



Brimbank Leader

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First day at school

Subject experts on united campus

Education | Paula Maud

TWO young university graduates will start their new career paths at a Brimbank school, itself undergoing a major transition.

Michael Cao and Rebecca Ferretti, both 23, are Teach for Australia participants, high-achieving university graduates from specialised fields recruited to a new two-year program to work in disadvantaged secondary schools.

While Mr Cao, a commerce/accounting graduate and Ms Ferretti (creative arts), were getting ready for the school term, they joined staff from Brimbank and Deer Park secondary colleges at a joint meeting to mark the amalgamation of the two colleges into a new entity – Victoria University Secondary College.

The education department has plans to close the Jamieson St site when the new Victoria University Secondary College senior campus

is built in Cairnlea, which could be in 2011 when Kealba Secondary College will also amalgamate.

The Deer Park campus will become the junior campus.

For Ms Ferretti the amalgamation added to her excitement at starting a new job.

“I find it really interesting, we’re coming in as complete clean slates (for the change).” she said.

Ms Ferretti said she had always wanted to teach and was looking forward to working among adolescents.

“It’s a really exciting time with so many transitions,” she said.

Teaching offered her a chance to explore both sides of her personality.

“Teaching is a practical application but it’s also highly creative,” she said.

Passionate about business since high school, Mr Cao has worked on a number of projects with not-for-profit organisations but was look-

ing forward to “being thrown in the deep end and really challenged” in the classroom.

He said he was excited to be off the “well-trodden route” of bank work taken by most accounting graduates.

But with two year 11 classes of accounting and business management, a year 9 humanities and year 10 careers class to start the year he welcomed the support and mentoring of other teachers.

“All the staff are incredibly supportive, the culture here is great,” he said.

He said the intense six-week training required for the Teach for Australia graduates had made a teaching career more accessible.

“Getting a Dip Ed (Diploma of Education) had crossed my mind but spending another year studying was a big barrier.”

► **For more on Teach for Australia go to teachforaustralia.org**



Michael Cao and Rebecca Ferretti will start their teaching careers this week at Victoria University Secondary College. Picture: ROBERT McKECHNIE N328M609