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Would you like pepper with that? Steak knives? Perhaps a quick Diploma in Hairdressing? RTOs have been in the news recently for all the wrong reasons: think ripping off clients and delivering meaningless 'instant' qualifications to name just a couple. I mention this because the Skills Fund is about to open **a new round of funding** and NDA would like to partner with your organisation in a tender. You can do this with some confidence because:



...and she said she had a Diploma in Hairdressing...

- 70% of NDA clients complete their qualifications successfully, in comparison with the national average for completions of around 29%.
- NDA was a successful training company for 20 years before we became an RTO and training underpins all the qualifications and skill sets we offer.
- We have a strong record for obtaining financial support for our clients through tenders to the Skills Fund.

So please don't be put off by the bad vibes. Get in touch on 1300 765 736 if we can assist your organisation with any of the training and qualifications listed below:

- [Computer training skill sets](#)
- [Business training skill sets](#)
- [Qualifications](#)

Meanwhile, Apple has a big product launch scheduled for March 9, with an [Apple Watch](#) announcement being the hot favourite. There is no shortage of Dick Tracey-style smart watches. You can already buy one from Samsung, LG, Pebble, Sony, Motorola, Huawei etc. - some blending into fitness trackers such as the Microsoft Band. They all cost between \$100 and \$299 and they all do more or less the same thing. You can see if someone has emailed or texted without taking



your phone out of your pocket and (gasp) even check the time - plus a few other fitness tracking bits and pieces.

Due to the lack of a killer application, the consumer response to smart watches has been poor. Only around 740,000 watches were sold last year based on the most popular Android Wear platform. So why is it that when Apple announces one, everyone sits up and takes notice?

Perhaps it is because Apple has a history of reshaping every market segment it enters. It has done this with personal computers (the Macintosh), music players (the iPod), smart phones (the iPhone) and tablets (the iPad). So when Apple releases a smart watch we naturally expect something entirely different; a moving of the goalposts that leaves everyone else kicking the ball in the wrong direction.

Let's see if they can repeat the trick with smart watches on March 9.

With warm regards

Nigel Davies
Director, NDA

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InDesign, SQL, Visual Basic and Acrobat training

We don't have the opportunity to present these courses often so check them out now if you are interested:

- [Adobe Acrobat](#), Launceston, next **Tuesday 10 March** (be quick with this one!)
- [Visual Basic Programming](#), Hobart, **Wednesday March 25**
- [InDesign Introductory](#), Launceston, **Thursday March 26**
- [SQL Introductory](#), Hobart, **Monday 13 April**

You can enrol by calling Janelle on 1300 765 736.

Language, Literacy and Numeracy (LLN)



The unit TAELLN411 Address Adult Language, Literacy and Numeracy Skills may become a core unit in TAE40110 Certificate IV in Training and Assessment. People who already hold a Certificate IV in Training & Assessment may wish to complete the new TAELLN411 unit before this eventuates.

The unit coaches vocational trainers and assessors in identifying language, literacy and numeracy requirements in the training and work environment. Ahead of the upcoming change, and to allow trainers as much lead time as possible, NDA is offering unit TAELLN411 through fast-track workshop training.

One-day Language, Literacy & Numeracy (LLN) Workshop

Our one-day [LLN workshop](#) enables participants to complete nearly all mandatory assessment during the workshop. Assessment projects are completed as in-class learning activities under the supervision of the trainer, meaning the entire unit can be completed in the workshop with minimal post-course assessment work.

Hobart: **Thursday 23 April**

Launceston: **Wednesday 29 April**

Course fee: **only \$295 per person**

To enrol, call Janelle on **1300 765 736**.

Solar panels + batteries



Yep, I have joined the renewables movement by whacking 5 kilowatts of solar cells on the roof of a reno project in the lovely village of Ross. It may not be the most energy efficient installation (a 10 degree angle facing east) but the low profile and symmetrical configuration of black on black panels at the rear of the property make it one of the least visually obtrusive, don't you think? (see photo)

The installation comes with a neat little app that tells you how much power you are producing at any given time and emails you the stats. So I can tell you that:

- In full sun it produces around 4.5 kilowatts (kW) for most of the morning and early afternoon.
- At 5 pm with the sun at a low angle to the west it still produces 1 kW.
- Even with thick cloud cover it produces 0.75 kW.

And producing your own electricity really encourages you to be frugal with power consumption and maximise energy saving measures.

In the ten days since installation it has generated 240 kilowatt-hours (kWh) of electricity, all of which were sold to Aurora for the grand total of, let me see, 240 by 6c / kWh equals, hmm \$14.40. No, it's not going to be a great money spinner at the current feed-in tariff - but it did get me thinking about

the implications for the Tasmanian grid of cheap solar panels (available now) combined with economic battery storage (coming soon).

It works like this. Solar panels produce power when the sun shines, but this is not always when you need it. Consequently you sell the unused power to Aurora for a derisory 6c / kWh and have to buy it back again for 24c / kWh when the sun ain't shining and you do need it.

By adding a battery, electricity can be stored when the sun shines and used from the batteries when needed. And if you have sufficient installed capacity in the panels and batteries you can disconnect from the grid altogether (go 'off-grid') and save thousands of dollars a year.

Unfortunately the batteries available right now are too expensive to make this an economic proposition. But the era of economic, compact and maintenance-free batteries may well begin in about six months when Elon Musk - inventor of the Tesla electric car - is scheduled to release lithium-ion battery packs for the home. Ultimately this will lead to many people significantly reducing their power consumption from the grid and some going off grid. While this may be great at a personal level it could be disastrous for Aurora and, by reflection, the Tasmanian budget.



Tesla home battery pack

As more consumers go off-grid, the cost of power production and distribution falls on a decreasing number of users – making it even more attractive for them also to disengage from the network. This has been called a “death spiral” by some commentators.

Tasmania may be more exposed to the consequences of this phenomenon than other States. Interest bills on borrowings for dams and distribution infrastructure have to be paid regardless of how much electricity is sold (in other States, some costs can be reduced by reducing fuel consumption as demand falls).

Should the scenario outlined above eventuate it will have significant negative consequences for the State's finances, employment in power utilities and 'stranded' infrastructure.

I wrote to the relevant Minister about this and will let you know his response.

Current Government employees eligible for qualification funding

Good news! **All current Government employees (State, Commonwealth and Local Government) are now eligible for State 'User Choice' funding for existing workers** (subject to eligibility determined by an Australian Apprenticeship Centre). The following table shows which NDA qualifications are supported - in most cases the funding covers the entire fee.

Qualification
Cert II in Business
Cert III in Business
Cert III in Business Administration
Cert IV in HR Management
Cert II in IT, Digital Media and Technology
Cert III in IT, Digital Media and Technology
Cert IV in IT
Cert IV in IT Support
Cert IV in IT Networking
Cert II in Tourism
Cert III in Tourism

You can view the outlines for these qualifications [here](#).

What to do next

This is a great opportunity to upgrade your CV with a new qualification - and if you study with NDA the qualification fee includes attendance at all relevant NDA IT and management courses at no additional cost.

We recommend that you **follow up quickly while this funding is available**. If you would like more information, please email info@nda.com.au or call 1300 765 736.

Forthcoming training courses

The following courses will shortly be presented by NDA - some at significant discounts on standard rates. To obtain the discount, please phone Janelle on 1300 765 736 and mention this email when making bookings. Clients with existing bookings for discounted courses may not change them, but additional people may be added at the discounted rate.

Hobart IT Courses

[MYOB Payroll](#) 10 Mar \$285

[Microsoft Project](#) 11/12 Mar - \$480
[Word Introductory](#) 16/18 Mar - \$480
[Word Intermediate](#) 18/19 Mar - \$480
[Word Advanced](#) 19/20 Mar - \$480
[MYOB Setup and Operation](#) 23/24 Mar - \$570
[Visual Basic Programming](#) 25 Mar - \$570
[Intro to PCs with Windows, Word and Excel](#) 26/27 Mar - \$480
[PowerPoint](#) 30 Mar - \$240
[Publisher](#) 1 Apr - \$240
[Access Introductory](#) 8/9 Apr - \$480
[Access Advanced](#) 10 Apr - \$240
[SQL Introductory](#) 13 Apr - \$285
[Excel Introductory](#) 20/22 Apr - \$480
[Excel Intermediate](#) 22/23 Apr - \$480
[Excel Advanced](#) 23/24 Apr - \$480

Hobart Business Skills Courses

[Conducting Successful Meetings](#) 17 Mar - \$285
[Effective Supervision Skills](#) 31 Mar - \$285
[Language, Literacy & Numeracy](#) 29 Apr - \$295

Launceston IT Courses

[MYOB Payroll](#) 10 Mar - \$285
[Adobe Acrobat](#) 10 Mar - \$285
[PowerPoint](#) 11 Mar - \$240
[Word Introductory](#) 17/18 Mar - \$480
[Word Intermediate](#) 18/19 Mar - \$480
[InDesign Introductory](#) 26 Mar - \$285
[Excel Advanced](#) 31 Mar / 2 Apr - \$480
[Access Advanced](#) 24 Apr - \$240

Launceston Business Skills Courses

[Conducting Successful Meetings](#) 17 Mar - \$285
[Effective Supervision Skills](#) 1 Apr - \$285
[Business Writing Skills \(Basics\)](#) 1 Apr - \$285
[Business Writing Skills \(Advanced\)](#) 2 Apr - \$285
[Managing Successful Projects](#) 15/16 Apr - \$570
[Language, Literacy & Numeracy](#) 23 Apr - \$295

Devonport IT Courses

[Word Intermediate](#) 18/19 Mar - \$480
[Introduction to PCs with Windows, Word and Excel](#) 25/26 Mar - \$480
[MYOB Setup & Operation](#) 20/21 Apr - \$570

HOBART

LAUNCESTON

DEVONPORT

Level 3, Trafalgar Centre, 110 Collins St Hobart TAS 7000 Phone: (03) 6224 2660	Level 1, 65 St John Street Launceston TAS 7250 Phone: (03) 6334 4910	The Roberts Building, 23 Stewart St Devonport TAS 7310 Phone: (03) 6423 4547
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