

Letters: Region suffers as training kitchens stand idle

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Apprentice chefs in the south-west are having to travel to Geelong for their TAFE classes and access to commercial training kitchens. File shot: Queensland TAFE.

[dropcap style="font-size: 60px; color: #8F9F59;"] Dear Editor,

I am writing to you on behalf of many voices within South West Victoria regarding an issue that can no longer be ignored.

Quality training for those in our local community who wish to fulfil their dream of becoming a successful chef in our region is out of reach.

Our hospitality industry is growing in leaps and bounds, but trained professionals are nowhere to be found.

Why?

We no longer offer cookery students a place to blossom and learn paramount skills here in Warrnambool or surrounds.

How do I know this? I drop my partner off at the Warrnambool train station each Monday morning at 5:30am to go to the city of Geelong to attend the Gordon TAFE to fulfil her dreams.

This has serious consequences.

Serious consequences for individuals, industry and the communities here within South West Victoria.

I hear of many people from Warrnambool, Portland, Hamilton, Horsham who work within the industry and then have to source the time, energy and money to travel to the city of Geelong to the Gordon TAFE to undertake their full day cookery classes.

Safety and knowledge for the student, productivity for the local food establishment, and long term community benefit are all suffering from cookery training no longer being offered through South West TAFE.

A once bustling TAFE restaurant now sits empty. Another industrial-sized kitchen at Brauer College sits awaiting eager hands once more. Two 'A' class facilities left to gather dust and cobwebs.

We are a progressive and fast growing city and region. We must demand quality tertiary education for those who wish to better themselves. We have an obligation to individuals, industry and the community to provide high level training and skills within our fast growing and highly popular food and hospitality industry here in this region.

No longer as a community can we remain complacent with this

current situation.

Action is needed now before we all become losers in this current no winner scenario.

Roxanne Thomson, Warrnambool.

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