



# Enriching times for apprentices

APPRENTICE carpenters have been given a rare chance to learn how to remove VJ walls in a classic Queensland home without damaging them.

The original walls will be part of the finished product when the works on the North Ipswich timber house come to an end.

Ipswich State High School student Callum Brown, 16, is just one of the apprentices working on the project, part of the Building Futures Program.

He said the experience has been enriching and taught him lots of new skills in the

practical setting.

Site manager Jamie Robinson said the youngsters were working hard to learn how to handle the original wooden features in the home.

"Everything here is 130 years old so we have to do everything carefully.

"It's all very dry," Mr Robinson said.

"But a lot of what we have covered so far is health and safety, and how to work safely on an active job site."

With the apprentices only working once every two weeks, the program eases the

students into the working environment.

Mr Robinson said all the apprentices participating had shown enthusiasm and seemed to be enjoying the project.

"It's very early into their training but they're really taking to it," Mr Robinson said.

"We're hoping to be finished by the end of June."

The renovator's dream house was bought with a view to doing it up and selling it off for a profit, which would then fund a project house for the next round of apprentices.

Work is also underway to build a large back

deck.

Callum is one of 35 students from schools across Ipswich and Brisbane who are taking part in the Apprenticeships Queensland and TAFE Queensland South West initiative.

A part of the Building Futures Program, the house ideally will continue to provide valuable experience for young tradies keen to learn their craft.

Keep checking the Queensland Times Real Estate Guide every week for updates on the progress at the North Ipswich home's renovation.




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