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# Tradies turn the tables



## CHIPPIE CARVES

## HIS OWN NICHE

THERE was plenty of pressure for John Curtin to go to university.

His four siblings before him all finished school and went on to study for a degree.

His subjects at Year 12 were all university-focused too, with the exception of woodwork.

But when it came to making the critical decision about his career, the Bull Creek teenager decided to become a tradesman.

"I thought I would go to 'uni' and I was even enrolled in a 3D design degree at Curtin University," he said.

"But then I was offered an apprenticeship making one-off pieces of furniture and I thought, 'It's what I love doing, it's my favourite subject at school, so I may as well follow my passion'."

The 18-year-old is now a second-year TAFE apprentice cabinet-maker and works at Perth Wood School at Belmont, where he helps train people who want to learn how to make furniture as well as hand-crafting one-off custom pieces himself.

In fact, Mr. Curtin's skills have landed him a place in the WorldSkills Australia apprenticeship competition in September, taking on other apprentices at the jobs, skills and training expo in Perth.

Star turn: John Curtin, 18, a second-year apprentice cabinet-maker at the Perth Wood School in Belmont, will take part in the WorldSkills Australia contest. Picture Theo Fakos

