



Toby in the running for top honour

Former Echuca resident Toby Osborne is among eight apprentices to have reached the finals in the Snap-On-Tools Apprentice of the Year awards.

The Apprentice of the Year program celebrates excellence among third and fourth year auto electricians, motor mechanics, spray painters and panel beaters.

Toby moved to Echuca when he was 10 years old and completed his schooling at Echuca College in 2008.

He left home at 18 to join the army, where he is now completing his final year of a mechanic apprenticeship.

He said he had always had an interest in cars since his early teens when his father taught him the basics of mechanics.

Toby was nominated for the award by the Army's Lieutenant Colonel Regner.

He will be up against eight other apprentices

from across Australia and New Zealand, for the winning prize of more than \$9000 worth of tools.

Toby said he would be surprised to win, but would love to be recognised for his achievements.

"I don't know if I'm expecting to win but I will be ecstatic if I do," he said.

Snap-On-Tools national sales manager Steve Jones said the Apprentice of the Year award recognised the vital role young people played in the industry.

"Apprentices are a fundamental part of the automotive industry's future and will ensure that high levels of trade skills are retained locally," he said.

As part of the nomination, Toby was featured in a half page article in *Street Magazine*.

The winner of the award will be announced in October.



Top apprentice: Toby Osborne is in the running for the Snap-On-Tools Apprentice of the Year awards.