



85 George Street,  
Marulan 2579  
14<sup>th</sup> August, 2011

To Whom It May Concern,

Two years ago, our business, MERIDIAN CAFE, received an invitation to attend an AUSTRAIN ACADEMY information evening, held at the Mittagong RSL. This evening turned our business around. Having young employees in a small, reasonably isolated, country town, we were then able to provide them with a future, made accessible through the training structure of AUSTRAIN. Without this resource, they would have been unable to travel the distances required to attend training, and remain discouraged at the impossibility of gaining the training they wished to pursue.

We presently employ two apprentices, through AUSTRAIN ACADEMY. They are both extremely enthusiastic, grateful for the “hands on” opportunity to learn in a real kitchen environment and are eager to study the unit material to ensure their knowledge and understanding of cookery.

AUSTRAIN ACADEMY, via John Crittenden, has been thorough in communication between all parties, in supply of Study Material for the apprentices, in on sight visits to our establishment to assess the progress of apprentices and generally, in being a friendly and most helpful overseer of the training process. John is a friend to both apprentices and employers, whilst still maintaining the focus of professional training of cookery students.

Our apprentices look forward to Johns visits and, together, study material required to pass assessment, which is then subsequently enforced into the general running of our business. This gives them encouragement that they are closer to their dreams and gives us encouragement that our small business is providing a future for disadvantaged country kids, as well as benefitting our cafe output and quality.

AUSTRAIN ACADEMY is perceived by us as being an essential facility to provide training for remote country youth. The structure of training addresses this and provides encouragement for those who wish to pursue a career in cookery. It has made this training accessible.

As a small business, we fully endorse and support AUSTRAIN ACADEMY. Not just for our business, but for the opportunities for apprenticeships for our local youth. AUSTRAIN runs a tight and happy ship.

Regards,  
Robert & Alison Hickey,  
meridiancafe