



Daniel's drive earns luxury world trip

BY XAVIER SMERDON

EVERYONE loves a luxury car like a Lamborghini or a Jaguar, but for one lucky Hoppers Crossing resident, a love of cars has opened up a world of possibilities.

Daniel Kostakakis recently won a gold medal at the 2010 WorldSkills Australia National Competition by proving his skills in autobody repair.

By winning the gold medal Daniel was awarded a scholarship that will enable him to travel to the United Kingdom and work with some of the best car companies in the world.

Daniel, who works as a panel beater at Jag E Type Restorations in Somerton, said it was still a thrill to be working with Jaguars.

"It's outrageous. There's not much else I'd rather be doing," Daniel said.

"The days just go too fast."

But Daniel said it's not about brands and logos but more about the quality of the car.

"I can't really pick a favourite brand because they're not names anymore, they're just metal," he said.

WorldSkills Australia CEO, Mark Callaghan, said that Daniel's scholarship would hopefully increase his opportunities for the future.

"It provides an opportunity for recipients to become more effective and efficient leaders while at the same time being able to undertake work experience in the UK," Mr Callaghan said.

Daniel said he hopes to make the most of the scholarship and see how far his career can take him.

"I might like to start my own business one day," he said.

"But I've just got to see where this leads me."



Bright future ... Daniel Kostakakis was happy to work with luxury cars.

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Picture: EMILY LANE