



Bundamba State Secondary College student Samuel Buchanan is helping the transform a North Ipswich renovator's dream.

PHOTO: ANDREW KORNER

Hard-working Sam building on very promising career

WORKING in a take-away restaurant four days a week while going to school and completing an apprenticeship has been a tough slog for Ipswich lad Samuel Buchanan.

Samuel is one of more than 30 apprentices and Certificate 1 Construction students working on the Building Futures Program, where aspiring tradies will learn their craft while renovating a tired old timber house at North Ipswich.

The Bundamba State Secondary College

year 11 student said the combination of a perfect canvas for the apprentices to work on, combined with the guidance of site foreman Jamie Robinson, was providing him and his mates with some great ideas and new skills that will prove useful in the future.

"I've wanted to be a builder ever since I went to work with my godbrother, who is a builder down in Sydney," Samuel said.

"I just like being on a construction site and being able to build stuff. I want to be the person

where if someone wants an extra room built or something like that, I'm the one who can go in and do it.

"With this house at North Ipswich, it has taught us a lot about what you do if you want to do home renovations. We've done everything from lifting floors and taking out walls and soon we'll be rebuilding."

Mr Robinson said the apprentices were in the process of setting up the frame for the back room of the house.

The room has been completely gutted over the first month of the project. Eventually, a new deck will be extended from the back room, adding some much needed additional living space for whoever the lucky new owner is.

At the end of the 26-week project, the house will be sold and the funds used to pay for the next project house.

The Building Futures Program is the initiative of Apprenticeships Queensland and TAFE Queensland South West region.

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