



Name: Connor Noonan

Age: 20

Employer: Haileybury College

Location: Melbourne Parks and Gardens Apprenticeship

Studying: Certificate III in Parks and Gardens

Citi New Recruits Program: VIC Phase 4

As a 19-year-old high school graduate, Connor Noonan had no idea what career path to explore.

"Apart from not wanting a desk job, I had no real idea about what I wanted to do. I was just applying for any job that would take me, and figured something would come up," Connor says.

At an interview, Connor was told about the Citi New Recruits Program. Having never been employed before, he saw the program as a valuable experience that would look good on his resume and open up job opportunities, so he signed up.

"I found the program incredibly helpful," Connor says, "it taught me a range of important skills and gave me more confidence when going in for a job - it was really worth my time."

As part of the program, Connor completed one week of work experience doing gardening at Haileybury College - a top private school in Melbourne. He impressed the employer and was offered a full-time parks and gardens apprenticeship.

One year on, Connor is thriving at Haileybury. He starts work at 6am and between blowing leaves, pulling weeds, trimming roses, mowing lawns, clipping edges, cutting ivy, trimming trees, watering plants and setting up irrigation systems, he always has something to do.

While Connor says "gardening was the furthest thing from my mind when I graduated", over the past year he says he has grown to love it.

"I find it therapeutic in a way. I like to work with my hands and love working outside in the sun, rather than stressing

out behind a desk."

Connor now sees his career flourishing. He plans to finish his apprenticeship, then upskill further so he can become a qualified gardener and landscaper. He would also love to design a colourful floral garden bed from scratch one day.

Having discovered his passion, Connor says he has much more of a drive now compared to when he was a high school graduate looking for work.

"Now, I am just so determined to keep working hard in this job, so I really crank it out," he says.

For further information please contact:
info@saf.org.au

