



Matthew Hague and Chelsea Atkins

students on site

Campus becomes a case study for Bendigo's budding building designers.

Photography by AJ Taylor

The turn of the first sod in February set in motion a multi-million-dollar revitalisation project at Bendigo TAFE's City Campus to provide thousands of students with new learning facilities by mid-2021.

But there's one group of students already benefitting from the project well before its completion.

Enter Bendigo TAFE's building design students.

"Practical experience is an important part of learning, which is why the opportunity for students to be involved in one of our city's most prominent construction projects was not to be missed – especially one involving the creation of state-of-the-art new facilities alongside refurbishment of important heritage buildings," says Bendigo TAFE education manager Matt Hague.

The advanced diploma students will conduct site visits with appointed builder Kane Nicholson to track the stages of the build – from preparatory work like heritage overlays and soil tests, through to community engagement, design approval and the actual build. Students will also complete assignments based on the visits.

"These students will be able to interact first-hand with the builders and see a real-life building emerge from a plan. They will get a much better insight to the industry from being so closely involved," Matt says.

The first visit took place in April, with students donning hard hats and personal protective equipment to tour the site and learn from the experts in the field.

It was a good way to get an understanding of how it all worked in the real world," says student Chelsea Atkins. "We were shown a presentation demonstrating how the buildings were being designed and why they were being designed like that, and then had a chance to go onsite to see the demolition works.





"The visit really opened our eyes to how many people are involved in the design process. It was interesting to see how builds of this scale are highly collaborative and a huge team effort, with the building designer playing a central role to pull together different elements for the building to go ahead."

Currently a second-year student, Chelsea works as a trainee draftsman and hopes to run a business as a building designer in the future.

"This project will really help my understanding of how the building design process works from concept to the actual build," she says.

"We will also get to see any problems that might occur and have an inside look at how they are resolved. Having access to industry experts like the design manager and project director and being able to ask questions is a really useful learning process."

Working with industry will continue to be an important part of learning at Bendigo TAFE.

"We appreciate the support of Kane Nicholson in involving our students in this important project that's set to transform our campus and cityscape," Matt says.

"We look forward to more opportunities to develop new and unique practical learning experiences for our students well into the future."

To find out more about Bendigo TAFE and the Advanced Diploma of Building Design (Architectural), (22477VIC) visit bendigotafe.edu.au ■

