

SWAPPING CURLING WAND FOR WELDING TORCH

Working in the Perth shipyards of leading Australian naval shipbuilder Austal, 27-year-old plumbing apprentice Justine Clements wouldn't have it any other way.

As a hairdresser I worked six days a week, including every Saturday morning. The work was very repetitive and not very challenging and there wasn't a lot of scope for career advancement.

Now, working for Austal I get a three-day weekend, I am always challenged with my work, I learn something new every week and I can see an exciting career in naval shipbuilding with lots of different pathways ahead of me.

Austal is currently building a host of commercial vessels as well as 21 Guardian Class Patrol Boats for the Royal Australian Navy as part of the government's \$90 billion continuous Naval Shipbuilding Enterprise.

When Justine decided to change career paths, she wanted to be involved in something specialised and 'outside of the norm'. Her new career path began after seeing an advertisement for a shipbuilding plumbing apprenticeship on the internet. She applied, got a face-to-face interview with Austral, and won the job.

At the Skills West Conference in Perth in August Justine won the gold medal in the Workskills Competition for plumbing.

With so many jobs coming online for young people and apprentices in naval shipbuilding, Justine has encouraged her friends to sign up with the Naval Shipbuilding College's Workforce Register.

Next year she is hopeful that she will be working on the Guardian class patrol boats.

Austral are completely supportive of me exploring roles within naval shipbuilding, from learning a new trade to stepping up to become a supervisor. It's a really rewarding career and I can see myself staying in this industry for a very long time.

Why don't you get on board with a job in naval shipbuilding as well?

The ongoing build and maintenance of our future fleet means thousands of jobs for young Australians. As new technologies are developed you'll gain the skills and experiences to take you into an exciting and diverse career.

There are jobs, apprenticeships and opportunities in everything from software to design, electronics to mechanics, plumbing to project management, engineering, construction and more.

So if you're interested in being a part of naval shipbuilding like Justine, (or if you know somebody who might be), register now to speak with one of the helpful **Candidate Engagement Consultants at Naval Shipbuilding College.**

workforceregister.navalshipbuildingcollege.com.au/jobs/NSBC3-workforce-register

And don't forget to take a look at 'Naval Shipbuilding' in **Work-Ready's DEFENCE INDUSTRY** module.