

## FIRST YEAR METAL FABRICATION APPRENTICESHIP FOR BLAKE @ COASTWIDE SITE SERVICES SOMERSBY

George Roth, Owner of Coastwide Site Services Somersby has known Blake Halfnights for a number of years. Not only is Blake a friend of the family but he also attended school with my children, said George. I heard on the grapevine that Blake was looking for an apprenticeship and for me it was an easy decision to offer him a start, added George.

Sixteen year old Blake who attended school at Kariong High jumped at the chance. "Dad's a fitter and turner and I always wanted to work in the metal fabrication trade", said Blake. "I am so lucky to be given this opportunity by George and would like to thank him along with Central Coast Group Training and Wallarah 2 Coal Project for making this a reality".

Blake's apprenticeship has been made possible through the Wallarah 2 Coal Project's Apprenticeships Scheme. A Memorandum of Understanding with Central Coast Group Training enables Wallarah 2 Coal Project to continue to provide funding and support to apprentices seeking placement in the electrical, automotive and engineering trades. More than 24 apprentices and trainees have benefited from the scheme to date and Blake will be among several more in 2018.

Peter Smith, Environment & Community Manager, met both Blake and George at Coastwide Site Services Somersby workshop recently and was very impressed.

"It is fantastic to see such enthusiasm from Blake and also the outstanding support and training he is getting from Coastwide Site Services", said Peter. "We would like to welcome both Blake and Coastwide Site Services to the scheme."

Blake has been on the job for three months and attends Gosford TAFE one day per week. In his spare time Blake enjoys playing soccer, riding motorbikes and camping. Blake is currently on his learner's permit and is looking forward to obtaining his full driver licence in the coming months.

"Good Luck Blake".



*Kirsten Murphy from Central Coast Group Training, 1<sup>st</sup> Year Apprentice, Blake Halfnights, Peter Smith from Wallarah 2 and George Roth, Owner of Coastwide Site Services*