

## Awards Evening Honours Apprentices & Trainees

Perseverance and hard work was the theme of WORKCO's awards evening. Nine trainees and apprentices were recognised for their achievements in their respective workplaces. A judges' merit award and a leadership prize were also presented.



### 2011 Apprentice of the Year - Phillip Hobbs

Phillip had been working in the automotive industry and repairing his own vehicles for several years before commencing an apprenticeship as an automotive mechanic. Phillip is based in Horsham and is specialising in light vehicles. He attends trade school at Kangan Institute, eight times a year. Phillip has started his apprenticeship as an automotive mechanic with a sound footing. Drawing on his previous experience in and around the automotive industry, Phillip has quickly applied himself to his apprenticeship and become an effective member of the team. He has an aptitude for acquiring new skills and knowledge and putting it into practice. Phillip has demonstrated that mature aged workers and school leavers alike can both use the apprenticeships pathway to get nationally recognised training and lay the foundations for an enjoyable and rewarding career.



### 2011 WORKCO Limited Trainee of the year - Carmen Abbott

Carmen is based in St Arnaud and commenced a full time childcare traineeship as a mature aged trainee. Carmen completed the three-year Diploma in Children's Services earlier this year and is now a full time employee of the Council at the St Arnaud Children's Precinct. Throughout her traineeship, Carmen has demonstrated an aptitude for putting into practice what she has learned. She's been innovative in preparing her workplace for the introduction of new Early Years Learning Curriculum in 2012, and has taken the lead in experimenting and forging new work practices. Carmen's professionalism and pleasant demeanour have enabled her to gain the trust and confidence of parents and the young children in her care. Her flexibility, thoughtfulness and willingness to take on additional responsibilities have enabled her to make a significant contribution to her workplace throughout her traineeship.



### Best Trainee at Cert II & III Level - Christopher Balfour

Christopher is based in Ballarat and undertaking a traineeship in water treatment. The off-the-job training component is conducted by Water Training Australia which offers specialist qualifications for personnel working in the water industry and related areas.

Chris completed VCE at St Patrick's College in Ballarat and was employed in a couple of different roles before joining his host employer. Chris very quickly demonstrated both aptitude for acquiring new skills, and competence as he took on more responsibilities. His attention to detail and analytical skills mean he can be relied on to accurately monitor and identify any issues which may affect the delivery of safe drinking water to thousands of customers. He's established a reputation as someone that works effectively as part of a team and on whom the team can rely. Christopher has a promising career ahead in water treatment industry



### Best Trainee at Cert IV Level & Above - Julia Coates

Julie undertook a full-time traineeship with her host employer in Ballarat. Julie was enrolled in the Certificate 4 in Human Resources at South West Institute of TAFE and completed her traineeship in 2010. Throughout her traineeship, Julia impressed her colleagues with her integrity and professionalism. Her ability to quickly adapt to change and learn new skills has held her in good stead as she's taken on new challenges in the workplace and responded to the changing needs of the business. Julia made such an impression during her traineeship that her host employer offered her a full time job at the conclusion of it



### **Best Apprentice in 1st Year of Trade - Grant Dumesny**

Grant completed VCE at Dimboola Secondary School before commencing a full time apprenticeship in engineering fabrication with his host employer in Horsham. Grant is enrolled through WORKCO so he uses the facilities of the Wimmera Trade Training Centre at Longerenong when attending trade school. Grant's apprenticeship has got off to a solid start. His interest in the job and willingness to listen and learn means that each week he is displaying a greater understanding of the industry and the required skills and knowledge. His host employer has been impressed by Grant's performance, attitude, skills and maturity. They can see a fine tradesman in the making.



### **Best Apprentice in 2nd Year of Trade - Hayden Boorn**

Hayden is based in Bendigo and started learning about carpentry as a school-based apprentice with his host employer. Eighteen months later his host offered him a full time apprenticeship and he is now well into it. Hayden attends trade school at Bendigo Regional Institute of TAFE. In the 2nd year of his apprenticeship, Hayden has demonstrated a high level of skill and technical knowledge. Hayden takes great pride in his work. He conducts himself in manner that shows integrity and respect for others, and the environment which he is working. His willingness to learn and the thoroughness with which he completes his work provides a great example for other apprentices. Hayden has the attitude and application to become a fine tradesman. We'll watch his progress with interest.



### **Best Apprentice in 3rd year of Trade - Nigel Rogers**

Nigel is based in Horsham. He undertook an apprenticeship as an automotive mechanic specialising in agricultural equipment with his host employer. He attended trade school at Sunraysia Institute of TAFE and completed his apprenticeship earlier this year. Nigel has recently returned from Canberra where he attended a week-long leadership training program sponsored by Group Training Nigel Rogers has a high level of skill and technical competence and is well respected by colleagues and customers. He leads by example and takes pride in his work and maintaining high standards of service delivery. Nigel has represented his Host employer at the Wimmera and Southern Mallee Careers Expo for the past two years where he generously shared his knowledge and industry experience with aspiring apprentices. Nigel has recently returned from Canberra where he attended a week-long leadership training program sponsored by Group Training Australia. Nigel was also awarded the Leadership Wimmera Sponsorship on behalf of Rotary Horsham.



### **Best Apprentice in 4th year of Trade - Jack Durie**

Jack is from Wycheproof. He undertook an apprenticeship as an automotive mechanic specialising in agriculture equipment with his host employer. Jack attended Sunraysia Institute of TAFE and completed his apprenticeship earlier this year. Jack has now joined the full time staff of his host employer. Jack commenced his apprenticeship as a 17 year old and quickly started building skills and knowledge about agriculture equipment. He gets a lot of satisfaction from a job well done. He uses the internet and consults others to continue to expand his knowledge of the industry.

Jack maintains a positive attitude, even when confronted with difficult jobs. He demonstrates initiative and considered judgment to select the best and safest way to address a problem. His is well placed to share his skills, knowledge and expertise with the new apprentices entering the industry.



### **Best School Based Apprentice - Leigh McGennissen**

Leigh started his school-based apprenticeship with his host employer, at that time he was in Year 11 at Horsham College and enrolled in a Cert 2 in automotive vehicle servicing with a focus on agricultural equipment. Leigh grew up on the land and has a sound working knowledge of machinery and farming practices, which he was able to draw on as a school-based apprentice. He demonstrates initiative and energy together with great interest in the industry. Leigh is a thoughtful young man: he listens to instructions, thinks about what he's doing, and takes pride in his work. It is a testament to his character that with 12 months experience under his belt as a school-based apprentice, he was offered – and accepted - a full time apprenticeship with his host employer.



### **Judges Award of Merit - Duncan Bibby**

Duncan began to combine his interest in agriculture with formal study as a school-based apprentice, whilst at Donald High School. He completed Certificates 2 & 3 as a secondary school student and is now undertaking a full time traineeship on his parents' farm near Donald. He is enrolled in the Certificate 4 in Agriculture at Longerenong College.