

Situated in Coorparoo, a suburb on the outskirts of Brisbane, Queensland, Aesthetica is a buzzing salon that boasts a diverse range of services that are both broad and specialised. Permanent hair reduction, skin-management solutions and a complete range of beauty therapy services, plus makeup and style consultancy as well as hair services.

As any business owner will tell you the success of any salon also leans heavily on the passion and commitment of its staff, and Aesthetica has a rising star that it is happy to boast about.

Michelle Killeen, fondly nicknamed “Irish”, with a friendly smile, cheery laugh and inexhaustible sense of humour, is one of Aesthetica's highly qualified senior beauty therapists.

Having just celebrated two years with Aesthetica this March, Michelle recently also graduated from a level 7 post-graduate qualification in IPL/Laser hair reduction. The 70110 Vocational Graduate Certificate in IPL/Laser Hair Reduction is a government approved qualification and Michelle was one of the first in Australia to obtain this qualification as part of the National Workforce Development Fund – the first co-contribution government-funded program for the beauty industry. This initiative was introduced to the beauty industry by APAN, which was appointed by Services Skills Australia as the lead organisation.

APAN selected and made this qualification available to the industry through four Registered Training Organisations, one of which was Beauty Therapy Training Australia in Cooolongatta, Queensland, from whom Michelle completed her qualification over a six-month period.

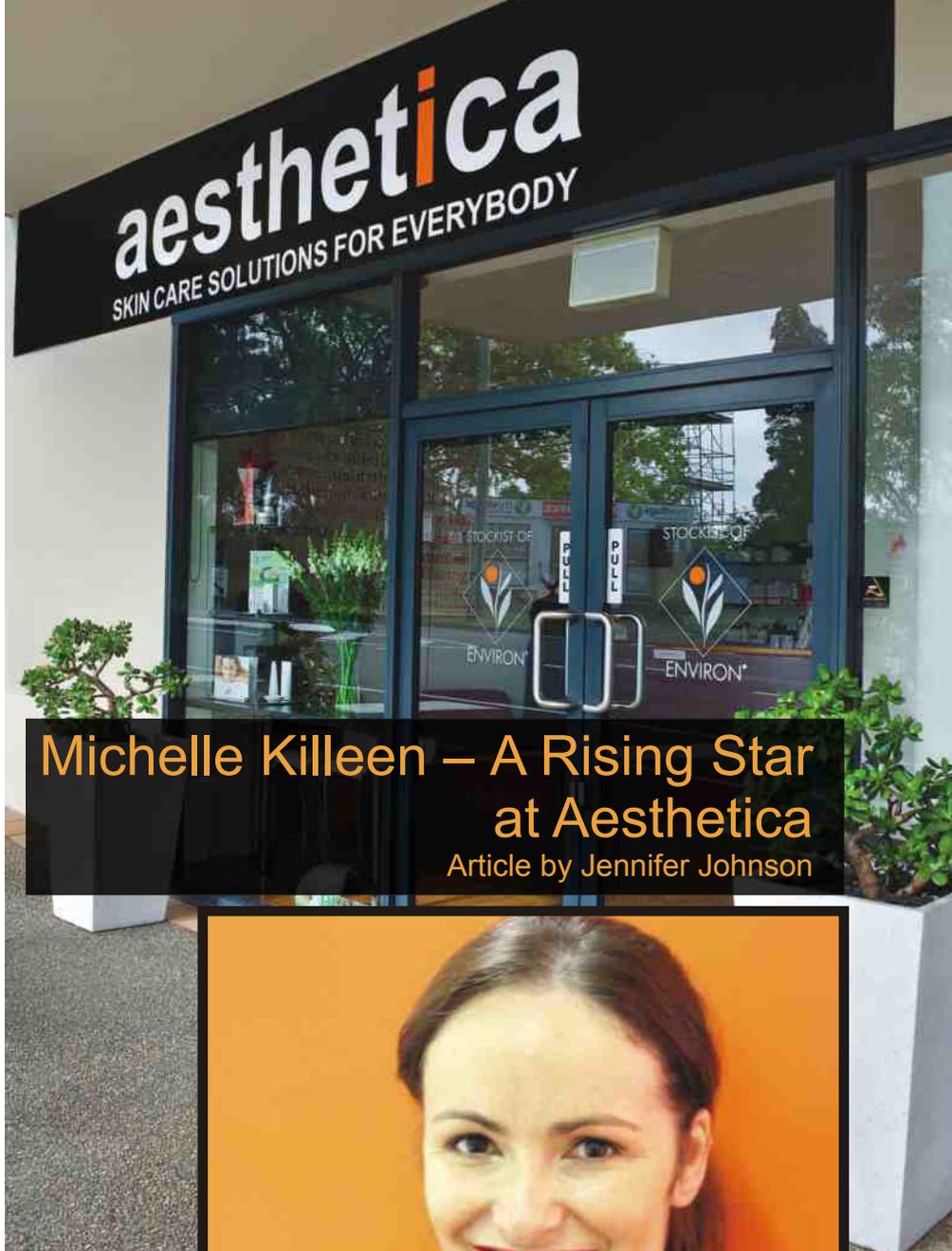
Despite her youth, Michelle has an extensive background in Beauty Therapy, an interest that began back in her home country of Ireland. “In high school, I knew I wanted to work in a profession that would use my hands,” says Michelle. When a visiting beauty therapist spoke during a career guidance class about working in the industry, Michelle, at the age of 15, knew she had found her career path.

After high school, Michelle attended Mayoralty College in Galway, completing a full-time Beauty, Body and Massage course. One of her awarded diplomas – the CIDESCO – is an internationally recognised qualification allowing the holder to work in over 32 countries and is no small effort to attain.

For three years Michelle worked in the prestigious Ashford Castle in Mayo – a five-star hotel voted No. 1 best hotel resort in Ireland, “It was such a beautiful place to go to work,” says Michelle.

At Ashford Castle, Michelle worked as a full-time spa therapist carrying out five-star treatments in massage, facials and body therapy.

Moving to Australia, Michelle commenced working in a luxury day



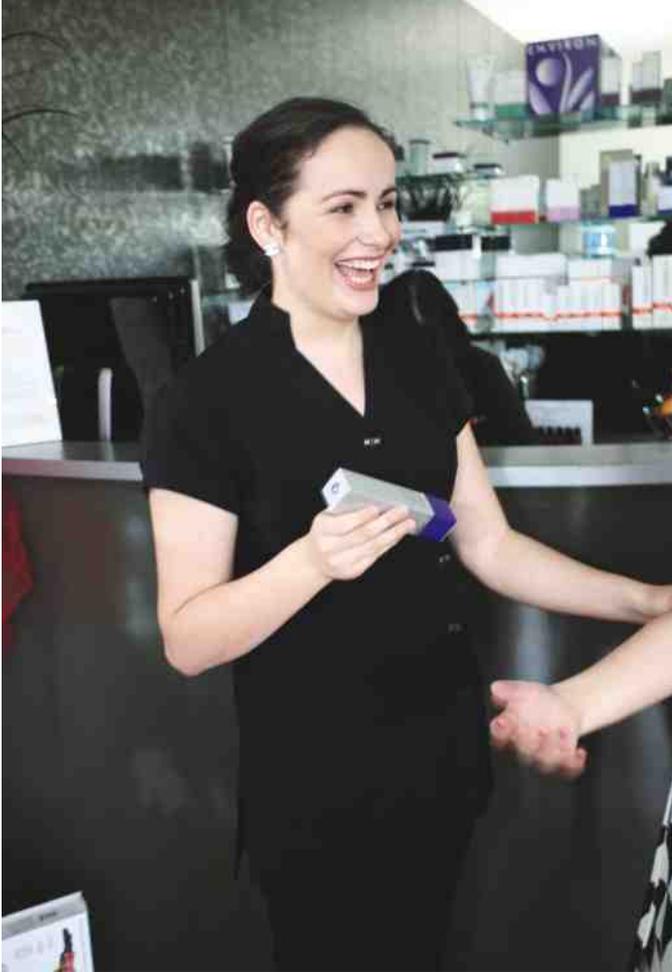
Michelle Killeen – A Rising Star at Aesthetica

Article by Jennifer Johnson



spa in Jindalee in Queensland, which focused on traditional beauty and spa treatments.

Seeking a more permanent position, Michelle joined Aesthetica in



The course was comprehensive and included:

- The theory and physicals of light-based technology and in particular IPL and laser
- Health and safety requirements, protocols and procedures
- Maintain infection control
- Designing individual treatment plans
- Studying various case studies relating to this procedure
- Skin types and determining appropriate application perimeters
- Treatment techniques for best treatment outcomes
- Case studies and their relevance to the treatment
- Other technologies and associated treatments to complement these treatments

“We are pleased to have Michelle gain this qualification as this will contribute to our long-term success in these services, as we have 14 years of IPL experience on record in our salon,” says Tracy.

March 2012, where she began learning more advanced beauty-therapy procedures. “Aesthetica is heavily involved in hair removal, skin rejuvenation, vascular and skin pigmentation, along with corrective and anti-ageing treatments using modern equipment technologies and protocols,” Michelle says.

When Michelle finished college in Ireland, IPL and laser therapy was very new to the industry. “Before IPL hair-removal methods were waxing, tweezing, sugar methods, which, as we know, are all temporary,” Michelle confirms. “The IPL machine revolutionised the hair-removal industry, and when I started working with Aesthetica I wanted to know more about permanent hair reduction.”

Aesthetica's Salon Director, Tracy Dobbin, ever mindful of providing the latest and safest services to clients, encouraged Michelle to gain higher qualification in IPL and laser. Due to a lack of regulations several unscrupulous operators whose services contributed to burns have had their stories aired on *A Current Affair* and other TV programs, contributing to the industry receiving bad publicity.

With this in mind APAN saw the opportunity to assist businesses gain qualifications in this area, and so when the government approached them to nominate a qualification they immediately identified the 70110 Vocational Graduate Certificate in IPL and Laser Hair Reduction as the preferred qualification to request government-funded support for salon owners and their staff.

In completing this qualification Michelle gained competence in both the theory and practical application of laser and IPL hair reduction.



“I would like to thank Angie Smith at Beauty Therapy Training Australia in Queensland with who I undertook my training, Michelle said. “Her teaching was thorough and comprehensive and has given me great confidence in moving forward with high skills and knowledge in delivering successful and effective IPL treatments.

“I also would like to thank APAN for the services they are providing me as a member. Their Code of Ethics is exceptional and their services and support to me as a professional allows me to feel a sense of protection and that I can always turn to an industry expert who can give me credible, professional advice and guide me with any decision-making. As an APAN member I can now access

numerous discounts. As an example I can secure a 25% discount on my insurance for my IPL services.

“APAN is a highly respected body in the industry and is acknowledged for their pursuit of initiatives such as their conference programs and their journal *APJ* in assisting the industry to achieve a higher professional status,” Michelle concluded. **APJ**

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