

Ballarat company wins \$18m tender

UB ready to build

By **TIM O'CONNOR**

BALLARAT-BASED Nicholson Construction is poised to start work on the University of Ballarat's new Manufacturing Technology Training Centre (MTTC) after winning the \$18 million tender.

The MTTC, which will become a vocational education and training centre for western Victoria, is due for completion in September 2013.

Richard Nicholson, director of Nicholson Construction, said the company would employ a new University of Ballarat apprentice specifically for the Grant St project, which will require up to 60 workers on site every day until completion.

"It's quite a nice link that all of our apprentices have come through the university, through SMB in the earlier days, and it's wonderful to think now we have the skills to deliver this marvellous facility back to the university," Mr Nicholson said at the announcement.

Mr Nicholson said 80 per cent of the project work will be sourced locally, with the remaining 20 per cent not available in the local area.

"That's local tradesmen, local sub-contractors and local suppliers," he said.

"We are very proud to be local, and we are committed to supporting local trades in Ballarat."

University of Ballarat vice-chancellor Professor David Battersby said Nicholson Construction had won the tender over Melbourne companies.

"The MTTC will bring together the vocational education and training streams associated with manufacturing services. When completed, the centre will greatly increase our capacity to train apprentices in these disciplines," he said.

Nicholson Construction is also working on the \$17 million Coleraine Hospital development, and recently completed the award-winning \$10 million Hepburn Spa Bath House.



AT WORK: David Battersby and Richard Nicholson