



Macy holding her own in a male-dominated industry

WALKING into a male dominated industry has been nothing out of the ordinary for Macy McColm.

The St Mary's College senior student is completing her Certificate 1 in Construction and has been lucky enough to gain some real-world experience on the Building Futures program.

Despite being one of only two female students on the project, Macy said she was at home on the work site.

"Dad was a bobcat operator," she said.

"I've grown up around boys so I don't mind. "I started thinking about it at the end of last year.

"The reason I'm here is because I want to be a civil engineer and I want to learn about how it all works."

Macy is one of 35 apprentices learning the trade on a project house at North Ipswich.

Over a period of six months, the students – led by Apprenticeships Queensland and Tafe Queensland South-West – will completely transform the tired old timber house on Hill St.

Now at the half-way point, the place is already taking shape inside and out.

The front deck is being rebuilt and colonial window hoods have been fitted and are being finished off.

Inside, the bathrooms are about to be fitted out with new basins, baths, and taps.

In the coming weeks, a massive new deck will be added out the back of the new open living area.

Macy said the project had allowed her to get hands-on experience across a wide range

of areas.

"We've done everything from gap filling and painting to landscaping," she said.

"We've learned how to use all the saws and different tools properly."

The next step along the path for Macy will be to find some work placement, while making a bid to get into university to study civil engineering.

If that doesn't go as planned, she's got a Plan B. Macy is also studying a Certificate 3 in fitness



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