



Time to shave... Swans players Mathew Aitchison, Tony Notte and Matthew Outridge. d369228

Razors taken to Movember

NOW that November has drawn to a close, the razors have come out of the drawer for Swan Districts Football Club players taking part in Movember.

Movember aims to raise awareness of mental health issues, with participants growing a moustache over the month with supporters and friends donating money to the cause.

Taking part in teams, the Swan Districts boys put together a mighty effort, with Mathew Aitchison's team raising over \$7000, putting them among the top 200 teams in Australia.

Aitchison said that while growing the mo over November was a struggle for some of the boys, they never lost sight of the reasons behind the facial fashions.

"A few of the boys were just doing it for fun but all the money goes towards a great cause," he said.

"I grew quite attached to mine and thankfully my girlfriend actually liked it.

"The captain Josh Roberts, he can grow a beauty. But a few of the boys really struggled."

Training team triumph

By LIAM DUCEY

JOHN Forrest Secondary College's partnership with training organisation MPA Skills has been recognised as one of the best in Australia.

It has won the Federal Government's 2011 Australian Training Award for the school pathway to Vocational and Educational Training program in Australia.

The award, presented at the Brisbane Convention Centre on November 25, is recognition of the opportunities being offered to students through the John Forrest Trade Training Centre.

According to John Forrest Principal Di Turner, the partnership provides students with a continuous pathway from school to full-time employment.

"Through programs, students begin the first stage of a mapped and highly supportive lifecycle for employment that begins with the integration of the school-based pre-apprenticeship and school-based apprenticeship training programs within the senior school curriculum," she said.

"The pathway continues through to potential employment by MPA Skills as full-time apprentices on

completion of Year 12 or in lieu of finishing secondary schooling.

"As employees of MPA Skills, students remain in the supportive and nurturing MPA Skills environment and have ongoing access to training expertise, industry mentors, and the huge range of employers and tradespeople who form the MPA membership.

"The students are constantly supported, and the skills they learn from their MPA mentors will stay with them for life."

In 2011, 15 plumbing pre-apprentices, eight painting and decorating school-based apprentices and 260 try-a-trade students have been in the MPA in the college's Trade Training Centre, and Mrs Turner said she anticipated an increase in enrolments next year.

"At this stage we anticipate there will be a waiting list for all programs," she said. "The demand from students is huge, and I think that is the best indicator of the success of the partnership."

MPA Group CEO Murray Thomas said the painting and decorating and plumbing and gasfitting programs on offer were all designed to address industry shortages.



Student Mark Vader, with plumbing trainer from MPA Skills Domenic Mattarocchia. Picture: Dominic Menegaldo d369573