



# CHRIS STANDS TALL IN FIRE CRISIS

ASHE student Chris Das has stood tall among the many heroes who defended Victoria during the Christmas bushfire disaster.

Chris' story is an inspiration to ASHE staff and students alike after he entered ASHE last year as a 22-year-old expectant father with Year 7 education, trapped in the tangled web of unemployment.

He finished the year not only a proud working dad, but a hero of his state and country after helping in the fight against some of the worst bushfires in Victoria's history throughout December and January.

"You never know where you can end up", Chris said, reflecting on his time with ASHE.

"Better than stayin' at home", was his simple response at enrolment time when asked why he would like to study at ASHE.

Underneath, though, was a real determination in Chris to use ASHE as a springboard to greater opportunities. It was with this in mind he signed up as one of two participants in ASHE's first ever work placement partnership with the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE).

Under the arrangement, DSE agreed to host two ASHE students one day per week over 10 weeks to give them a



taste of their operations in north-east Victoria and particularly a chance to work in forest management.

The idea was that with experience gained in their work placement, the students would be qualified to apply for places with the DSE's project firefighter (PFF) team over the summer, which Chris did successfully.

After four days at fire school in Bonnie Doon during early December, Chris embarked on the adventure of a lifetime after a series of fires broke out in Victoria's high country.

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## A message from the Director



Welcome to our first issue of 'The Beat' for 2007.

I am extremely proud of our achievements in 2006, particularly those of our students which

were showcased at our Awards Night held in December.

It was fantastic to see so many students striving to achieve success both in their studies at ASHE and in looking to employment and further study.

We anticipate an exciting year at ASHE in 2007 with an expanded range of courses on offer which you can read about in our brand new course guide. Among the highlights are the introduction of the Certificate IV in Community Recreation and the launch of YURRINGA, our new professional development program for young indigenous workers.

We are delighted to have the opportunity to partner with a range of organisations for 2007 including the ANZ Bank and First Nations Foundation, Microsoft, International Diabetes Institute, VACCHO and our employment partners Aquamoves and the Department of

Sustainability and Environment to offer an even broader range of opportunities for our students.

Our strong association with GO TAFE will continue to help us deliver this expanded range of relevant, flexible and culturally appropriate training programs which we hope will give our students the best opportunity to dream, learn and achieve in 2007.

Until next time I hope you enjoy this edition of 'The Beat'.

**Justin Mohamed, Director**

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ASHE is a joint initiative between:



# GREEN DREAM ALIVE FOR YOUNG ASHE GOLFERS



ASHE's inaugural golf development program Green Dream has proved a major hit.

Run during November and December under the guidance of Mooroopna Golf Club pro Shane Casley, Green Dream gave community members a chance to sample the fairways and greens with the benefit of some supportive expert tuition. Participants included a number of ASHE's full-

time students as well as a select group of young primary and early secondary age children who were only too happy to test their golfing skills.

"There was a fair bit of talent on show and hopefully a few of the guys and girls continue with their coaching," Shane said.

Green Dream followed ASHE's successful inaugural golf day last year. Both the golf day and skills clinics will be repeated later in 2007.



Shane Casley pictured with keen young golfers: Zac Gilbert, Ryan Gilbert, Jy Simpkin, Josh Martin, Trae Martin

# Exhibition Showcases Past ASHE Graduate

ASHE graduate Roland Atkinson is continuing his fantastic work preserving and celebrating local Aboriginal culture in the Goulburn Valley.



Roland Atkinson pictured above (second from right) at the opening of the Enbena Exhibition

Roland was a key player in organising the successful Enbena (blackfella) exhibition in Shepparton Art Gallery during December and January.

Enbena consisted of contemporary and traditional paintings and artefacts by students from Goulburn Ovens Institute of TAFE's Certificate II in Caring for Indigenous Material Culture program last year.

Roland, who was ASHE's Certificate III Student of the Year in 2005, coordinated the program in his role as a sessional employee with GOTAFE which he will continue this year.

## FITNESS QUALIFICATIONS NOW AT ASHE

ASHE is continuing to develop pathways into fitness industry careers for community members.

Following from the successful introduction of lifeguard training last year, ASHE is excited to offer the fitness instructor program, Certificate III in Fitness, as part of its schedule for this year.

ASHE is coordinating the course as part of the Strength Training for Older Aboriginal People in Shepparton program being run jointly between Rumbalara Football Netball Club and the International Diabetes Institute.

Pool lifeguard training is also available at ASHE again this year. The course will be held from 19-21 March 2007 in Shepparton.

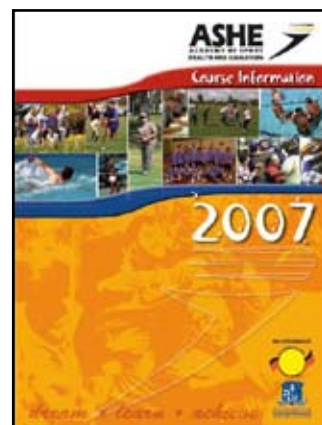
For registrations or more information on these courses contact ASHE on 5823 6600.

## 2007 Course Guide Highlights Education Options at ASHE

The 2007 ASHE Course Guide is out now. The Guide highlights the wide range of options available for students wanting to study at ASHE. Along with an expanded range of Certificate-based courses including the new Certificate IV in Community Recreation, there is now a wider selection of courses available which are aimed at improving future employment and education prospects for graduates.

The exciting new range of programs includes the innovative YURRINGA program which is aimed at improving the experiences of young indigenous people currently employed by developing networks with similar people within the community and improving confidence and skills to enable longterm workforce participation.

For more information about any of the courses ASHE has to offer in 2007 drop into ASHE at 21 Nixon Street Shepparton, call for a course guide on 5823 6600 or visit the website at [www.ashe.com.au](http://www.ashe.com.au).



## NETBALL VICTORY

ASHE has another Shepparton Netball Association premiership to its credit.

Once again ASHE was represented by two teams in Shepparton Netball Association's spring-summer competition, coached by ASHE staff members Janette Bruinier (netball coordinator) and Nicky Morris (student support officer).



ASHE Netballer Jacqui Bingham in action on the court

ASHE II was successful in taking out the Division 3 title with Susie Beckhurst winning the MVP for the grand final.

ASHE I followed up on its 2005 premiership by finishing third in Division I.

"ASHE II did a great job because they ended up with a whole different team to last season while ASHE I was really competitive again despite going up a division," Janette said.

"And the girls all looked brilliant in their

## ASHE STUDENTS TAKE OUT GANBINA AWARDS

ASHE was delighted to see a number of its students win prestigious Ganbina Training Achievement Awards last year.

The awards are a fantastic initiative of our Shepparton associate Ganbina which has a strong training and employment focus, particularly for young people.

ASHE's winners included George Briggs for Certificate IV or higher and Charlie Maher and Colin Colger at Certificates II-III level.

Another of our former students, Jarrod Atkinson, won an employment award.

As an added bonus Charlie and Jarrod received the Member for Shepparton Janette Powell's award for receiving the highest ranking of all nominations in their category.



Ganbina Chair Neville Atkinson and Member for Shepparton The Hon Jeanette Powell with Ganbina Award winner George Briggs

## CHRIS STANDS TALL IN FIRE CRISIS

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"This was the highest thing I've ever done. I was actually excited. It was a thrill to be a part of it," Chris said.

At times Chris found himself just metres from an inferno which burned over one million hectares across Victoria.

The strong sense of teamwork among the firefighters always had Chris confident of his safety and of eventually quelling the numerous blazes which had him also on duty in Tatong, Mansfield and Mount Tendertop working up to 25 hours in one shift.

"They call it the buddy system where you watch other peoples backs and stuff", Chris said. "They're a pretty good team that's for sure."

Chris hopes to continue in his permanent part-time role with the DSE until as late as mid-year before re-enlisting with the PFF again next summer.

## NEWS AT ASHE...news at ashe...NEWS AT ASHE...news at ashe

### George on course for success

Best wishes to 2006 ASHE graduate George Briggs who has commenced a Bachelor of Education (Primary) with Deakin University in Geelong this year.

It's great to see students stepping out of ASHE and into further education.

### Charlie pursues dreams

Well done to 2006 ASHE graduate Charlie Maher on securing full-time employment as a student liaison officer with Notre Dame's McAuley

Champagnat Program.

Charlie is also playing with Bendigo Bombers in the VFL this season as he pursues his AFL dream.

### Welcome back Nicky

A big welcome back to Nicky Morris who has returned to



work full-time with ASHE.

Nicky worked with ASHE two days per week last year along with 2005 ASHE graduate Jasmine Day,

Jasmine is presently working at both Rumbalara Aboriginal Cooperative and at the University of Melbourne's School of Rural Health.

### Cyclists on the doorstep

ASHE staff and students alike enjoyed the carnival atmosphere last year when the prestigious Herald Sun



Tour bike race departed from the doorstep of ASHE headquarters in Shepparton.

The race attracted an international field including some of Australia's best road racers and also some from Japan (pictured above).

# Photo Corner: 2006 Graduation



## ASHE CAPS OFF 2006 IN STYLE



ASHE Award winners (from left) Chris Mansfield, Chris Turner, Colin Colger and Charlie Maher

ASHE capped off a fantastic year in 2006 with a graduation and awards night held at the Sundowner Parklake in Shepparton on Friday 15 December.

Awards were presented to students with outstanding achievements in various categories, and in addition all ASHE participants were recognised for their own personal contributions throughout the year.

"During this past year the students have achieved both academically through their participation in the certificates II and III in Sport and have also grown personally through a better understanding of their goals and what it takes to achieve them, ASHE Director Justin Mohamed said of the students achievements in 2006.

"Each of the major presentation recipients have made significant contributions in their respective areas of achievement. They've reflected the spirit of the Academy in their attitudes towards furthering the opportunities available to them and by encouraging other students to do the same."

The Awards ceremony was attended by students and their families as well as representatives from the University of Melbourne, The Rumbalara Football Netball Club, Goulburn Ovens Institute of TAFE and the Mayor and Councillors of the City of Greater Shepparton.

*(see photo corner above for photos of the night)*

### WHAT'S UP

**5 March 2007**  
Student BBQ and 2007 Course Outline.

**13 March 2007**  
Field Trip to Billabong Ranch, Echuca.

**19-21 March 2007**  
Pool Lifeguard Course at Aquamoves.

**19 March to 5 April 2007**  
Cardiovascular Health for Aboriginal Health Workers.

**26-30 March 2007**  
Indigenous Mentoring training.

**2-13 April 2007**  
Easter Break for students. Term 2 commences 16 April 2007.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON THESE EVENTS CALL ASHE ON 5823 6600**

### AWARD WINNERS

**Student of the Year -Certificate II**  
Chris Das

**Student of the Year Certificate III**  
Chris Turner

**Student Support Officer Awards:**  
Leanne Atkinson & Andrew Ince

**Sportspeople of the Year**  
Charlie Maher (football)  
& Shonelle Ritchie (netball)

**Goal Setting Award**  
Colin Colger

**Most Improved Student Award**  
Chris Mansfield

**Peer voted Award**  
Andrew Ince

## contact us

To submit an item for consideration for the ASHE Newsletter, contact Phillip Guthrie on 5823 6600 or via email on [pguthrie@ashe.com.au](mailto:pguthrie@ashe.com.au)

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