



Australian Government

AUSTRALIAN TRAINING AWARDS

REAL STORIES. REAL ACHIEVEMENTS.



BRENDEN WILLIAMSON

2015 AUSTRALIAN SCHOOL-BASED APPRENTICE OF THE YEAR

QUALIFICATION:
CERTIFICATE III IN
MOTORCYCLE MECHANICAL
TECHNOLOGY

EMPLOYER:
TROOPER LU'S GARAGE

**REGISTERED TRAINING
ORGANISATION:**
TAFE NSW – SYDNEY
INSTITUTE

SCHOOL:
CHESTER HILL HIGH SCHOOL

The Australian School-based Apprentice of the Year recognises the most outstanding Australian School-based Apprentice in Australia undertaking a Certificate III or above qualification.

Brenden Williamson's dream of starting a motorcycle apprenticeship while still at school set him up for quite a task. But now, as winner of the Australian School-based Apprentice of the Year Award at the 2015 Australian Training Awards, and in the second year of a Certificate III in Motorcycle Mechanical Technology, Brenden knows it was worthwhile.

At the age of 15, Brenden heard about Australian School-based Apprenticeships (ASbA) and loved the idea. "Something that let me start the apprenticeship I wanted to do, earned me a bit of money and also let me finish Year 12 was worth a try."

No New South Wales students had previously undertaken Brenden's particular qualification as an ASbA, but he and his teachers

made it happen, assisted by the Yamaha Student Grand Prix Partnership that had been created to help address the shortage of experienced technicians in the marine and motorcycle industry.

Each week Brenden travelled the three hour round trip to attend his workplace plus an hour each way to TAFE. He also volunteered at expos and schools, promoting the value of an ASbA to students.

"I want younger students to see that there's an alternative to dropping out of school. I also want people to know that there are career paths equally as good as university," Brenden says.

Brenden is particularly pleased with his award for the influence the title will add to his passionate promotion of Australian School-based Apprenticeships.

"I'm now speaking to them as the Australian winner."

Now 18, Brenden says he's really learned the value of networks and the support of family, friends, colleagues, teachers and employers.

"I've continued great friendships with Yamaha and my teacher who really supported me. My employer is supportive of my speaking commitments and now my network includes the Australian Training Awards community."

Brenden's award also makes him an Australian Apprenticeships Ambassador, but it's easy to see that's a role he's already been unofficially performing for some time.

ABOUT THE AUSTRALIAN TRAINING AWARDS

Each year, the Australian Training Awards recognise and celebrate the outstanding achievements of Australian Apprentices, vocational students, training practitioners, businesses, secondary schools, industry and registered training organisations for their contribution to skilling Australia.

The majority of the awards are the culmination of the state and territory awards programs with winners from each state and territory eligible to compete at the national level in aligned categories.

There are also seven award categories available by entering directly to the Australian Training Awards.

Individual

- Lifetime Achievement Award (**direct entry**)
- National Achievement Award (**direct entry**)
- Excellence in Language, Literacy and Numeracy Practice Award (**direct entry**)
- Australian School-based Apprentice of the Year Award
- Vocational Student of the Year Award
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student of the Year Award
- Australian Apprentice (Trainee) of the Year Award
- Australian Apprentice of the Year Award
- VET Teacher/Trainer of the Year Award

Business

- Australian Apprenticeships – Employer Award (**direct entry**)
- Small Employer of the Year Award** (**direct entry**)
- Medium Employer of the Year Award
- Large Employer of the Year Award
- Industry Collaboration Award

Registered Training Organisation

- School Pathways to VET Award (**direct entry**)
- International Training Provider of the Year Award* (**direct entry**)
- Small Training Provider of the Year Award
- Large Training Provider of the Year Award

* Applications for this award are made directly to the Australian Training Awards in all states and territories except Western Australia where applications must be made direct to the WA Training Awards.

** Businesses registered in Queensland, Tasmania and the ACT must apply for the Small Employer of the Year Award through the relevant 2016 state or territory training awards. Businesses registered in New South Wales, South Australia, Victoria, Western Australia and the Northern Territory must apply directly to the Australian Training Awards.

DISCOVER MORE OF THE POTENTIAL BENEFITS OF APPLYING FOR AN AUSTRALIAN TRAINING AWARD BY DOWNLOADING THE WHY APPLY FACT SHEET OR VISIT THE WHY AND HOW TO ENTER PAGE OF THE AUSTRALIAN TRAINING AWARDS WEBSITE.

WHY APPLY?

The awards offer participants Australia-wide recognition for exceptional training outcomes and an opportunity to become known as the best-of-the-best, nationally.

For individuals, the awards can open up networks and career opportunities within the business sector and provide you with the opportunity to become a national ambassador for skills to promote the vocational education and training sector at a national level.

For businesses and registered training organisations, the awards can propel you into the national spotlight, positioning you as a front runner in skills and workforce development and leader in best practice. This will set you apart from the competition and make you an employer or registered training organisation of choice.

