



# Coastal apprentice on track to join industry elite

By SHANNON SHEPHARD

COASTAL carpenter Ben Dodd has proven he is a cut above the rest in his trade.

Taking out the 2009 Master Builders Tasmania Carpentry and Joinery Apprentice of the Year award earlier this year, the Burnie tradie recently added to his growing accolades, winning the state World Skills competition last month.

Competing against 12 other carpentry and joinery tradesmen from around the state, the Stubbs Construction employee showcased his stellar skills in the weekend-long challenge at the Launceston Skills Institute, building a wall complete with window, to precision.

"It was pretty challenging ... we got the plans with the dimensions of the wall and then we had to rely on our training," Mr Dodd said.

"To be honest, I didn't know how I'd gone, so it was a bit of a shock to get the call (the following Wednesday) to say I'd won."

As a first year tradesman, having recently completed his apprenticeship, Mr Dodd said it was a good learning experience to take part in such competitions and he was looking forward to competing in the national final in Brisbane mid next year.

With fellow Stubbs Construc-



**BUILDING REPUTATION:** Stubbs Constructions carpentry and joinery apprentice Ben Dodd won the state World Skills competition for carpentry in Launceston recently. Picture: Stuart Wilson.

tion employee Nathan Scatchard taking second place in the competition, Stubbs managing director Wayne Licht said he couldn't be prouder of the duo.

"It is a fantastic achievement for both boys and we are very proud of their efforts," Mr

Licht said.

"Ben is an exceptionally motivated young man with a lot of drive and passion for his profession and he is very deserving of his accolades.

"I have no doubt he will go on to be one of the future leaders in our industry."