



# Students double up to bolster options

**CAREER MAPPED OUT:** Doug Brook at work as an apprentice electrician with United Water yesterday.

Picture: TAIT SCHMAAL

**LAUREN NOVAK**  
 EDUCATION REPORTER

MORE students are planning to complete a trade, then study at university to improve their chances of getting a job.

Australian Technical College Adelaide South is reporting more students choosing completing school-based apprenticeships and applying to university. Principal Jim Fenoughty said: "They (students) no longer see trades as a profession they are in for life. Instead they are combin-

ing trade qualifications to be followed by a university degree and finding themselves better off than those who go straight on to university from school. Many students at the trade-based college are looking towards further study at university, upon completion of their apprenticeships, as a way of giving them an advantage in the industry and a means to set them apart."

Year 12 student Doug Brook is completing an

electrotechnology apprenticeship and plans to undertake a second in instrumentation and an electrical engineering degree at university. "The two apprenticeships will probably take me eight to 10 years and then the degree will be another three or four years," Brook, 17, said.

"It's better to have a lot of opportunities. I'll be more valuable to companies."

SA Secondary Principals Association president Jim

Davies said: "Trades are a good precursor to a university education. That's something schools have recognised." Education Minister Jane Lomax-Smith said apprentices gained "practical skills often invaluable in career advancement". "We're keen to make sure young people's options are not limited by early career choices," she said.



# Down to business

KENTHURST local Nathan Clarke has already made a mark in the plumbing industry, as he was recently announced the winner of the Master Plumbers Association's best school-based apprentice 2008 award.

The 17-year-old year 12 student was presented with his award at Lidcome Catholic Club.

In a school of up to 150 students, including seven plumbers, there was strong competition for the award.

But Nathan stood out over

the rest and his plumbing skills impressed the judges.

With no plan of starting a career in the plumbing industry and rather just falling into the trade, Nathan only began his training last year but has already come a long way.

His knowledge, commitment, efficiency and reliability made him the stand-out apprentice, and his passion for his craft also earned him accolades.

The young tradesman's commitment, as well as his

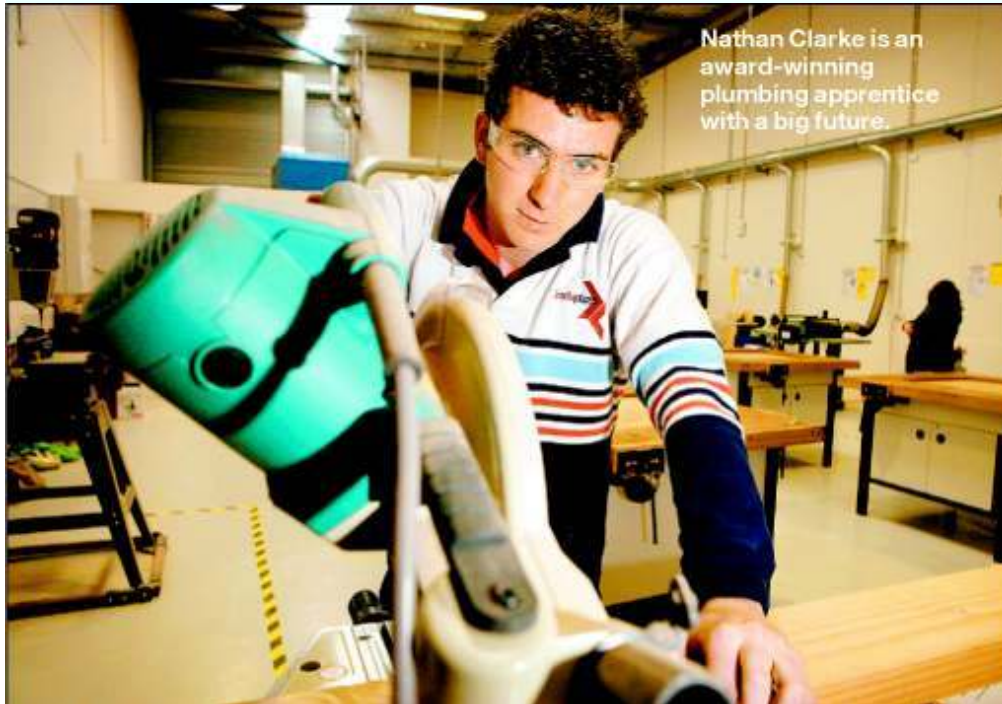
developing skills in business, English and maths at school, have set him on track to fulfilling his dream of owning his own plumbing business one day.

Nathan said he was thrilled by the honour.

"It's really good to have won ... it's just a real bonus," he said.

"It's a real achievement – and looks good on a resume!"

- **By Jade Stone,**  
**Riverstone High School**  
**work experience student.**



Nathan Clarke is an award-winning plumbing apprentice with a big future.



**WORK PAYS OFF:** Stephen Sakolevas has secured an electrical apprenticeship.

## Demand for tradies is on the rise

**PASSION**, motivation and plain hard work helped Aberfoyle Park's Stephen Sakolevas secure a job in the trade of his choice.

The 17-year-old apprentice electrician has been employed at Smart Wiring Solutions, Lonsdale, since November. "I felt like it was a bit of a reward for all the effort I put in," he

says. Mr Sakolevas, who began a school-based apprenticeship at the Australian Technical College in 2008, took on work experience with five companies for a total of ten weeks. "At the start I had to remember, it's going to be beneficial even though I'm not getting paid – it's one step closer to making me

employable. All the work I did I think put me ahead of everyone else so it paid off." Figures show the region experienced an increase in demand for tradespeople in the 12 months to April.

"The thing I found in this industry is you have to be in the right place at the right time and get out there by word of mouth."



## Discover your perfect career at jobs expo

**FINDING** the perfect career choice is often hard without the right information.

The National Careers and Employment Expo will be held today with a range of exhibitors including representatives from the RACQ, the *Townsville Bulletin*, Ergon Energy and the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

There will also be defence personnel on hand with information on a career in the Army, Navy or the Air Force.

The spokesman for event organisers, EOC Group, Cliff Stoneman said despite ongoing reports of job losses and low numbers of employment ads, many companies were still looking to the future for opportunities to hire new staff.

"We really didn't know what to expect

this year but we are delighted that our exhibitors are still committed to attending with great enthusiasm," Mr Stoneman said.

He said many secondary students would attend the expo in school groups to find out more about their career paths, subject choices and university courses.

Educational institutions such as James Cook University, the Australian Technical College, the Barrier Reef Institute of TAFE and CQ University will also have displays at the site to showcase the options available to job seekers.

The free expo will be held today at the Townsville Entertainment and Convention Centre from 9am til 6pm.

For more details visit [www.eocexpo.com.au](http://www.eocexpo.com.au)