

# Local News

## Carving his career

JAMES Lewry believes he should give something back to the education system which has enabled him to win the 1998 Labor Council Award for Excellence in Trade Skills.

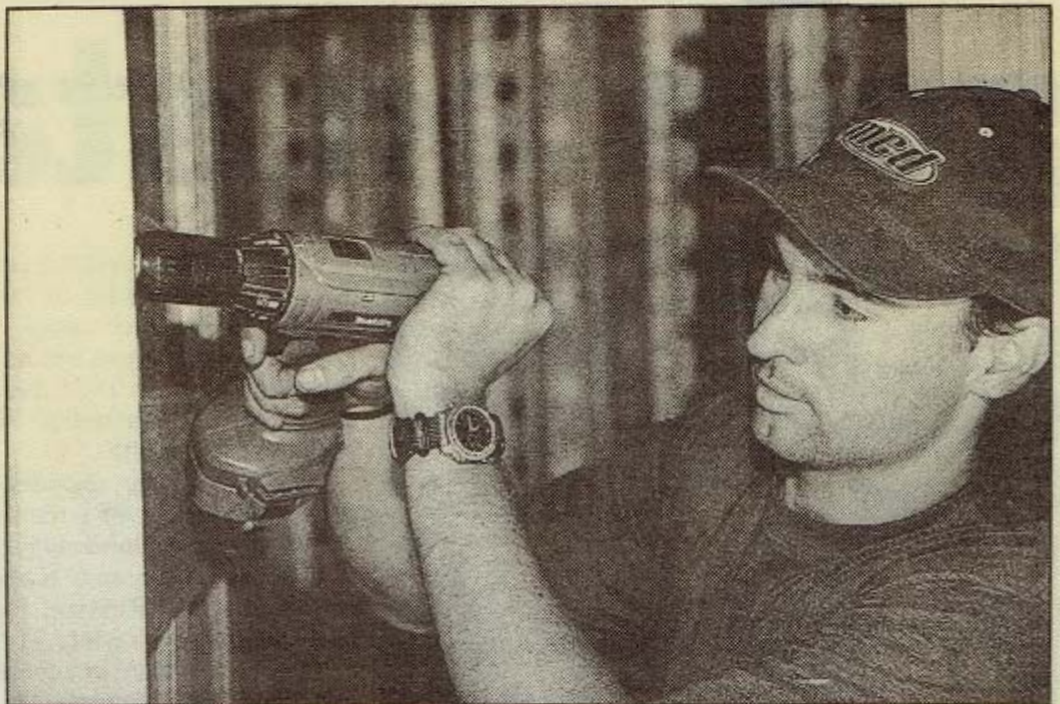
"I have been fortunate to have teachers who are in touch with the working environment," he said.

James, from Guildford, plans to return to TAFE later in his carpentry career as a teacher.

Now in the final year of his apprenticeship at South Western Sydney TAFE, James said he hopes to, one day, give to students what his teachers gave him.

He plans to start his own business upon finishing his apprenticeship at the end of the year.

James' achievements include the Housing Industry Association Apprentice of the Year 1997-98, Western Sydney Regional Apprentice of the Year (Carpentry and



In a class of his own . . . James Lewry

Joinery), and the Blacktown Rotary Award. The secret to his success was "listening to everybody's advice, take the advice that is appropriate, and taking pride in what you do".

"I was 20 when I started my apprenticeship and I believe this was an advantage; I was more interested in learning than mucking around," he said. James' attitude reflected in his work according to long-time TAFE

teacher Mal Mallinson. "He has a natural gift for carpentry," he said.

James' younger brother is also carving out a carpentry career.