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Victor Harbor writer Madeleine Brunato has been made a Fellow of the Fellowship of Australian Writers (SA).

Writer honored

Victor Harbor writer Madeleine Brunato was made a Fellow of the Fellowship of Australian Writers (SA) in Adelaide on Friday.

The honor was bestowed in recognition of Mrs Brunato's 25 years' dedication to the fellowship, at its annual dinner.

State president Kay Argent paid tribute to her services to the arts in South Australia.

Nation-wide there are some 6000 members in the FAW, but Mrs Brunato is the first Fellow in South Australia and one of only half a dozen in Australia.

She founded, and was president of State FAW for 16 years, was federal president for two years, and has been 18 years president of South Coast FAW.

Mrs Brunato has hosted many well-known overseas and interstate writers and organised many seminars and writing schools in South Australia and other states.

When not working on her own books, she has tutored for 20 years at most TAFE colleges in SA and interstate, and in private classes.

She has lectured at schools, and has used creative writing as therapy to help disadvantaged people.

Continued page 2

Changes to strengthen local TAFE

South Coast TAFE could only be strengthened as a result of the amalgamation of its parent college with two others, the acting director of the Noarlunga College of TAFE, Garry Coombes, said.

Mr Coombes said the Noarlunga, Barker and Kingston colleges had agreed to merge to form an Institute of Vocational Education.

The new system is being adopted Statewide and will see the 19 TAFE colleges reshaped into 10 larger institutes.

"The amalgamation won't mean there will be 30 per cent more or 30 per cent less courses available at Victor, Mr Coombes said.

"What will change is the types of resources that are available, rather than the numbers.

"For example, Barker has a very strong rural studies section and I would expect that that would be one area which would be strengthened on the South Coast."

"However, we would not be moving complete programs, such as the excellent electrical course offered at Kingston."

There would be greater emphasis on industry training needs and TAFE students would have access to previously unavailable private and public courses including Skillshare and Kickstart, he said.

"I believe there will be more programs at Victor Harbor in the next two to three years," said acting director of the Noarlunga College of TAFE, Garry Coombes.

The move toward formation of Institutes of Vocational Education resulted from the National Training Authority agenda. That would flow down into State bodies. The need was for quite large institutions to attract the levels of funding required to continue and strengthen programs on offer.

Mr Coombes said it was a bit early to detail what could be offered at Victor Harbor. The directors of the three institutes were meeting for the first time yesterday to begin planning the details of the amalgamation.

"I believe there will be more programs at Victor Harbor in the next two to three years," Mr Coombes said. "But to say they will be a direct result of the amalgamation ... it's too early to say.

"The sort of developments we will be looking at on the South Coast will be targeting vocational education and job opportunities for young people.

"Only yesterday I was talking to the CES about promoting another traineeship course - in retail and general office traineeship - to be run at Victor Harbor later this year."

"What we will be doing is developing an umbrella structure to provide, among other things, the development of TAFE programs. This institute is likely to develop and maintain strong links with training providers and senior secondary education on the South Coast."

"All of this will tend to strengthen job opportunities for young people on the South Coast."

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