



For several years, the Brimbank/Melton LLEN has worked in close conjunction with the Beacon Foundation. Beacon are a national non-profit organisation working in 119 secondary schools across all Australian states and territories. Beacon believe that every young Australian can develop an independent will to achieve personal success for themselves and their community. Their programs support young people to develop this focus through engaging and influencing the attitudes of the broader community. By harnessing community involvement it works within schools to ensure young people are either earning or learning at vulnerable transition points in their lives. The Brimbank/Melton LLEN works with Beacon in the following areas -

#### Participation in Western Metro Cluster Beacon meetings

The Brimbank/Melton LLEN hosts the Beacon Foundation and Beacon schools meeting in the Western region. Beacon schools with whom the Brimbank/Melton LLEN work with are:

- ❖ Baden Powell College
- ❖ Spirit West (Western Bulldogs)
- ❖ Caroline Springs College
- ❖ St Albans Secondary College
- ❖ Castlemaine Secondary College
- ❖ Sunshine College
- ❖ Kurunjang Secondary College
- ❖ Victoria University Secondary College
- ❖ Maryborough Education Centre

#### Sponsorship and involvement in "POLISH" programs

The "POLISH" program is a dynamic course that assists young people prepare for their careers through personal presentation and communication training.

These skills give students the ability to conduct themselves appropriately when entering the world of work and throughout their employment.

The one-day highly interactive program includes work ethic, department, grooming, employers' expectations, mock interviews, manners and etiquette.

The day is broken up with a format sit down lunch where students are asked to network with local industry representatives using the skills gained from the morning's activities. The program helps build students' self esteem and gives them the 'edge' in a competitive job marketplace.

Core components of the "POLISH" program are:

- Personal presentation and representation
- Gender specific grooming techniques
- Public speaking
- Employers' expectations
- Confidence building
- Self respect
- Healthy living
- Posture/body language
- Manners and etiquette
- Mock interviews

In 2011 the BMLLEN has sponsored 17 "POLISH" courses across 9 colleges totalling \$8,000. The City of Brimbank has also sponsored Brimbank schools to the value of \$3,000.

## Sponsorship and partnering with Beacon in Brimbank Melton-Beacon Futures Forum

In 2011 the Brimbank/Melton LLEN joined with the Beacon Foundation to host a “Futures Forum”. The Forum was held at Victoria University Sunshine Convention Centre in August and was attended by Year 9 and 10 students from Beacon schools. The aim of the Forum was to raise awareness of the possible future pathways for young people and the requirements necessary to achieve successful outcomes.



**Sam Riggio**, was the Guest Speaker. Sam is the author of “Nothing to Fear but Fear itself”. After a horrific car accident in 1999 Sam was told he would never walk again. What Sam discovered and how he taught himself to walk again after over six years is an amazing story. He shared his insights into overcoming trauma, achieving goals against all odds and made a strong connection with the students who attended the Forum.



**Andrew Smith**, Western Metropolitan Career Development Officer from the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, gave the Key Note address which focused on careers and future pathways.



**Vicki Smith**, from Victoria University, provided an overview of the tertiary entrance process.

Students participated in four workshops:

**Workshop 1**

Apprenticeships/ASBA's/Traineeships  
*Presented by Tom Hallinan of  
Apprenticeships Group Australia*



**Workshop 2**

Employability Skills  
*Presented by Eric Keenan  
(Education Consultant)*



**Workshop 3**

Communication & Presentation  
*Presented by Annie Hinton  
(Beacon Foundation)*



**Workshop 4**  
Work Matters

*Presented by Ian Hanmer*

