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### Teen driven to succeed

BY RODERICK SHAW  
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AUTO Apprentice of the Year, Cambridge Park auto mechanic Evan Dunne, never expected to get the honour.

NSW's Automotive Training Board named him the winner of its school-based apprenticeships award.

Eighteen-year-old Mr Dunne has worked with Production Automotive in Penrith for two years, completing his HSC over the same period with Anglican Technical College in Kings Park.

"I was so surprised when they told me I was apprentice of the year," he said. "I knew I was a finalist for the award, but I didn't expect to win it."

Mr Dunne has also won other awards, including his school's Best in Trade, this year's NSW Training Award for Western Sydney and the Motor Trading Association's Apprentice of the Year.

He said he discovered his love for auto mechanics in year 10.

"I excelled in metalwork; I wasn't the kid who was hot in English or maths, I was into making stuff with my hands," Mr Dunne said.

"I considered leaving school for an apprenticeship after year 10, but Mum suggested I try the Anglican Technical College."

The college is one of similar schools around Australia where HSC students are able to combine their studies with TAFE-like training.

"During school I've been able to get a job and I now have my HSC as well," Mr Dunne said.

"Now with this award, I've got a great sense of achievement."

Production Automotive's managing director Mel Leyshon said she was proud of her apprentice's achievement too.

"Evan is motivated, diligent and good at what he does," Mrs Leyshon said.



Sense of achievement: Auto apprentice Evan Dunne, doing what he likes most and being honoured for it.

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