka Resources. She took up the position of Dean of the UWA School of Business in 2005.



Tracey Horton.

LOOK OUT FOR EDGE IN WA BUSINESS NEWS

EDGE has always known the benefits of targeting large business in order to secure employment opportunities for people with disabilities. For employees they provide greater training and development opportunities for advancement, are likely to be less affected by economic fluctuations and generally have better pay and conditions. From EDGE's perspective, large business offers excellent repeat business potential and the opportunity to build enduring relationships that will benefit all parties.

In order to further strengthen and consolidate its relationship with big business, EDGE has just embarked on the most ambitious branding campaign in its 23 year history. Every fortnight, for the next 26 weeks, EDGE will be running a series of advertisements (such as the one featured here) on the front page of WA Business News. So watch out for EDGE over the next 12 issues.



EDGE Employment Solutions Inc. enables people with disabilities to obtain careers in open employment that are of mutual benefit to the employer, employee and to the community.

The cost of recruiting staff can run into the thousands when advertising, interviewing, assessing, orienting and training are taken into account. EDGE provides all of these services, and more, at no cost to the employer or employee.

Workers placed by EDGE benefit, attendance and tenure records that significantly exceed those of the general workforce. To find out more call us on 0818 6622 or visit our website at www.edge.org.au

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Sue Robertson presents Bruce Olsen from Thomas Peacock & Sons with their Leading EDGE Employer Award.

THOMAS PEACOCK & SONS WINS LEADING EDGE AWARD

Recently EDGE presented Thomas Peacock & Sons with a Leading EDGE Employer Award, in recognition of them providing employment opportunities for people with disabilities.

Thomas Peacock & Sons has given six people from EDGE the opportunity to work at their Kewdale factory in the past twelve months, with two people still employed. Bruce Olsen, Operations Manager said that, "Having the guys come in from Edge has been great, not only from a business point of view, but we have also noticed a general improvement in overall staff morale."

With many manufacturing industries struggling to recruit staff the relationship between EDGE and Thomas Peacock has achieved an excellent result for all involved.