

Jazmine Huggins:

Hello, and welcome to EPPP TV. I'm your host, Jazmine Huggins, and last episode we discovered an innovative construction apprenticeship program at G.J. Gardner Homes in Grafton. It's helping students work out what trades that they're really interested in, while also meeting the needs of industries in the local area. And Sydney mum, Lisa, shared her perspective on VET Pathways and the success of her son, Ryan. This week, we talked to Gary Davenport and Billy at Peter Warren Automotive. Billy tells us how he manages his apprenticeship around his responsibilities as school captain at Liverpool Boys High School. We'll also meet two recipients of the Elsa Dixon Aboriginal Employment Grant in South Grafton and how it's enabled them to follow two very different and distinct pathways. And do you ever get stuck on how to prepare a resume when you're applying for your first job? Julie from Campbelltown Performing Arts High School will share with us her top tips on making your application stand out. So first, let's meet Gary and Billy at Peter Warren Automotive.

Billy:

Hi, I'm Billy. I'm school captain of Liverpool Boys High School. I'm undertaking a Cert II in automotive servicing at Peter Warren Toyota. I've always had a passion for cars. I love being in and around them, working on them. So when I saw that there was an opportunity to go to work, study, and go school at the same time and learn about cars and do what I loved, I jumped at that and took it. I started looking for a school-based apprenticeship in Year 10, and I began in Year 11.

Gary Davenport:

Hi, my name's Gary Davenport. I'm the National Training Manager for Peter Warren Holdings based in New South Wales. So here at Peter Warren Warwick Farm is our head office. We have around 10 manufacturer brands, and we do everything from servicing to sales and parts and warranty. We have around 400 staff on site and within that staff, we've got about 40 apprentices working here.

Billy:

I get a lot of support from my teachers at school, especially with my studies. Whenever I need anything, any help, they're more than happy to help me. From my employer, they're more than happy for me to take some time off work or from TAFE whenever I do need. Because in my position as school captain, I do need to be at school on certain days and certain occasions, and they're more than happy to oblige. On Mondays, I have TAFE at Wetherill Park. On Tuesday, I'm here at Peter Warren Toyota working. And Wednesday through Friday, I'm at school.

Gary Davenport:

Every year we take on around 10 school-based apprentices or trainees, and this year we've been working closely with the EPPP coordinators in the southern and southwest Sydney region. And we've taken on 10 school-based, all from EPPP schools. So during our induction week, we're looking for their enthusiasm to want a career in the automotive industry. During the week, we're not looking for them to be mechanical engineers or have a big understanding of an engine or a gearbox. It's all about their behaviours and how we can work with them to give them the skills that they require for the future. So Billy's been with us for 12 months and he's just commencing his Year 12 at school. Billy is a great asset to Peter Warren Automotive Toyota, and we would welcome Billy back to join the team.

Billy:

Well, Peter Warren has been a very great employer for me. They're very supportive. I've loved working here, and I would love to continue working here even after completing my Cert II qualification.

Jazmine Huggins:

Looks like Billy has a great opportunity there, and Gary is really happy with how he's going on the job. Did you notice when Gary said he doesn't look for skills or experience in his new trainees? He wants to see enthusiasm, professionalism, and a willingness to work. Sounds easy enough, but how do you actually show that on your resume or in a job interview? Here's careers adviser, Julie, from Campbelltown Performing Arts High School to tell us how.

Julie Toaetolu:

My name's Julie Toaetolu, and I'm the careers adviser at Campbelltown Performing Arts High School. So young people when they're trying to put together their very first resume, they haven't worked. And so they have a lot of difficulty in getting forward how great they are as a young person and what great skills they have, the interpersonal skills they have, or the leadership skills they have. And so it's really important for us to be able to tease out some of those skills and teach young people how to write about them. Use the examples that they currently have, whether they mow the lawn for Grandma, whether they babysit their little brother and sister, if they're part of a sporting team, so that they can demonstrate the skills of commitment. They can demonstrate that they are punctual, that they are well-presented, that they can communicate with people of all ages and across a great range of demographics.

Julie Toaetolu:

If at school they've done part of a reading group, they could use that as one of their strengths and positives. They could talk about themselves as a leader and then use the skills that they are learning at school in collaboration, creativity, communication, and problem solving, and put all of those into skills that they're then going to take into the world of work or into their future, even if it is for their first part-time job. My top tip for resume writing is to make sure that there's a point of difference and that your resume is going to pop and draw someone's attention. That you're going to be the person that they're going to remember, because you're the person who has written about your goal or your aspirations or what you really want to do in the future. So that demonstrates that you've got goals and you've got determination.

Julie Toaetolu:

When you're meeting someone for the first time in an interview is you need to make sure that first 10 seconds count. You need to make sure you make good eye contact, that you smile and look welcoming, that you appear friendly. If you get the opportunity to shake someone's hand, do so. Introduce yourself and make sure that all of your conversation with them is friendly. Make sure your phone is in your bag and you don't get your phone out. Make sure that you've put in a lot of effort when you're coming into an interview so that they tell that you take pride in your appearance, that you're clean, neat, and tidy. Even if you are going for a job in construction, put your best foot forward so that people can see that you're keen and interested and you really want this opportunity.

Jazmine Huggins:

There's some really helpful points from Julie to prepare your first job application. If you're stuck, perhaps talk to your parents or careers adviser, and they can help you identify your unique skills to include on your CV or in a job interview. Now let's head up to the Northern Rivers to meet two students doing their SBATs through their high school. Patrick is a born farmer and wants to work on cattle stations, while Tia is a talented painter who would like to create a career as an artist. Let's see how their traineeships are helping them turn their dreams into reality.

Patrick:

I'm Patrick, and I go to South Grafton High School. I'm in year 11. I'm doing Cert II in agriculture. I chose this certificate because I've been brought up on a farm my whole life, and I just love working with farm animals. Working on a cattle station involves fencing, mustering, working. We work with the tractors, ride-ons, horses, cows.

Tia:

Hi, my name's Tia. I'm in Year 11. I go to South Grafton High School, and I'm doing Certificate II in business services. For my traineeship, I am working in the library and I am acting as an assistant. So I've just been helping with bookshelves and the library system. For the administration side of my traineeship, I'm working with the Oliver system on the computers. So that's just a lot of taking books off the system at the moment and lending and returning books. I'm being supported by the librarian, Miss Fisher, and she's been helping me a lot with my on-the-job learning.

Patrick:

In this traineeship, I'm real hands-on. I like the practical stuff. I'm a real quick learner. My teachers helped me catch up on my schoolwork. I'm only doing one day a week and I can still catch up. And then when I come back to school, they sit down and help me.

Tia:

I am working Mondays, so that's one day out of my five days of school. And then I use my weekends to catch up on work that I missed on Mondays. I'm hoping with this traineeship that I'll be able to learn the skills to become a proper artist and sell my work commercially. To be a successful artist, people need to know how to market their art properly, otherwise it won't reach as many people as it could. And also budgeting money so you're not going broke after your first five paintings.

Patrick:

At such a young age, it's so good to have so many opportunities while I'm still at school. After I finish this traineeship, I want to go to the Northern Territory to work at a cattle station, just meeting new people, see where it goes from there.

Tia:

I received the Elsa Dixon grant, and it's allowed me to do art and business-related things at the same time rather than just having to stick to one. I'm 15, and I found it a lot easier to sort of get a head start with all this setting up my own business kind of stuff and learning the skills early on. Since I started my traineeship, it really helped me figure out what I want to do after school and taking off a lot of stress of having to worry about what I do with the rest of my life.

Jazmine Huggins:

Farming looks like a lot of hard work, but it sure looks like Patrick is up to the task. Tia is a great example of how learning practical skills can help you to make the most out of whatever it is that you're passionate about. Well, that was another jam-packed episode of EPPP TV. I hope these stories have inspired you to think about where your passions are and how an SBAT pathway could work for you. There's a whole world of possibilities out there and a huge range of people working to support you. See you next time.