



Jake's career is on the boil

JAKE Payn, a second-year boiler-making apprentice, will fly the flag for The Bremer Institute of TAFE at Bundamba and Apprenticeships Queensland in the WorldSkills Australia National Competition in Brisbane this week.

More than 500 competitors will test their skills in up to 50 trade categories.

Eighteen-year-old Mr Payn is among 88 young Queenslanders competing against the best in the country.

He will line up in the category of construction steelwork.

Mr Payn is currently completing Certificate III in Engineering (boiler-making) at TAFE and works at Bourne-drill.

"We build drilling rigs," he said.

Asked what appealed to him about boiler-making, Mr Payn said "fire, building and demolishing".

The best aspect of the hot and dirty work is "winter", he jokes.

Competitors have been given a drawing of the item they have to make at the three-day national competition.

"I'll give it a fair crack," he said.

He's keen to win the prize, a trip to London for the international WorldSkills.

Apprenticeships Queensland employment consultant Nathan Lee said the organisation was really proud of Mr Payn.

"It's a big deal. If he goes well, he'll set himself up for a strong career in the industry," he said. "It's not a fashionable industry. It's hard work.

It takes a special person to be a boiler-maker."

Mr Payn lives at Browns Plains and works at Archerfield.

"He'll come back to Bundamba to complete his last block of TAFE," Mr Lee said. "Even though boiler-making's a four-year apprenticeship, he'll complete early at his current pace."

WorldSkills Australia National Competition showcases the skills of apprentices and tradespeople aged from 16 to 23 in categories ranging from conventional trades like brick-laying, through to web design and hairdressing.

The free public event is expected to draw more than 80,000 people to the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre from May 7 to 9.



Bremer TAFE boiler-making student Jake Payn, a WorldSkills contestant, with Apprenticeships Queensland employment consultant Nathan Lee.

Photo: Sarah Harvey AP2910HV