

Work experience with a difference for one York local

Not too many teens can say they built a drone during Year 10 work experience, but for one 15-year-old this is exactly what he did.

While many of his classmates stayed close to home, Ben Read from York District High School, chose to complete his work experience at Scitech in Perth.

Ben said he wanted to get a feel for what working life would be like but, as a keen quadcopter builder and racer, wanted something a bit different and in line with his interests.

Under the watchful eye of Scitech Electronic Research Technician Phillip Verschuer, Ben spent his time behind-the-scenes in the Scitech workshop building, refining and testing a quadcopter.

"The quadcopter had been sitting in pieces for a while, but then Ben came along and was able to build it into something pretty special in just one day," Phill said.

"The rest of his time at Scitech was spent refining the quadcopter to fly more accurately and he even hooked a camera up to it so he could fly it through his video goggles from a first person point of view!"

While many people would balk at phrases such as 'ESC refresh rate' or 'loop time', Ben's time at Scitech saw him connect with like-minded tech-lovers who spoke his language.

The teen also regularly meets up with other quadcopter enthusiasts in Perth where they go flying and get to talk shop.

"We all met on the internet through forums and organised to meet up to fly together and, since then, it's just gotten bigger," Ben said. "Every time we meet up now there's more and more people."

Ben was initially inspired to make his own mechanical marvels after seeing quadcopter racing on YouTube, but now has big plans for what was once just a hobby.

"I'm working on doing a long distance personal record," he said. "I have a big flying wing and I'm trying to see how far I can push my equipment."

Ben is also hoping his know-how gained from quadcopter building and racing will help him realise his ambitious career goals, which include becoming an engineer and joining the air force.

"I think Ben has such a bright future ahead of him," Phill said. "His willingness to learn new things and his positive attitude is going to take him far."

ENDS

MORE INFORMATION

Tomi Ellis
Communications Officer
(08) 9215 0888
tomi.ellis@scitech.org.au