

VPG

St Augustine's
College

Work Experience 2025

Facilitated by VPG



Student Highlights

Harry, Miller-Harris Lawyers

When students head out on work experience, VPG visits a handful of them to highlight their stories and achievements and the incredible support from local employers. This time, though, the employer flipped the script. The team at Miller Harris Lawyers invited Harry to share his own perspective. He rose to the challenge, and this is what he shared.



“This week at Miller Harris was truly a one-of-a-kind experience. I had the chance to dive into tasks I didn't expect to enjoy, like filing documents, reading litigation cases that sparked my interest in ways I never anticipated, and meeting a variety of new people who made the experience even more memorable.

I'm especially grateful to Manny and Avalon for taking me to family law court on Monday. They really showed me the ins and outs of family court cases, which was eye-opening. A huge thank you as well to Sean and Kaitlyn for giving me a thorough rundown on commercial law, which gave me a whole new perspective on the field.

Wednesday was a surprise in the best way, as I had a blast in litigation. Thanks to Rowan, Carla, and Adeline for introducing me to a case about two grandmas fighting over handbags - it was as entertaining as it was insightful! Along with this Tim and Finian allowed me to sit in on a phone call, although I did not understand what was going on, it still gave me a realistic view into litigation. Thursday's meetings with Lauren on wills and estates were fascinating, and I'll never forget the depth of knowledge she shared. Then, on Friday, I had an eye-opening session with Lottie on conveyancing, where I learned secret tips on buying a house - definitely something I'll hold onto.

Overall, no matter the task, I had an amazing time this week. It wasn't just the work itself, but the fantastic people around me that truly made it special. ~ Harry

Marcus, PCYC Edmonton

For Marcus, a week at PCYC Edmonton was a firsthand look at the career he's aiming for - policing. Guided by Branch Manager Sergeant Steven Pattono and Sergeant Kelly Chamberlain, he helped organise and facilitate youth engagement programs, supporting event coordination. He also joined officers in running activities, gaining insight into how policing connects with community and engages young people from diverse backgrounds. A highlight for Marcus was visiting the firing range, immersing himself in the environment where officers train. By the end of the week, he felt inspired and motivated, confident that he's "right where he wants to be," while building skills and connections that will support his future in law enforcement.



Program Impact

at a glance



127
Students participated



123
Employer Champions hosted students



TOP 3 INDUSTRIES

Construction **1**
Electrical **2**
Health Services **3**

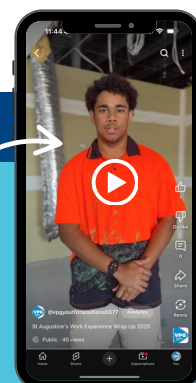


35 Vocations explored

Accounting
Agriculture
Allied Health
Architecture
Automotive Trades
Aviation
Carpentry
Community Services
Construction
Dentistry
Diesel
Fitting/Heavy
Engine
Education
Education - HPE
Electrical
Engineering
Fabrication
Engineering
Drafting
Environmental
Management
Finance

Health
Health & Fitness
Hospitality Cookery
Hospitality Services
Information
Technology
Laboratories &
Technical Support
Land & Animal
Systems
Legal Studies
Marine Science
Medical Imaging
Office Administration
Plumbing
Retail
Retail Pharmacy
Science
Sport & Recreation
Management
Tourism

Click to hear
what the
students had to
say about the
program



Declan & Matthew - Great Barrier Reef Marine Parks

For Declan and Matthew, work experience was an adventure on land and sea. They joined Lead Ranger Peter on boat trips to Mission Beach and Green Island, surveying marine areas and learning about environmental protection. On Fitzroy Island, they took part in trail maintenance, shadowed rangers on water patrols, and helped with vehicle and equipment checks back at the depot, seeing how fieldwork and planning come together to keep parks safe and accessible. The students loved the variety - from hands-on outdoor work to behind-the-scenes safety and compliance tasks. By the end of the week, they'd strengthened teamwork and communication skills and gained a clear view of how environmental roles balance action and strategy, leaving inspired by the adventure, responsibility, and problem-solving in ranger work.

Logan - Revolution Cycles

Logan, a mountain bike enthusiast, used his work experience week to dive into an area he's passionate about - bikes. He stepped straight into the busy workshop at Revolution Cycles, impressing his host, Mark, with his work ethic, initiative, and ability to keep up during the high-traffic week of the international Crankworx bike competition. A standout project saw Logan assembling a bike wheel from scratch - a technical task he handled with ease, earning praise from his host. Over the week, he gained skills in bike mechanics and repair, boosted confidence in communicating and asking questions, and showed initiative in a fast-paced environment. Logan left the placement with great feedback and a stronger sense of how his skills could translate into areas he is interested in - mechanical trade or emergency services.

Ruben, Nathon & Isaac - Cairns Courts

Ruben, Nathon, and Isaac each explored a different corner of the legal system during their week of work experience. Ruben shadowed His Honour Judge Dean Morzone KC, Isaac worked with the Supreme and District Courts registry team, and Nathon gained experience at Devenish Law, assisting with contracts, leases, and health law tasks. A highlight came when all three students were together in a courtroom, observing a trial where the prosecutor represented themselves - a rare and fascinating glimpse into courtroom dynamics. Across their placements, they gained valuable exposure to courtroom procedures, legal administration, and law firm operations. Ruben left inspired to explore law pathways further, Nathon confirmed his ambition to study law and economics with the goal of becoming a judge, and Isaac developed insight into a broad mix of law-related administrative roles.

Zach - Osborne Construction

Zach's week with Osborne Construction gave him an introduction to commercial renovations. He helped install insulation across two levels, patched and moved fit-out materials, measured and cut materials accurately, and fitted temporary doors and roof access panels. Working alongside multiple trades, Zach enjoyed meeting new people and seeing carpenters, electricians, and air-conditioning installers collaborate to keep a busy site running smoothly. He loved the variety and pace of the work, gaining practical skills, confidence in a fast-paced environment, and a clearer understanding of how different trades work together. A keen football player, Zach is now exploring pathways that combine his passion for sport with hands-on work.

Cruz - Ochre Restaurant

Cruz, an aspiring chef, jumped straight into the kitchen at Ochre Restaurant. He gained hands-on experience with seafood preparation, plating dishes, and working both lunch and dinner services, learning to use kitchen tools safely while keeping pace with the teamwork and rhythm of a professional kitchen. He loved the atmosphere and the chance to work closely with the team, contributing to a busy service. By the end of the week, Cruz had sharpened his kitchen skills, gained confidence in a commercial environment, and experienced what life in the culinary world is really like. Praised by his host as a fantastic addition to the team, he left inspired to continue pursuing his dream of a career in the kitchen.

Gus & Mitchell – Johnson Controls

Aspiring electricians Mitchell and Gus dived into commercial electrical work with Johnson Controls, guided by electricians James and Baeden. They helped installed wiring and conduits, repaired AC systems, fitted a motor in a large unit, and worked with software managing pumps, valves, and air conditioning across major Cairns sites. By the end of the week, they'd gained practical skills, confidence with tools, and insight into large-scale projects. Inspired by their hosts, both left considering a future in electrical work, and a new appreciation for the problem-solving tradespeople bring to every job.

Billy, Hannam Street Mufflers

Billy jumped straight into the action at Hannam Street Mufflers, working on exhausts, custom builds, gaskets, high-performance cars, and even doing some welding. He gained hands-on experience with tools, learned how exhaust systems are made, and got a real sense of life in a busy workshop. Already familiar with basic car maintenance from his employment at the local go-kart track, Billy loved being part of the team and seeing projects come together. By the end of the week, he'd built his skills and confidence, leaving with a clearer vision of a future in mechanics - and an interest in combining it with a career in the military.

Ben - NQ Orthodontics & Cairns Precision Dental

Ben split his work experience week between NQ Orthodontics and Cairns Precision Dental, getting a well-rounded view of dentistry from different perspectives. He shadowed a range of treatments and patient appointments, including orthodontics, root canals, cleans, and fillings. He also practised on a simulation mouth, gaining hands-on experience where possible. The placement gave Ben insight into the day-to-day responsibilities of dental professionals and introduced him to the tools and techniques used across different treatments. Already interested in orthodontics from his own experience, he left the week with a broader understanding of specialisation paths, general dentistry, and valuable exposure to career and training pathways in the field.

Arlen - Queensland Rugby Union

Arlen spent his work experience combining two passions – rugby and coaching – with the Queensland Rugby Union. Under FNQ Representative Team Coach Kelvin, he helped deliver school programs, running drills, setting up equipment, and introducing students to the game. Visiting schools across Cairns, Arlen gained confidence leading activities, learned how to engage students through sport, and picked up coaching tips from Kelvin. He left inspired by the mix of sport and teaching, excited to explore pathways that combine his athletic skills with practical work in the future.

Pont – Alpha Cool

Pont spent his work experience exploring his electrical interests at Alphacool. He gained on the job experience helping out with installations, maintenance tasks, and problem-solving, gaining insight into how a busy trades team operates. He learned how electrical systems are managed across different sites and built practical skills while working alongside experienced tradespeople. The Alphacool team presented him with a Certificate of Achievement, noting the positive feedback from those he worked with.

“ Pont has done very well with his placement. We've had positive feedback from the tradespersons he worked with. The overall VPG experience has been great – thank you. ~ Mark, Safety & Environmental Officer, Alphacool