



Australian Government

**AUSTRALIAN  
TRAINING  
AWARDS**

# REAL STORIES. REAL ACHIEVEMENTS.



## JOEL SCHWARZ

**2013 AUSTRALIAN SCHOOL-BASED APPRENTICE OF THE YEAR**

**QUALIFICATION:**  
CERTIFICATE III IN  
AUTOMOTIVE MECHANICAL  
TECHNOLOGY

**EMPLOYER:**  
SUNRISE AG.  
(WHEAT RIDGE PTY LTD)

**REGISTERED TRAINING  
ORGANISATION:**  
SUNITAFE

**SCHOOL:**  
MILDURA SENIOR  
COLLEGE

**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.

State or territory training award winners of this category are automatically finalists for the Australian Training Awards and will compete at the national level.

Growing up on a vineyard, 19 year old Mildura local Joel Schwarz had always been fascinated with the magnitude and complexities of agricultural machinery.

As he grew up, he witnessed various mechanics working on the equipment and began to envision his future career in the industry. Not wishing to give up his secondary school studies early, but wanting a head start on his career, he commenced an Australian School-based Apprenticeship in automotive mechanical technology.

Joel achieved such outstanding results while combining his college studies with on and off the job training that he was awarded the Australian School-based Apprentice of the Year at the 2013 Australian Training Awards.

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

"The Australian Training Awards have been amazing.

"The journey from applying earlier in the year, to being named Victorian School-based Apprentice of the Year and then to experience the whole Australian Training Awards finalist week of networking and professional development has been a really memorable experience."

Joel has three more years left of his Australian Apprenticeship, and continues to learn skills covering a large range of farm equipment, including combine harvesters, broad acre tractors, hoes, slashers and seeding implements.

He has a great understanding of his industry and emerging trends and displays maturity and insight in his chosen pathway.

"An Australian School-based Apprenticeship is a really good taster, and you are earning and learning.

"It is not a full-on commitment, you can still be doing your school as well – if you have the passion for it, just get in and have a go."

Joel would like to complete the Certificate IV in Automotive to broaden his knowledge and focus on the structure and science of an engine. In the long term, Joel hopes to open his own business.

Joel is encouraging others to think about Australian Apprenticeships through his role as an Australian Apprenticeships Ambassador for the Australian Government.

# 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**)
- 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
- National Achievement Award (**direct entry**)
- Excellence in Language, Literacy and Numeracy Practice Award (**direct entry**)

## Business

- Small Employer of the Year Award
- Employer of the Year Award
- Industry Collaboration Award
- Australian Apprenticeships - Employer Award (**direct entry**)
- Disability Training - Employer Award (**direct entry**)

## Registered Training Organisation

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

\* 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.

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

## WHY APPLY?

The awards offer its 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 which sets you apart from the competition and makes you an employer, or registered training organisation, of choice.

