

Apprentices key part for Hopetoun auto electrician

BRAD Petschel has always employed apprentices, since starting his business 18 years ago.

Brad Petschel's Auto Elec in Hopetoun relies on apprentices to assist with labour.

Currently, he employs 17-year-old Luke Torpy – in his first year of a four-year auto electrician apprenticeship.

Brad said apprentices assist him, a fully qualified auto electrician, with fixing starter and alternator motors, re-wiring parts of cars and air-conditioning.

"Being the only qualified person here is a bit of downfall because sometimes it's hard to spread my time when I have to run the business and manage other staff."

Brad said finding an apprentice was difficult, but finding a fully qualified auto electrician was even harder.

"There are only a limited amount of young people around – at some high schools there are only six boys who are doing their VCE," he said.

"Often I have gotten to know them through work experience, which is a good way for kids to see what a job is like and it also gives me a chance to see what they are like.

"There are not many fully qualified auto elects around, which has always been the case, and it's hard to match what they can get working at the mines nowadays."

Brad said he had always used Workco to employ his apprentices.

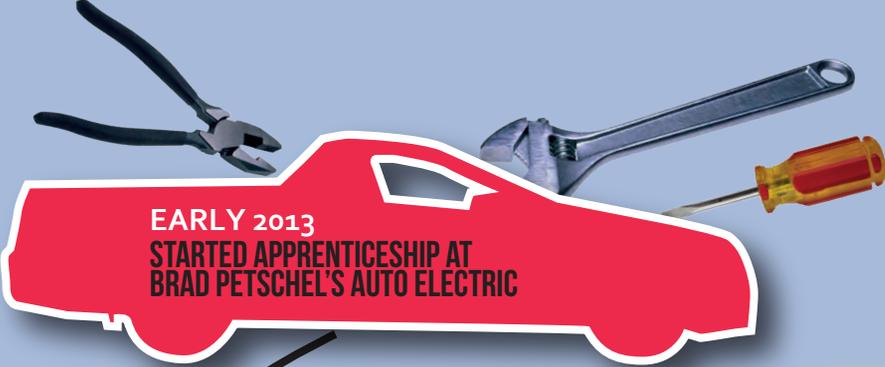
"Workco are good, they take a bit of the stress away because we don't have to do all the book work and tax for the apprentice," he said.

"Workco also organise trade school, which we have just changed from Melbourne to Swan Hill because I was a little bit disappointed with the book work side of things in Melbourne."

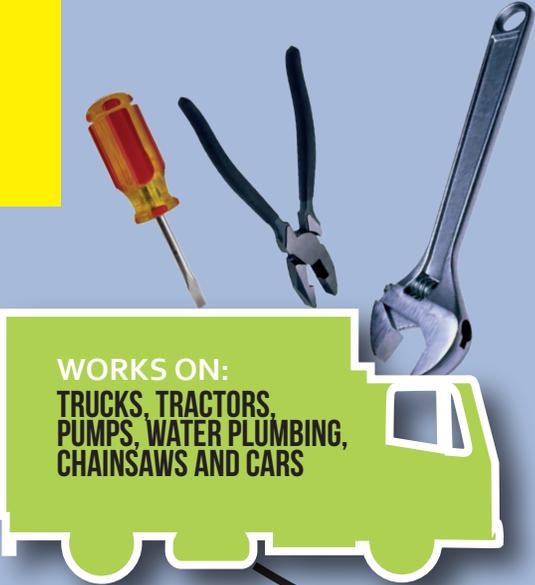


"An advantage of having an apprentice is that you can mould them to do things the way you want them to be done."

An auto electrician in the making



EARLY 2013
STARTED APPRENTICESHIP AT
BRAD PETSCHER'S AUTO ELECTRIC



WORKS ON:
TRUCKS, TRACTORS,
PUMPS, WATER PLUMBING,
CHAINSAWS AND CARS

- 
- GREW UP ON A FARM NEAR SPEED
 - ATTENDED OUYEN P-12 COLLEGE
 - ENJOYED WORKING WITH LIGHTS AND WIRES

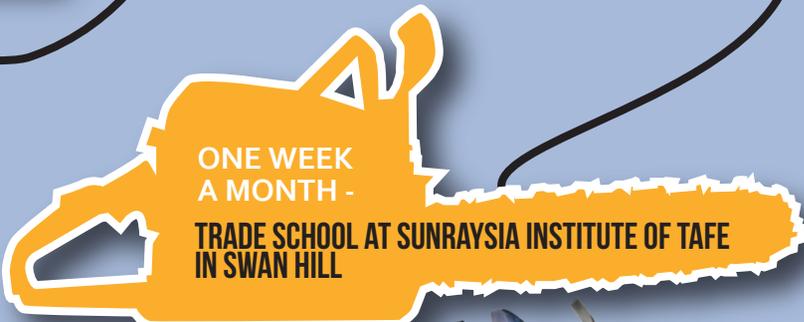


MOVED TO HOPETOON



Luke Torpy, 17

AUTO ELECTRICIAN



**ONE WEEK
A MONTH -**

**TRADE SCHOOL AT SUNRAYSIA INSTITUTE OF TAFE
IN SWAN HILL**



On being an apprentice under 18; "I ride my bike to get around, and my Mum or Dad drive me to trade school in Swan Hill"

"It's not too difficult, some books are pretty hard, but others are pretty simple."