

MEDIA RELEASE

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LIQUID NATURAL GAS CONVERSION DRIVING TRUCKS FURTHER

The days of running trucks and heavy transport vehicles on only diesel could soon be a thing of the past as Swan TAFE takes the alternative fuel conversion of automobiles to another level.

The College, alongside Victoria's South West TAFE in Warnambool, is one of the first in the country to offer a course in Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) installation, service and repair for heavy vehicles.

Brian McCarrison, automotive lecturer at Swan TAFE, has praised the new technology which will give heavy vehicles diesel engine performance whilst ensuring cost-savings for the organisation and low emissions for the environment.

"Passenger vehicles have been powered with gas for years, saving motorists thousands of dollars" Brian said.

"The opportunity and, more importantly, the capability to now pass these savings onto heavy vehicle users is a fantastic step ahead for the automotive industry".

The new course, currently being offered at Swan TAFE's Carlisle campus, teaches Alternative Engine Technologies' Duo-Fuel combined diesel and natural gas technology.

"Once converted the heavy duty diesel engines operate primarily on natural gas with diesel fuel acting as a 'liquid spark plug'" says Uli Kruger, Head of Innovation at Duo-Fuel Australia.

"By burning up to 90% natural gas, customers benefit from a combination of low emissions and high efficiency".

The College's first lot of classes have filled fast with trainees from companies such as Cummins Transport, Mitchell West Corporation, Diesel Motors, Westrac, National Transport Engineering (NTE), Sands Refrigeration and the Office of Energy.

Neil Dixon, Head Trainer of Cummins Transport, is assisting the College with its training package and says that although the initial expense of converting a large number of heavy vehicles to LNG could be quite high, it will be worth it in the end.

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“With the cost of diesel fuel being around three-times as much as LNG, a truck that does long haul journeys will repay its conversion cost within two years” Neil said.

As part of the course students will be required to apply their practical skills to a 12L Mercedes Actros truck, converting its previously diesel powered engine to one that is run on LNG and diesel.

Conversion supplies for the course, totalling more than \$55,000, have been donated by Dual-Fuel Australia and Kleenheat Gas.

Ron Shiels, automotive lecturer at Swan TAFE, is grateful for the input and contribution received from industry.

“The support of our many industry partners, particularly Dual-Fuel, Kleenheat Gas and Mitchell Transport is very much appreciated” Ron said.

“Without their support we simply would not be able to offer this training”.

The next course in Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) installation, service and repair for heavy vehicles is scheduled for July 2007. All enquires should be directed to Brian McCarrison on 9267 7455.

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