

BEN HARTWIG

APPRENTICESHIP, ENGINEERING PATTERNMAKER BRADKEN

What was your apprenticeship? I am now a qualified Patternmaker at Bradken. I completed a Certificate III in Fabrication Engineering (Patternmaking) through Australian Industry Group.

What do you enjoy about your job? The work on a day to day is incredibly varied and multi skilled. Anywhere from patching broken jobs around the foundry, to working on multi-million dollar mining products for companies like Rio Tinto, Caterpillar and BHP. I enjoy the varied aspect of the work, as well as providing a service to the foundry and being part of the bigger picture.

What are some of the not so great things about your job? You have to be prepared to wake up early, 6am starts are the norm. Also its dirty work, black hands, dusty hair are all part and parcel of the job.

What are some of the great things? Learning so many skills in a trade like patternmaking can lend to so many other careers from Machinist, Woodworker/ Cabinetmaker, through to Fibreglassing/Carbon Fibre work and even Taxidermy!

What has been a highlight of your apprenticeship? I was lucky enough to participate in Group Training Australia's Today's Skills Tomorrows' Leaders program. The top 21 group trained apprentices in Australia spent a week learning leadership and communication skills that could be utilised in the workplace. As a result I have now become an Australian Apprenticeships Ambassador, attending seminars and careers expos etc.

You can read more about Ben's story at this link - <http://bit.ly/2BULC4d>

