

MEDIA RELEASE

August 12, 2009

TDT Victoria introduces Ben Usher- a TDT Victoria Cadetship in Logistics success story

Twenty-two year old Ben Usher didn't always know he would pursue a career in the transport/logistics industry. In fact, before assuming the role of Transport Co-ordinator at Toll Shipping through TDT Victoria's Cadetship in Logistics program, Ben thought he wanted to be a hotel manager.

Ben is more than qualified when it comes to the hospitality industry with a Diploma in Hospitality Management from William Angliss and experience gained in various positions in restaurants and hotels. Through the cadetship however, Ben has come to appreciate just how exciting and dynamic the freight transport and logistics industry can be.

TDT Victoria's Cadetship in Logistics program offers a unique career opportunity to those who have completed VCE or VCAL. Successful applicants are employed full-time in leading companies in the areas of Transport, Logistics, Manufacturing and Food Processing.

During the Cadetship, it is mandatory for cadets to undertake study which will see them complete a Diploma of Logistics over two years. Throughout this time, cadets are given opportunities to work in different areas of the company, helping them to gain an overall perspective of how a business functions. Each cadet is also assigned a workplace mentor to ensure individual, personalised training.

When asked to sum up his Cadetship experiences, Ben explains: "My decision to do the Cadetship has definitely been a step in the right direction and I can't see myself leaving the industry. It may be early days, but the future certainly looks really interesting." Ben explains in more detail other aspects of his experiences:

What did you think you wanted to be when you grew up?

A hotel manager. Through work experience however, I decided that hospitality wasn't the industry for me.

Which aspects do you like most about the Cadetship?

I like the career pathways as the career potential is huge. The Cadetship is a fantastic foot in the door and a great beginning. There is not one industry that is not touched by transport and logistics. There are endless positions available and it is a growing global industry.

Why would you recommend this course to others?

The support network is fantastic from the mentors, to the TAFE teachers, to TDT Victoria. On top of that, I really enjoy the industry.

How do you think it has benefited you personally?

I have developed an ability to talk in front of an audience. Also, moving away from a hospitality environment has definitely improved my social life as I now have more time to spend with friends and family.

How did you hear about the Cadetship?

I had left school and completed studies in Hospitality management. But after trying both front of house and back of house jobs, I realised I wanted a career change. I was told about the TDT Victoria Cadetship in Logistics by my mum, who had heard about it when she attended a "Women in Transport" meeting.

Why do you think the logistics industry is so important?

Simply put, people are always going to need things- the freight transport and logistics industry allows people to get them. Australia, being an island, is constantly outsourcing, so we require an organized freight transport system.

What do you think is the most challenging thing about the freight transport logistics industry?

There are a lot of changes that have happened and will continue to happen in coming years, for example 'chain of responsibility' regulations. Sometimes it is difficult for the industry to adapt to these changes. On a personal level, it was initially difficult for me to adapt to an office working environment. However, it has been a positive change and generally speaking, people in the industry want to help each other out.

Career Initiative at Freight People Day on Monday 7 September

Each year TDT Victoria, the Transport and Logistics Industry Training Advisory Board, offers a unique career opportunity to school leavers through its Cadetship in Logistics Program. This program is open to those who have completed year 12 VCE or VCAL between 2007 and 2009 and are interested in beginning a career in Logistics Management.

Freight Week 2009 kicks off with Freight People Day on Monday 7 September highlighting the fact that at its core, the freight logistics industry is a "people" industry.

Attracting, retaining and training the right people is key to building the freight industry's workforce of the future. Freight People Day will acknowledge that freight and logistics is a growing industry and is predicted to double in size by around 2020, yet suffers from a poor career image.

"Many young people consider the freight industry to be just about truck driving. In reality, the industry needs the breadth of skills and knowledge, from professional occupations like lawyers, accountants and human resource managers, through to a vast range of supervisory and operational roles," observes Victorian Transport Association (VTA) CEO Philip Lovel.

For more information and to meet Ben Usher to talk about this career path, please contact: Clemence Harvey at Harvey Publicity: 03 9682 8555/0417 522 603 clemence@harveypublicity.com.au

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