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For immediate release



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Role model rewarded

Montmorency resident, Les Partridge, a teacher in the Department of Engineering at the Wantirna campus, has won a \$2000 prize for his outstanding contribution to teaching and the community.

Les won the annual Maurie Curwood award available to Swinburne TAFE staff and students. This award is named in honour of Maurie Curwood, who developed the former Eastern TAFE into a vibrant and successful organisation.

Les is an electrical and renewable energy teacher and has been instrumental in the redeveloping the Swinburne TAFE electrical workshops offered.

According to manager Ron Barrow his dedication to industry entrants through pre-apprenticeships and apprentice programs has been about more than just teaching.

"He is a role model who will do anything to help lead his students, from painting and sanding the workshop to acquiring industry sponsorship.

"Les aims to expose his students to real practical experiences that clearly reflect industry work ethics and standards," said Ron.

"His enthusiasm in his work has stimulated interest and support for a more practical and industry-relevant training program.

"His positive attitude has been an asset to the electrical teaching team and he has forged many contracts and links throughout the industry."

Les will use the money for a home automation course he will undertake for professional development.

"Home automation is the way of the future, said Les. "New homes need to be in line with the development of more sustainable energy management systems and the companies who develop these systems want qualified installers."

By doing the course he hopes to include such practices in the syllabus of the courses he teaches at Swinburne TAFE.

Les will be presented with his award at the TAFE Graduation ceremony on 17 May 2006 at the Camberwell Civic Centre.

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