



Department of
Education and Training

Media Statement

10 August 2009

Attention: News Editor / Chief of Staff

Maylands and Bedford locals among WA's top apprentices in WA Training Awards 2009

Bedford apprentice Wade Reynolds and Maylands school-based apprentice Joel Green are both finalists in the prestigious WA Training Awards 2009.

Mr Reynolds is one of four finalists in the WA Apprentice of the Year, sponsored by ApprentiCentre and Mr Green is contender for the WA School-based Apprentice of the Year title sponsored by the Perth Convention Exhibition Centre.

Mr Reynolds, 30, who started his apprenticeship at 27, said his university degrees in computer science and mathematics gave him a solid foundation for the role of electrical and instrument technician for Woodside's offshore oil and gas operation on the North West Shelf.

He said anyone thinking of starting an apprenticeship should talk with as many people in the industry as possible.

"For the first two years of my apprenticeship I worked on the Northern Endeavour in the Timor Sea. Due to my previous experience and high achievements I quickly found that crew members who had many years experience as tradespeople were coming to me for advice," he said.

"My future career goal is to increase my responsibilities as part of a larger crew on the North West Shelf.

"Despite the economic downturn, it looks as though there are still opportunities for people with specialised skills to have a fruitful career in oil and gas for many years to come."

Mr Green, WA School-based Apprentice of the Year finalist, is studying a Certificate III in Automotive Technology through the Australian Technical College in South Perth.

After completing Year 11 in 2001 he worked in several labouring roles but said his prior knowledge and interest in cars and mechanics made him ideal for an apprenticeship at Shacks Holden in Fremantle.

"While safety rules did not allow me to service vehicles unsupervised as a first year apprentice, I quickly demonstrated to my employer that I can work effectively with minimal supervision," he said.

"With the way the world is going, the best way to stay in the workforce is to have a trade up your sleeve so this is the best decision I have made."

Department of Education and Training Director General Sharyn O'Neill said the WA Training Awards recognised the very high quality and standards of the training system in Western Australia.

"A highly skilled workforce is essential for our economic and social prosperity," she said.

“The high calibre of the finalists across all the award categories shows how flexible and innovative training delivers results for industries, employers, communities and training providers.”

Winners of the WA Training Awards 2009 will be announced on Friday 4 September.

The winner of the WA Apprentice of the Year of the Year and WA School-based Apprentice of the Year will go on to compete against the best in Australia at the Australian Training Awards in Canberra in November.

The WA Training Awards 2009 are a joint initiative of the Department of Education and Training and the State Training Board.

For more information visit: trainingawards.det.wa.edu.au.

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