



# Apprentice ready to paint town red

**TERRY COLLINS**

**NATHAN** Crumpton always knew he wanted to work with cars.

So when he left school at 16 he was thrilled to receive an NRMA scholarship which led to a four-year apprenticeship at Dicker Motors, Gosford.

At age 20, Mr Crumpton is in the final year of his apprenticeship and will head to London next year as the newly crowned Australian vehicle painting apprentice of the year in the World Skills competition.

"I couldn't believe it when I was named the national winner in Brisbane earlier this month," he said.

"I had thought another fellow would take the title so when they called third and second place winners I thought I'd missed out altogether."

There to share his triumph when his name was called out as Aussie champ was proud father Bob, who had flown twice to Brisbane in three days – once to watch his son compete and the second time to



**Nathan Crumpton on the job.**

attend the award ceremony.

"Dad said he had a feeling I'd win," Mr Crumpton said.

"And he's thinking of coming to London with me for the world championships."

Mr Crumpton competed in a series of challenges in the national finals, following wins at regional and state level.

"They gave us a front end which had been damaged and we had to paint

up the bonnet, scratched guards and paint GT stripes," he said.

"It was pretty detailed – they even measured the thickness of the paint we had applied to make sure it was even."

"I love vehicle painting – the final responsibility for the look of the vehicle is yours. It is artistic work in its way."

Mr Crumpton is looking for sponsors to help pay for his trip to London.

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