

Sponsored Indigenous Mechanical Apprentice: William Chandler-Van Vliet

Wallahah 2 also worked with Guringai TLAC to sponsor an apprentice that we have administered through Central Coast Group Training (CCGT). The apprenticeship scheme aims to increase education and training opportunities for the many young Indigenous people searching for work on the Central Coast.

“Wallahah 2 joined forces with CCGT five years ago to offer student apprenticeships and since that time, we’ve helped a total of 16 apprentices find work,” said Wallarah 2’s Peter Smith, Environment and Community Manager.

“We are now proud to be partnering with Guringai to continue to increase opportunities for local Indigenous youth and support young people who are struggling to find work or gain skills in a particular industry,” added Peter.

18-year-old William Chandler-Van Vliet is undertaking his first year mechanical apprenticeship in 2016, which is funded and supported by Wallarah 2.

William is a quarter-generation descendant of the Kamilaroi tribe on his father’s side and shares a keen interest in his family’s history.

He is undertaking his apprenticeship with ELN Ford at Tuggerah and, with the exception of one day a week at TAFE, is in the workshop full time learning the practical skills of the mechanical trade.

While it was a general interest in cars that drew William to pursue an apprenticeship in mechanics, he is enthusiastically soaking up as much knowledge of the trade as he can.

“One day I hope I can start working independently on cars and maybe even learn more about diesel vehicles” he said, adding that he wants to complete his Certificate III in Mechanics.

“At the moment I’m working on petrol vehicles, mainly helping with general servicing of over a dozen cars every day.”

William is enjoying the hands on training he is getting from experienced tradesmen in the ELN Ford workshop and says he would definitely encourage other young Indigenous and Aboriginal people to get involved in an apprenticeship.

Wallahah 2 is proud to be supporting local young Indigenous people through the apprenticeship scheme in partnership with Guringai TLAC.

The program not only has clear benefits in supporting education and training, it is an opportunity to bring increased awareness of Indigenous and Aboriginal culture, identity and heritage to our local community.

