



Building on his career

By **CRAIG MCTEAR**

craig.mctear@coffscoastadvocate.com.au

BRICK by brick, Mark Henry is proving himself in his chosen trade, and is now taking on the best of the best.

The fourth-year Coffs Harbour bricklaying apprentice will represent our region at the national WorldSkills Australia competition next month.

"The competition is a chance for people to compete within their chosen trade, mate versus mate," said Paul Venn, construction/

bricklaying teacher at Coffs Harbour TAFE.

"It puts them under a lot of pressure and time constraints. It's really a challenge and test of their endurance, skills and knowledge."

The local TAFE regularly hosts regional heats of the national competition and Mark was selected to fly the flag for the North Coast at the most recent one.

"I think Mark has a good chance of success," Paul said.

Mark and the other finalists will be judged on a practice entry they

have already completed, a second task of which they have no prior knowledge, and a speed test where they will have only 30 minutes to make a brick pier.

"They will be judged at industry standard," Paul said.

The national championships will be held at the Brisbane Exhibition Centre on May 7, 8 and 9, and will also include opening and closing ceremonies. The winner will head to the world titles next year in the United Kingdom.



LAYING IT ON THE LINE: Mark Henry with his latest creation in his brother's backyard.

PHOTO: SUBMITTED