



Celebrations for centre

BRIAN KARLOVSKY

WHEN Willmot resident Steven Baxter arrived at work one day to find the doors locked, he had a sinking feeling he might need to look for another job.

He was right.

It marked the start of four years of part-time and casual work – every month he would scrape together just enough to pay the mortgage and feed the family.

He said he asked Centrelink for help but because he worked casually they could not help him.

But two days after he

walked into the Ropes Crossing Skilling and Employment Centre at St Marys, he had an interview for a full-time job.

“It’s lucky that I came in to the centre that day because I probably would’ve lost my house the way things were going,” Mr Baxter said.

He is a full-time gardening supervisor and couldn’t be happier.

Last week, the centre was visited by Mr Baxter and Employment Participation Minister Mark Arbib to celebrate its fifth anniversary. More than 1800 people have

found jobs at the centre, established by Delfin Lend Lease.

Senator Arbib said the centre was “changing lives” by matching someone with a job every day.

“The centre is helping drive local responses to unemployment and going the extra mile to help the community find work,” he said.

The centre has computers for online job searches, advice on writing resumes and job applications, training for job interviews and information on local training courses, apprenticeships and traineeships.



CONTACT DETAILS

Employers or jobseekers who want to find out more about the centre can phone either Jan or Kim on 9673 1225.



Federal Labor MP for Lindsay David Bradbury (left) looks on as Steven Baxter and Mark Arbib cut the centre’s birthday cake.

Picture: DAVID MARSHALL -FP3816