

Apprentice of the Year ...

The “Apprentice of the Year” Vocational Award, which is undertaken in conjunction with Swinburne University (previously Swinburne TAFE), was initiated in 2002/2003. This annual award is presented by the Club to a TAFE student at Wantirna campus who has achieved under difficult circumstances. The award of a cheque for \$500.00 made out to the awardee’s chosen supplier for tools of trade, together with a framed certificate, is presented during the graduation ceremony in July/August each year.



Some of the past recipients include:

- Mitchell Fisch, a third year apprentice in welding and fabrication. Mitchell is now working as a Blacksmith artist.
- Sam Walsh, a third year apprentice plumber.
- Daryl Scobie, a mature aged horticultural student.
- Melinda Lethbridge, a Fitting and Machining Apprentice.
- Justin Stephens (Fitting and Machining) and Michael Brennan (Plumbing), joint winners.
- Rebecca Nyok, a most worthy recipient who had endured an incredibly difficult hardship to survive, improve her education and future prospects after migrating to Australia as a refugee from Sudan. She is the sole carer for her younger sister and suffers ongoing medical issues from her time in the refugee camp.
- Deidre Pryor, a very worthy winner having brought up 3 young children by herself after her husband died, but still managed to achieve exceptional results with all her exams.



All recipients were extremely grateful for their awards.

Swinburne sent a letter and certificate of appreciation for the Club’s involvement in their apprentice of the year awards after the 2016 award ceremony.

