

BUSINESS SOUTH-EAST

Strength of support

By CASEY NEILL

MORE than 50 mechanics took one look at Ghulam Haidar's polio-withered leg and turned him away, refusing to give the Hampton Park 21-year-old the chance to prove himself in the field he loves.

But Patterson Cheney's New World Honda in Narre Warren saw past the refugee's disability and took him on as a trade assistant.

Three months down the track and the company is looking to offer him an apprenticeship.

Ghulam makes his way around the workshop on a crutch with remarkable ease, his strength and agility astounding to watch.

He removes a tyre from a car using one arm while his other rests on the wooden crutch that serves as his right leg.

"I'm feeling very happy. This job is my passion," he said.

"Because I got the job I can support my family as well."

He came to Australia in July 2013 to save his life and forge a new one, making a treacherous sea journey via Indonesia.

"In Afghanistan my life was not safe. In Pakistan, too," he said.

His wife, mother and sister remain in Pakistan. He said it was hard to be separated from them but that his wife's migration application was being processed.

"Hopefully, she will be here soon," he said.

Ghulam had a Grade 6 level education when he arrived in Australia and enrolled in an English class.

Dandenong Valley Job Support (DVJS) organised work experience at a Dandenong mechanic for him and he received great feedback, but there was doubt as to whether anyone would employ him.



Ghulam Haidar uses a crutch to get around the workshop. 137957

Picture: GARY SISSONS

Undeterred, with help from DVJS case manager De'Arne Coates, Ghulam completed a certificate two in automotive servicing technology at Chisholm Institute in Dandenong.

He then went in search of a job.

"Ghulam would have been to 50-odd places. They'd just look at him and say no," DVJS business manager Andy Ernst said.

New World Honda Narre Warren service manager Russell Hudman said he was surprised at what Ghulam could do.

"We thought we'd give him a try, put him on for a couple of weeks and he seemed to be a really hard

worker and very keen," he said.

"He came in here, he said he wanted to do express all by himself.

"Express is generally two people working on a car at the same time.

"I was very impressed by his enthusiasm.

"Depending on how he goes this year, I'll more than likely be looking at putting him on as a mature aged apprentice."

Mr Hudman employed all his car washers through DVJS.

"They want work and other people aren't willing to give them a go," he said.

"It's hard to keep people in a job

like that because it's monotonous."

Mr Ernst said some job seekers had physical disabilities while others had literacy issues or depression.

"Standing there in solitude washing a car can sometimes be the best therapy for them," he said.

"It's putting the right person in the right place.

"We've got hundreds of guys and it's finding that niche for all of them."

Since 2010 New World Honda has employed nine staff through DVJS and the Patterson Cheney Group as a whole has employed 15 people with disabilities

Student steps up

By CASEY NEILL

A NARRE Warren student was the first nominee for this year's Greater Dandenong Chamber of Commerce Youth Enterprise Award.

Tom Cunningham was presented with a certificate acknowledging his achievement at the first Premier Regional Business Awards breakfast for the year which was held at Sandown Greyhound Racing Club in Springvale on 13 May.

Chisholm IT and computer systems manager Joe D'Amico said Tom started computer systems engineering studies in 2013, had above average grades and was a great leader.

He said the 21-year-old was one of two students who were selected from across Australia to work at the Cisco live conference in 2014.

Mr D'Amico said the two-week work opportunity was a significant achievement.

"It really acknowledged all the hard work that he'd put in," he said.

Tom said there were endless opportunities in information and communications technology (ICT) across various job sectors, from health to engineering and finance.

"I want to gain as much job experience as I can and make a good name for myself," he said.

He wants to continue to learn new skills, and to work overseas to grow professionally and personally.



Youth Enterprise Award nominee Tom Cunningham. 139038

Business profiles

Focus on the members

DERRIMUT Health and Fitness is more than a gym, with their focus firmly on their members.

Business development manager Ashley Owen said the gym, which opened in Pakenham last week, provides a 24-hour, fully staffed gym and training facility.

"Our business isn't just a gym, we pride ourselves on having the right culture and the right customer service that will see Derrimut gyms being around for a very long time," Ashley said.

"We believe in having our facilities as a one-stop shop offering not only gym equipment but also supplements, food apparel and gym accessories.

"We also have a ladies-only gym within our facility. When you join as a member with Derrimut, you can use all of our eight locations which also include all the group fitness classes we offer.

"Price point of \$9.95 per week and a casual visit for only \$5, plus we also have group fitness classes ranging from Les Mills classes to boxing and X-Fit classes. We are fully staffed 24 hours, seven days a week.

Derrimut is in a service-based industry and believe they have the best staff providing the best customer service, which in turn will give you a great experience when you visit any Derrimut Gym.

"Our staff are fully trained in the fitness industry with most having certificate III and certificate IV in fitness. They are very enthusiastic in their



This round-the-clock gym is fully staffed and provides excellent facilities. 138674

positions within the business and are looking forward to see massive numbers walking through our turnstiles," Ashley said.

"We have Precor, Hammer Strength, Life Fitness and Proflex Gym Equipment. We sell protein supplements, \$12 meal

packs, clothing and eventually will offer a chiro and physio service within our facility."

Derrimut Health and Fitness, 925 Princes Highway, Pakenham open 24 hours, seven days a week. Phone 1300 552 676.

Holly's a natural body

LOCAL Berwick resident Holly Baxter will be representing Australia in the International Natural Bodybuilding Association World Championships in Dubai in June this year.

To qualify for this event each competitor must have competed and placed in the top five for every INBA Contest in the past 12 months, as well as the national titles held in Sydney.

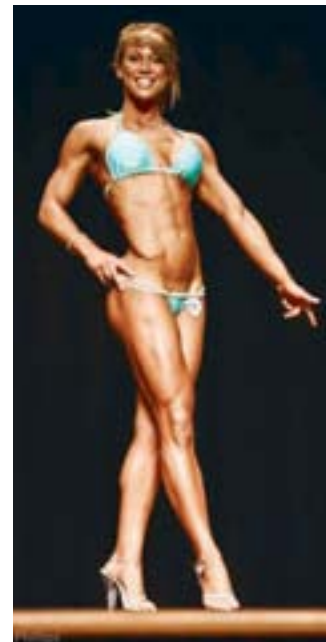
Holly is a personal trainer and clinical dietitian. Health and fitness is where her true passion lies. Her experience as a clinical dietitian/coach and personal trainer is to ensure that her clients have success and reap the benefits from their hard work and dedication to training.

It was while she was devising nutritional plans for a few of her clients that she was encouraged to compete in natural body building.

Holly has so far competed in Arnold Qualifiers, the Arnold Classic, INBA Southern Cross Titles Health and Fitness Expo - 'Fitness Model Pro Qualifiers'.

Holly's heavy involvement in numerous sports and strong interest in health and nutrition has led her to extend her skill set as a personal trainer and coach. She has been involved in the health and fitness industry for seven years.

In 2011 she graduated as a food scientist and nutritionist, and went on to further her studies by com-



Holly Baxter muscles up. 138705

Picture: GARY PHILLIPS

pleting a Master of Dietetics as a clinical dietitian.

Holly is a personal trainer at Snap Fitness Berwick located at 3 and 4, 4-6 Wheeler Street Berwick. If you would like to make a time for a personal training/nutritional consultation or to arrange a tour of the club, please feel free to contact Snap Fitness Berwick on 0478 202 210.