

# Facebook helps to soothe sword fears

EDUCATION REPORTER

CANDICE KELLER



BRIGHTON Secondary School students discussed alleged threats from a student wielding a Samurai sword via Facebook while the school was in lockdown yesterday morning.

As school authorities worked with police to secure the school and locate the offender, students hid in classrooms under desks and communicated with mobile phones about what was happening.

At about 9am a male student, 15, who was suspended from the school for Term 3, entered the Brighton grounds with a sheathed Samurai sword.

Year 12 student Michael, 17, said students initially thought the alarms signified a drill but soon realised the threat was real.

"I just heard the sirens go off and didn't have a clue what was going on," he said.

"Without Facebook we wouldn't have had a clue what was going on. Without that I'm sure we would have all been a little bit more scared. I felt quite relaxed because we all had the same story, so we didn't feel all that scared."

The South Australian As-



ALARM: Brighton Secondary School in lockdown yesterday. Below, student Michael, 17.

Picture: CHRIS MANGAN

sociation of State School Organisations, the state's peak parent body, said the circulation of information via the internet could cause alarm among the school community, but commended the school on its handling of the incident.

"Information can get out before (detail) is known ... You don't know who else is seeing that information, it's not necessarily the best way to learn about a serious incident like this," SAASSO di-

rector David Knuckey said. "But that's just the world we live in now."

The Seacombe Gardens teenager was approached in a hallway by a male teacher because he was not wearing a school uniform. The student revealed the weapon, keeping it in the sheath, before pushing the teacher and fleeing the school grounds.

The teenager was found less than an hour later by police at Brighton beach, with the sheathed sword still in his

possession. He gave himself up to authorities following negotiation.

Chief Inspector Les Buckley said the student was charged with aggravated assault and carrying a dangerous weapon and investigations would continue.

The student was arrested two weeks ago for threatening a teacher, when he claimed to have a firearm but was found to not be carrying one.



## Welcome spike in trainee, apprentice numbers

LUCY HOOD  
EDUCATIONNOW EDITOR

THE number of South Australians commencing training at one of the state's largest employers of apprentices and trainees has jumped by almost a quarter in the first half of the year, figures show.

Group Training Australia SA figures show that between January and June this year, the number of apprenticeships or traineeships that were commenced increased by 23 per cent compared with the same time last year.

State Employment, Training and Further Education Minister Jack Snelling said the half-yearly figures resulted in GTA SA's members achieving an overall increase of more than 7 per cent in apprentices and trainees during the 2009/10 financial year compared with the previous year.

"GTA SA represents a wide network of training organisations providing employment for about 4000 apprentices and trainees across the state," he said. "These increases in young people in training are extremely encouraging."

The figures paint a more positive outlook for the sector, following a report last month which found the number of South Australians starting apprenticeships and traineeships dropped to its lowest level in seven years.



Celebrating 40 years of expert knowledge and service

## Ted's 40th Birthday Savings



BONUS  
CANON IXUS CASE  
VALUE \$30



SAVE \$50  
**\$299.95**

CANON IXUS 130is  
COMPACT DIGITAL



BONUS  
TSTAR COMPACT CASE  
VALUE \$25



SAVE \$50  
**\$599.95**

PANASONIC LUMIX TZ10  
COMPACT ZOOM

EXCLUSIVE TO TED'S



BONUS  
DSLR TRIPOD  
VALUE \$50



**\$749.95**  
BEFORE CASHBACK  
**\$699.95**  
AFTER CASHBACK\*

NIKON D3000 VR KIT

with Nikon AF-S 18-55mm VR Stabiliser Zoom



\*\$50 cashback via redemption from [www.nikon.com.au](http://www.nikon.com.au) ends 19th September 2010



Total prize value  
**\$5000**



Celebrate your city! Win a Nikon DSLR Kit!  
Upload your best 'city' photo to [www.teds.com.au](http://www.teds.com.au)



Where Australia Shops for Cameras

All offers end 26th September 2010 or until sold out or otherwise stated. Not all stocks available all stores. For Nikon photo competition details please visit [www.teds.com.au](http://www.teds.com.au). Every effort is made to avoid errors in this publication, but Ted's does not warrant the accuracy of the content of this publication and may correct any errors and may refuse to sell any product or service. Any liability of Ted's in respect of any part of this publication is negated to the extent permitted by law. And if liable Ted's obligation is limited to resupply of the goods or services, or repair, or payment for customers doing so, as Ted's chooses. Nikon cashback via redemption from [www.nikon.com.au](http://www.nikon.com.au). Bonus products included at Ted's normal price only.

Adelaide 212 Rundle St  
Phone: 8223 3449  
Marion Westfield Shopping Centre  
Phone: 8179 4800

Buy or  
browse  
online at  
[teds.com.au](http://teds.com.au)