

## APPRENTICE OF THE YEAR

### AARON BALD – FARMERS CENTRE WA PTY LTD



In the last year Aaron has had the opportunity to undertake training at a facility in South Australia on the latest flexi coil air carts and air seeders. This was invaluable to him as it showed Aaron that his employer was willing to invest a considerable amount of time and money in training him on top of his usual studies. Farmers Centre also recently picked up the contract for DBS air seeders and another mechanic and Aaron were given training on building them by a top DBS manufacturer. Aaron has excelled in his latest tafe studies and has even been asked to aid in explaining theoretical ideas and workshop tasks to younger apprentices. Aaron has achieved a highly competent mark in all his studies to date. Farmers Centre frequently undertake in house training on their machines to further the knowledge of their team and Aaron frequently scores well in the after-training tests.

Aaron enjoys working as part of the large Farmers Centre crew as most jobs are very large and require multiple mechanics to complete a task. When they acquired DBS he was tasked with a lot of the major equipment construction and had to frequently plan out the day for others as well as himself. Being able to set long and short-term goals in such large builds is integral to maintaining efficiency as there is a lot of technical and precision components and downtime can be costly, anything from making sure forklifts are safe to use and have adequate fuel to ensuring they have all the required equipment to complete a build. Long term assembling the machine in the correct order saves backtracking or making later jobs more difficult than necessary.

Communication is a vital tool in maintaining work place efficiency so filling out time sheets, parts requisitions, and warranty paper work allows office personnel to accurately and swiftly charge out time to a job. Aaron makes sure that even little things like ensuring others around him are aware of what they are doing when operating heavy agricultural equipment could be considered essential verbal communication.

The agricultural industry is an industry Aaron has always had an interest in, and he gets a high level of personal satisfaction from being sent out to semi remote areas to diagnose and rectify faults and failures so that clients can be up and going as soon as possible. The mental challenges put in front of Aaron have allowed him to grow as a person and as a mechanic. Since Graham has given Aaron the opportunity to join the Farmers Centre crew he has been feeling a sense of fulfillment both mentally and physically which has allowed him to grow and become a better employee and person all round.

Once Aaron is qualified, his long-term goals are to use his skills to enhance the quality of his work at Farmers Centre as well as being available for others to learn from, this will hopefully allow the Farmers Centre team to grow together. Aaron hopes that in the future he and the Farmers Centre team will operate as though they are a well-oiled machine.