

Keeping You On The Road & Skills In Our Town

For a decade now, Garry Mitchell has been keeping many local people on the road through servicing and repairing their cars. For just as long, Mr Mitchell of Garry's Garage and his team have been investing in the next generation of mechanics in Wee Waa.

According to Wee Waa High School's Careers Adviser, Mrs Lindy Widauer, "the number of work experience students Garry has taken on would be in the dozens.



He has been a real asset for Wee Waa High School. Every year he has willingly given young people the opportunity to roll up their sleeves and undertake work experience at his garage business, to get a taste of what it's like to be a mechanic."

Mr Mitchell said, "it's been a good relationship and one that has introduced us to a number of apprentices in the past."

This year Gary took on his son, Clay as an apprentice. For Clay, the decision about what he wanted to do for a career was an easy one.

"I grew up helping out in Dad's garage, sweeping the floor and helping to keep things tidy. Bit by bit, I got to do more. I've always liked the challenge of pulling something mechanical apart and reassembling it. I like to see how things work. It's a good team here and I like learning and having a regular income now. One day I'd like for this to be my garage."

Mrs Widauer said "during their last two years at high school, Clay attended TAFE in Narrabri as part of an Automotive Certificate II course he undertook. From here, Clay will attend TAFE once a week and by the end of 2018 he will be a fully qualified mechanic."

"When it comes to our community," Mr Mitchell said, "It is really important to invest in local skills. The qualities I look for in potential apprentices include: good values; a strong work ethic; practical and logical thinking and; being good with our customers."

"Our school values our relationship with the companies in the town and the wider area," Mrs Widauer said. "Together we create valuable pathways for young people to transition from high school into their first job and begin building that next generation of local skills."

Article was written in 2016