

NEW COURSE FOR APPRENTICES

A number of young people have this year begun a new pre-employment programme which is quite different from the normal apprenticeship course.

Under the scheme, the first year of training consists of 12 months full-time technical course where theory and background in a particular trade is provided.

Following this course, the apprentice then commences his four-year apprenticeship on work sites.

The accompanying photo shows Terry Johnson, 18, of Goodooga, who passed his School Certificate in 1972. He spent last year at Blacktown Technical College studying the special pre-employment carpentry and joining course, where he topped the practical section. He is now working full-time to complete his apprenticeship.

The 12 month pre-employment course was first started at Blacktown and this year has been extended to colleges at Dubbo, Orange, Murwillumbah, Tamworth and Wagga. Fitting and turning is also among the courses available under the new scheme.

The full-time tech course replaces the old system where tradesmen studied part-time throughout their apprenticeship.



Terry Johnson from Goodooga at work on job site in Sydney. Terry has just completed his one-year pre-employment course under the new scheme for apprentices

During the tech course students such as Terry Johnson are supported by an Aboriginal study grant and living away from home allowance. In the case of a 17-year old, this can amount to \$36 per week. Assistance is provided in obtaining accommodation.

Students wishing to undertake the new pre-employment scheme *must* first have passed their School Certificate.

Pictured on this page are six boys from Brewarrina and Goodooga who visited Sydney after completing their School Certificate exams last November.

Following their visit most had decided on their plans for this year. Glen Williams and John Barker of Brewarrina and Tony Lamb of Goodooga are considering going to Orange or Dubbo to do the same pre-employment carpentry course as Terry Johnson did in Sydney.

Robert Chapman and Rodney O'Neill are planning to do the normal 4-year apprenticeship course through the Department of Supply at St Mary's. They will study fitting and machining plus specialized training in diesel fitting through Penrith Technical College. Wayne Gibbs of Goodooga has just completed the first 12 months of this course where he came third in his class.

L to R Standing: Rodney O'Neill, Tony Lamb, David Samuelson, and Robert Chapman, all of Goodooga, and Glen Williams, Brewarrina. Kneeling: Terry Johnson, Goodooga, and John Barker, Brewarrina

