TAFE Illawarra wins award at the 2012 TAFE NSW Doghouse Challenge

TAFE Illawarra was awarded second place at the 2012 TAFE NSW Doghouse Challenge recently. The annual event showcases the designs and craftsmanship of TAFE NSW students using materials provided by Bunnings Warehouse to build doghouses for RSPCA NSW.

The Doghouse Challenge celebrated its ten year anniversary this year. The students involved in this year’s event come from a range of trade backgrounds that include; carpentry, joinery, cabinetmaking, plumbing, shop fitting, painting and decorating and signage.

According to Troy Everett, Relieving Head Teacher in Civil Engineering, this event is a great mentoring and skills development opportunity for our students in a range of areas.

“We were really excited to take part in this year’s event which was held in conjunction with the filming of an episode of the channel 7 program Better Homes and Gardens which was aired on Friday 5 October 2012,” said Mr Everett.

Rob Palmer from Better Homes and Gardens showcased the NSW team’s kennel designs during his DIY segment which then inspired him to build his own kennel.

“This year our Dog Kennel was a castle that looked amazing thanks to the talents of the teachers and students from the Carpentry, Painting and Decorating and Plumbing sections at Wollongong Campus. Our entry was definitely the most popular as it attracted lots of kids on the day,” said Mr Everett.

Each team was given a set amount of materials, generously donated by their local Bunnings Warehouse. It was then up to the students to use their specialist training and a lot of creativity to come up with the winning doghouse design and concept.

All of the teams received the seal of approval from the local crowd on hand and a four-legged judge who closely inspected each of the kennels.

The RSPCA was also a winner, with TAFE NSW donating the finished kennels to help them raise money for the essential work of finding loving new homes for dogs in need.

The 2012 results include:

2012 TAFE NSW Doghouse Challenge Winner: Western Sydney Institute - Mt. Druitt College, Plumbing Section
Runner Up: TAFE Illawarra - Wollongong Campus, Carpentry and Painting and Decorating Sections
Bunnings Warehouse Award: Northern Sydney Institute - North Sydney College, Shop fitting Section
Most Original Award: South Western Sydney Institute - Miller College, Carpentry Section
Functionality Award: New England Institute - Tamworth College, Carpentry Section
Best Flat Pack Award: South Western Sydney Institute - Lidcombe College, Cabinetmaking Section
Best Decoration Award: Sydney Institute - Gymea College, Carpentry Section
Eco-Friendly Design: Northern Sydney Institute - Hornsby College, Carpentry Section

Photos of the event can be found at: http://www.flickr.com/photos/adamlucastafenswworldskills/set/

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