

Junior Technical Education

During the 1890s, many different schools of mines were created closing a gap between primary and tertiary education. After the famous 1901 Royal Commission into Technical Education the Department of Education saw the need to develop state schools which offered practical vocational technical schooling.



First BJTS staff outside their building on the grounds of Dana St Primary School

The Ballarat Junior Technical School (BJTS), opened on 23 February **1913**. The first principal was Albert Steane, previously head of the East Ballarat Sloyd Centre.

Staffed by Department of Education teachers, BJTS was administered by the Ballarat School of Mines (SMB), with the initial aim of bridging the gap between Year 8 (the approved leaving level) and SMB diploma level of tertiary education.

Boys admitted at 13 years of age were exempt from payment for the first year of study. At 14 years they were charged 1 pound 10 shillings per term. Beginning with 2 years the course expanded to 3 years in **1918** for students to achieve the Intermediate Technical Certificate Year. In **1937**, it was reported that the Junior Tech could not take any more students in some classes.

The 86 BJTS students enrolled in **1913** were housed in the old bluestone building of the Dana Street Primary school and an old iron building at the back of the SMB Museum.

A school monogram, created with the colours, green, blue and gold, and included the SMB coat of arms, and the words 'Win Through'. In **1919** a new site and building was planned for SMB on an acre of land cut from the north-east corner of the Ballarat Gaol, bounded on three corners by SMB. A new building opened in **1921** when enrolments rose from 250 through the 1920s and 30s to 400 with the post-war boom in secondary and technical schooling. During the war years students were engaged in activities relating to the war effort and safety, including digging air-raid trenches.



Ballarat Junior Tech School Woodwork



Ballarat Junior Tech School Sheet Metal

In **1960**, the SMB Council passed a resolution that a girls wing be established on another site, which then became the Sebastopol Technical School. For over 50 years the BJTS functioned as the main source of diploma students for SMB.

UBTec

The Victorian Government funded the establishment of the University of Ballarat Technical Education Centre (UB Tec) in **2007** with the goal to increase the percentage of young people who complete Year 12 or its equivalent and begin vocational and technical courses earlier. Three other TECs were established across Victoria.

UBTec provides applied learning to Year 11 and 12 students (16 – 20 year olds) in the Ballarat region. Students develop employability skills which assist in creating positive pathways to apprenticeships; pre-apprenticeships; further study; and employment. Students gain a Victorian Certificate of Vocational Learning (VCAL), Intermediate and Senior and a Certificate in their chosen vocational area on completion of their studies.



UBTec student – Melbourne Cup

Beginning with 85 students in **2008**, student numbers have grown significantly with students initially accommodated within the SMB campus.

UBTec boasts a purpose-built building to accommodate 300 students established in the vocational training precinct of Grant Street.