

TRADE SKILLS—SKILLING THE FUTURE

Again this year we have had our Trade Skills students working with Apollo Youth Training Australia (AYTA) at their Rocklea factory to build the centre piece for the Housing Industry Association Renovate and Build Expo. Our students have been working one day each week in conjunction with students from sixteen schools around Brisbane to complete the 'Adapt House' which is based on individual modules which can be joined in many ways. This has been an extraordinary accomplishment for our students who have done themselves and Mitchelton High School proud.

One of our younger students, Blake, was nominated by AYTA for an individual student achievement award at the *HIA Construction Skills Queensland Careers & Skills Recognition Awards*. Blake presents himself with continued diligence and an eagerness to learn, demonstrating the fine qualities that the industry is seeking.

Our 'Trade Skills' program was started to assist students who wish to experience this field of occupation and endeavours to expose students to a range of skills and competencies. During the course, students will complete their Blue Card (construction), Hand and Power Tool Ticket, receive instruction in Building Construction, Brick-laying, Kanga Mini-Loader operation while working on projects around the school. During all these activities they will be accumulating competencies towards a Certificate I in General Construction.

Students can see the results of their work and experience in the individual skills that they acquire. Responsibility, work ethics and initiative are crucial for success in the workplace. Working as part of a team allows these students to develop initiative, reliability and loyalty. We see the opportunity to develop these traits in a safe, controlled, real-world work environment as essential to produce a smooth transition from education to industry. Apollo Youth Training Australia assist us to provide our students with the opportunity to work in an industry setting to gain valuable skills and a full awareness of what working in the building industry is really like.

