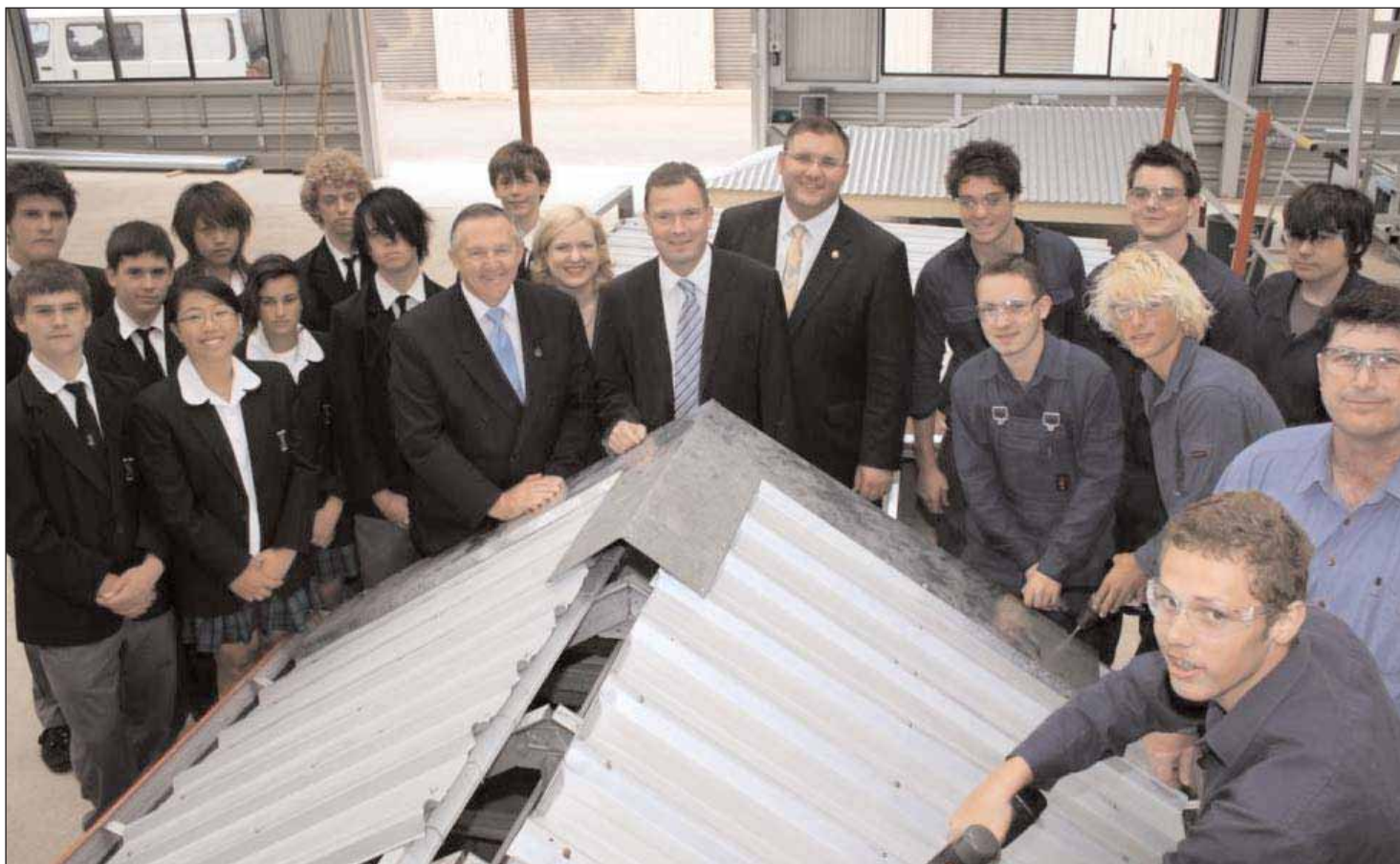


Trade school to start enrolling apprentices next year

Premier of NSW Nathan Rees today announced the Sutherland Trade School at GyMEA TAFE would be enrolling students next year. Mr Rees visited the school along with Education Minister Verity Firth and local MPs Barry Collier and Paul McLeay.



Mr Rees said the \$500,000 trade school will be enrolling apprentices and trainees in the skills shortage construction trades.

“Year 11 students from nearby schools, including GyMEA Technical High, Engadine High and Heathcote High will be able to undertake an apprenticeship or traineeship while studying for their HSC,” Mr Rees said.

“These students will be able to begin training to become plumbers, carpenters or electricians.

“I understand not all students want to go to university and we have created options for them.

“Across the State, 25 trade schools are being established to give young people another opportunity to pursue their chosen career.

“The opening of this school delivers

on our commitment to improve trades training for young people in the Shire.”

Ms Firth said the Sutherland Trade School is divided into two campuses, one at GyMEA and the other at the Loftus TAFE Campus.

“The Loftus campus will specialise in hospitality, with opportunities for students to begin their training in

Commercial Cookery, Food & Beverage and Accommodation Services,” Ms Firth added.

“Students at trade school study academic subjects at their local school and as well as vocational subjects at the trade school.

“Part time apprenticeships and traineeships and all trade school sub-

jects contribute to the Higher School Certificate.

“NSW has the best school-based vocational education and training programs in the country, with students embracing the opportunity to learn skills which will help them make a real contribution to their local economy and community.”

More car parking at Helensburgh Station



Premier Nathan Rees announced that Helensburgh rail commuters will benefit from a major expansion of the Helensburgh Station commuter car park.

Mr Rees was visiting the area as part of the NSW Cabinet’s meeting in the

Sutherland Shire.

The upgrade was part of the Government’s recently announced \$56 million Commuter Car Park program.

Mr Rees said Heathcote MP Paul McLeay had been working hard to secure additional car parks for local commuters.

“We’ve announced we’ll build 3000 new car park spaces, and we’re currently finalising the remaining sites to form part of the program,” Mr Rees said.

“When that was announced Paul made a strong case -- with the backing of his community – that Helensburgh should benefit from a share of the extra car spots.

“So today I’m pleased to announce Helensburgh will be one of the first stations to benefit from 75 of these spaces, doubling the spaces currently available.”

Mr Rees and Mr McLeay

visited the site of the recently completed Easy Access and bus interchange upgrade at Helensburgh.

The tender for work on the extra car parking places will go out in January 2009 with construction expected to be underway in April 2009.

“Based on this timeframe, we plan to deliver the project to the local community by the end of next year,” Mr Rees said.

“This is a great project for Helensburgh locals, and will make the daily commute to work much easier.

“I’m confident locals will feel the benefits quickly, as they can access the station with greater ease and can expect to find a parking space near the station more quickly.

“I want to congratulate the local community and their MP Paul McLeay – this is a real win for Helensburgh.”

