



Department of
Education and Training

Media Statement

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Attention: News Editor / Chief of Staff

South East residents in contention for WA Training Awards

A talented young jewellery designer, two budding chefs, and an electrician are four local finalists in the prestigious WA Training Awards 2009.

Armadale resident Sally Hanbury is a contender for the WA Vocational Student of the Year sponsored by the Australian Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations; Seville Grove's Blake McCarthy is in the finals for the WA Apprentice of the Year title, sponsored by ApprentiCentre and Martin's Daniel Lowe and Canning Vale's Haydn Solomon are finalists in the WA School-based Apprentice of the Year category, sponsored by the Perth Convention Exhibition Centre.

Miss Hanbury, who recently graduated with an Advanced Diploma of Jewellery and Object Design, the highest qualification in jewellery from Central TAFE, said she attributed much of her success to her training.

"The business skills I developed through my course gave me the confidence and ability to start my own jewellery label," she said.

"I also secured an apprenticeship at prestigious jeweller Linneys which has given me a valuable insight into the workings of a successful jeweller's workshop.

"It's an honour to be nominated for the awards and be an ambassador for my industry."

Electrotechnology Systems Electrician, Blake McCarthy, who is an active member of the Armadale Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service said he chose a career that allowed him to work in different places.

"I'm an outdoors man and working in the Water Corporation's engineering and construction services branch allows me to do what I love," he said.

Daniel Lowe and Haydn Solomon are doing their school-based apprenticeship at John Wallaston Anglican School and Swan TAFE.

Both apprentice chefs have a passion for food and have enjoyed working with some of Perth's most renowned chefs.

Named 2008 School Apprentice of the Year at the Hospitality Group Training Awards Mr Lowe enjoys cooking for family and friends.

"I developed a love of cooking from a very early age," Mr Lowe said.

Currently working at The Royal in East Perth, Mr Solomon said he liked working with other chefs and was keen to listen and take directions from more experienced team members.

"I'm committed to improving my skills through training and I'm going to ensure I succeed," he said.

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, WA Vocational Student 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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