

## Australian Apprenticeships Ambassador and SBAT of the year

Very few people can call themselves an official “Australian Apprenticeships Ambassador”. By being awarded the Australian SBAT of the year 2015, Brenden Williamson deservedly gained that title.

Brenden secured his Australian School-based Apprenticeship through the Yamaha Student Grand Prix Partnership created (in partnership with SWC) due to the skills shortage of experienced technicians in the marine and motorcycle industry.

“With his father an automotive mechanic, Brenden Williamson’s love of motorcycles is in his blood.” The support and encouragement of Brenden’s family was evident since his first visit to the Yamaha Motor facilities in Wetherill Park as part of the Yamaha Student GP family orientation day in 2013, forming the foundation of his continued success.

Michael McLean, Head Teacher Industrial Arts and Vocational Learning at Chester Hill High School was also a key contributor to Brenden’s achievements at the school level through his coordination of the Yamaha Student GP at CHHS. Michael shared the following insights into Brenden’s story:

“Brenden’s journey started in his selection of Industrial Technology Metals in years 9 and 10. This foundation within the school context allowed him to shine. His interest in working with tools and equipment was clearly evident and provided a foundation for him to take on the Yamaha Student GP program. Brenden’s success comes from having such a passion for Motorcycles and having the support available at the school to explore this SBAT option.

The opportunity to have the specialist training available at TAFE Ultimo was crucial, as having a quality training provider and their understanding of how committed Brenden was to his goal of being a Motorcycle Mechanic allowed him to fulfil his future training needs whilst undertaking a HSC. His enthusiasm and drive have been outstanding and the school could see how this opportunity could make a difference to his future. So much of his success comes from his own motivations, with his Dad and family being so supportive of him. His nomination and winning of the NSW and Australian Training Awards was the icing on the cake.

Supporting Brenden has been a privilege and being a part of his journey as a teacher has been an honour.”

Since taking part in the Yamaha Student GP, Brenden has volunteered his time generously to inspire and encourage other young people from across the region to

follow their interests and passion, work hard and make the most of opportunities that are presented. Brenden has been an exhibitor at 2 Seek a Skill Careers Expos (attended by a combined 2,400 students), made numerous presentations to groups of students and in conjunction with SWC even appeared in both the newspaper and on ABC TV’s news program promoting the industry.

Brendan is currently completing the final stages of his apprenticeship and is also the Assistant Workshop Manager at Trooper Lu’s Garage.

Source:

<https://www.australiantrainingawards.gov.au/finalists/australian-school-based-apprentice-of-the-year-award-1>



**AUSTRALIAN TRAINING AWARDS**  
Australian Government

**REAL STORIES. REAL ACHIEVEMENTS.**

**BRENDEN WILLIAMSON**  
2015 AUSTRALIAN SCHOOL-BASED APPRENTICE OF THE YEAR

**QUALIFICATION:**  
CERTIFICATE III IN MOTORCYCLE MECHANICAL TECHNOLOGY  
**EMPLOYER:**  
TROOPER LU'S GARAGE  
REGISTERED TRAINING

Brenden Williamson's dream of starting a motorcycle apprenticeship while still at school set him up for quite a task. But now, as winner of the Australian School-based Apprentice of the Year

made it happen, assisted by the Yamaha Student Grand Prix Partnership that had been created to help address the shortage of experienced technicians in the marine and motorcycle industry.

"I'm now speaking to them as the Australian winner."  
Now 18, Brenden says he's really learned the value of networks and the support of family, friends, colleagues.



Top: Brenden’s SBAT Profile. Bottom: Brenden and Jacynta Donaldson at Trooper Lu’s Garage exhibition during Seek a Skill.

# Yamaha Student Grand Prix

Since 2013 Yamaha Motors Australia have partnered with SWC, MTC Work Solutions - Youth Connections, On Two Wheels Motorsports and The Parks Community Network Inc. to deliver the Yamaha Student Grad Prix.

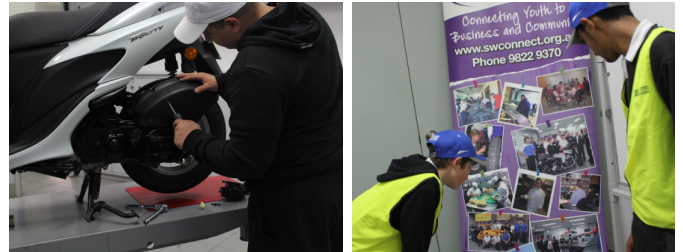
This year Yamaha once again in collaboration with the program partners are providing the program to young people from the following High Schools, South Strathfield, Blakehurst, Peakhurst, Lurnea, Chester, Miller Technology and Morebank as well as participants from The Parks Community Network. The partnership addresses the local and national skills shortage in the motorcycle and marine mechanic industries and increases educational engagement. It is an innovative and hands-on learning opportunity for 'at risk' young people. The initiative program also increases the awareness of available careers in the marine and motorcycle industries with a particular focus on employment at a Yamaha dealer.



*Martin Dwyer of Yamaha Motor demonstrating the mechanics of a motorbike to one of the participants.*

To reinforce the school to work transition, an industry visit takes place at a local motorcycle dealership and workshop. Throughout the program students are involved in planned activities, work inspiration and work training days where students participate in interactive workshops, assisting and strengthening their motivation to reach meaningful employment through identifying their own skills and interests.

The program concludes on June 26 in spectacular fashion, strengthening their motivation and aspirations to discover pathways to the motorcycle industry with a trip to Eastern Creek where the participants get the opportunity to witness the Australian Superbike Championships. Since inception, this partnership has been expanded to incorporate schools across South East Queensland and Southern and South Western Sydney which has resulted in the participation of over 300 students and continuing in popularity with 6 students gaining an SBAT after completing the Yamaha Student Grand Prix.



## 2015 NSW Training Awards (SBAT Award Evening)



*Brenden Williamson nominee for SBAT of the year award 2015.*

Former participant of the program, now year 12 student Brenden Williamson is this year coming back as a mentor to share his story of his journey from being in the same shoes as this year's participants and the pathway he took to get achieve a SBAT.

Brendan's aspirations have continued to grow since he underwent the Yamaha Student Grand Prix two years ago, SWC and Yamaha Motor are very pleased to announce that this year the 2015 NSW Training Promotion Committee of South Western Sydney nominated Brenden for the SBAT of the year award.

The event will take place on the 24th June 2015 at the Liverpool Catholic Club. On two Wheels Motorsports, Yamaha and South West Connect will be attending the event to support Brenden's achievement.

Results will be formally announced at the NSW Industry Awards night in late June, watch this space for the results!