



Real Training for Real Jobs

JEREMY CONNELL

FINALIST - 2017 APPRENTICE OF THE YEAR

Jeremy's apprenticeship dream welded firmly at school

Not long after Jeremy Connell, 15, walked through their doors for a week's work experience, managers at Wangaratta Engineering saw his potential. When he returned a few weeks later to ask if they would support him under the School-Based Apprenticeship and Traineeship (SBAT) program, the answer was yes.

Later the company offered him a full apprenticeship, but he wanted to finish Year 12, and they held a position open for him. Jeremy, 21, has completed Certificate III Engineering with GOTAFE and is working as a fully qualified fitter and machinist at Wangaratta Engineering.

"During high school, I always knew I wanted to pursue a career in engineering, and a week of work experience at Wangaratta Engineering left me with no doubt," Jeremy says.

"I love engineering because it allows me to be hands-on, creative and diverse every day. I love being able to start with nothing and produce a finished product that I can say: I'm proud of that."

When he completed Year 12, Jeremy says he had the opportunity to go to university.

"However, I wanted to learn real-life application, and so I chose to pursue an apprenticeship," he says.

"I'm a hands-on person and I didn't want to lose the opportunity to work at Wangaratta Engineering, as I love where I work. There is always a diverse range of jobs, and a wide range of equipment".



"GOTAFE helped improve my communication and leadership skills, and at the workplace and TAFE I always felt supported and encouraged to do my best and try new things."

Apprentice of the Year

The Apprentice of the Year Award is presented to a Victorian Apprentice who has been outstanding in all aspects of their trade.

Recognise and honour outstanding achievements in training



ABOUT THE VICTORIAN TRAINING AWARDS

Each year, the prestigious Victorian Training Awards recognise and honour the outstanding achievements of vocational education and training students, teachers, training providers and employers.

The Awards celebrate excellence in the training and TAFE system, highlight student achievements and the businesses' who train them. Showcases innovation and collaboration between industry and training providers - continuing to put Victoria's top achievers in the spotlight.

Through *Skills First*, the Victorian Government is delivering a trusted training and TAFE system that delivers real training for real jobs. The Awards bring confidence and pride to vocational education and training.

AWARD CATEGORIES

Individual Categories

- Vocational Student of the Year
- Apprentice of the Year
- Trainee of the Year
- Koorie Student of the Year
- School-based Apprentice/Trainee of the Year
- Teacher/Trainer of the Year

Training Provider Categories

- Small Training Provider of the Year
- Large Training Provider of the Year
- Community Training Provider of the Year

Employer Categories

- Small Employer of the Year
- Medium Employer of the Year
- Large Employer of the Year
- Employer Award for Apprenticeship Development

Industry Collaboration Award

Lynne Kosky Memorial Award for Lifetime Achievement

Australian Training Awards

There are five Australian Training Awards categories open for direct entry:

- National Achievement Award
- Excellence in Language, Literacy and Numeracy Practice Award
- International Training Provider of the Year Award
- School Pathways to VET Award
- Australian Apprenticeships - Employer Award

WHY APPLY?

The Awards set the standards for vocational education and training in Victoria; promoting high quality training and workplace skill development.

Being a finalist puts organisations at the forefront, building brand recognition and a strong industry reputation. In turn attracting a better standard of employees.

Students have the opportunity to showcase skills and their journey within the training and TAFE system. Plus students have the chance to network with industry experts and employers from across the state to help build their careers.

Award winners receive \$5,000 prize money.

Winners go on to be ambassadors for the Victorian Training Awards and have the opportunity to represent Victoria nationally at the Australian Training Awards (in aligned categories).

For more information visit Victorian Training Awards www.education.vic.gov.au/vta

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