

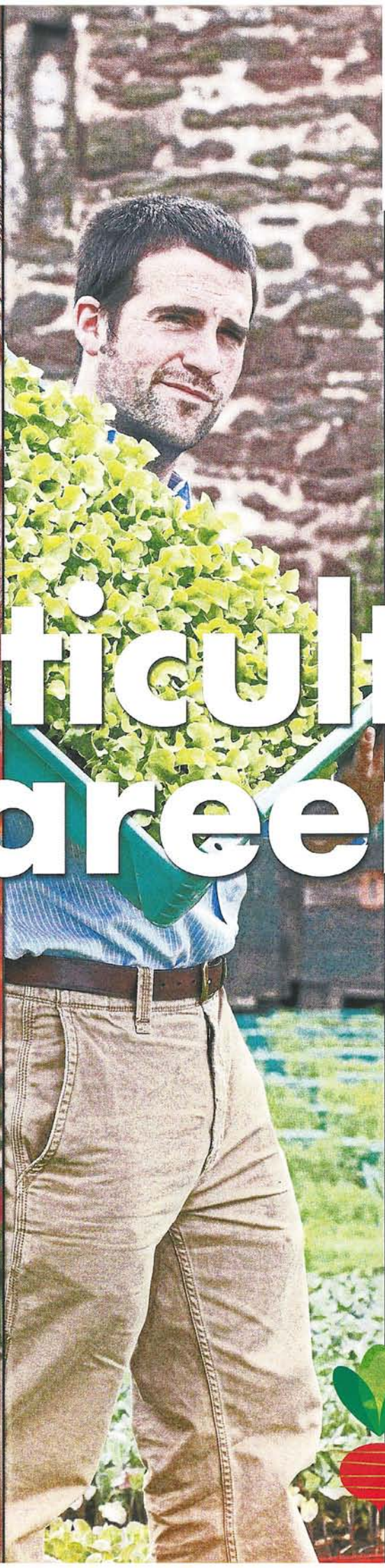
Australian Horticulture

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2010/2011

Horticulture Careers



WHY I GOT DRAWN IN

By PHILLIP JOHNSON, creative director, Phillip Johnson Sustainable Landscape Systems

MY dream to pursue a career in landscape design was inspired by my absolute love of nature, which has been with me my whole life.

Recognising my green thumbs early on, my parents assigned me my first landscape design project as a child – it was a 3m by 3m plot in their backyard.

I'm passionate about this industry for so many reasons – it allows you to give something back to the planet; it's a massive growth industry (in terms of sustainable landscape design, which means more jobs for more Australians in the future); it's given me the opportunity to create a successful business of my own (with many years of study, training and hard work, of course); and because I spend every day outdoors, creating spaces for people to relax and enjoy, and for nature to flourish.

Perhaps the thing I love most about my day-to-day job is that it gives me the opportunity to work with and train apprentices who share my love of nature and design.

Our apprentices and junior designers are the future of my business and this industry.

They inspire me every day with their new ideas and willingness to be a part of my business, to help make a difference to our planet.

I thought I'd give some of these talented newcomers their own chance to tell you why they love this industry, too.



ANTHONY RYAN, 17, Swinburne TAFE, Victoria

Position: Landscaping apprentice.

Training so far: First-year apprentice in landscaping construction.

Years in the industry: One.

Why horticulture? I wanted a job that allowed me to work outdoors (my brother works in landscaping and really enjoys it) and I decided to undertake the landscaping apprenticeship because of the scope of trades that are touched on. Variety is also a perk as no two days are alike. I can be plumbing one day and paving the next.

Phillip Johnson has a really high standard when it comes to delivering a landscape, and in return, my on-the-job training is of a high standard.

Last year I was awarded Trainee of the Year in Horticulture. We build exceptional gardens and I'm really proud of the standard of our work and quality of landscaping we produce.

BRYN EVANS, 18, Upwey High School, Victoria

Position: Landscape trainee.

Training so far: School-based trainee.

Years in the industry: One.

Why horticulture? I chose landscaping as my profession as I really enjoy the great outdoors and the best part of the job is the variety of the days.

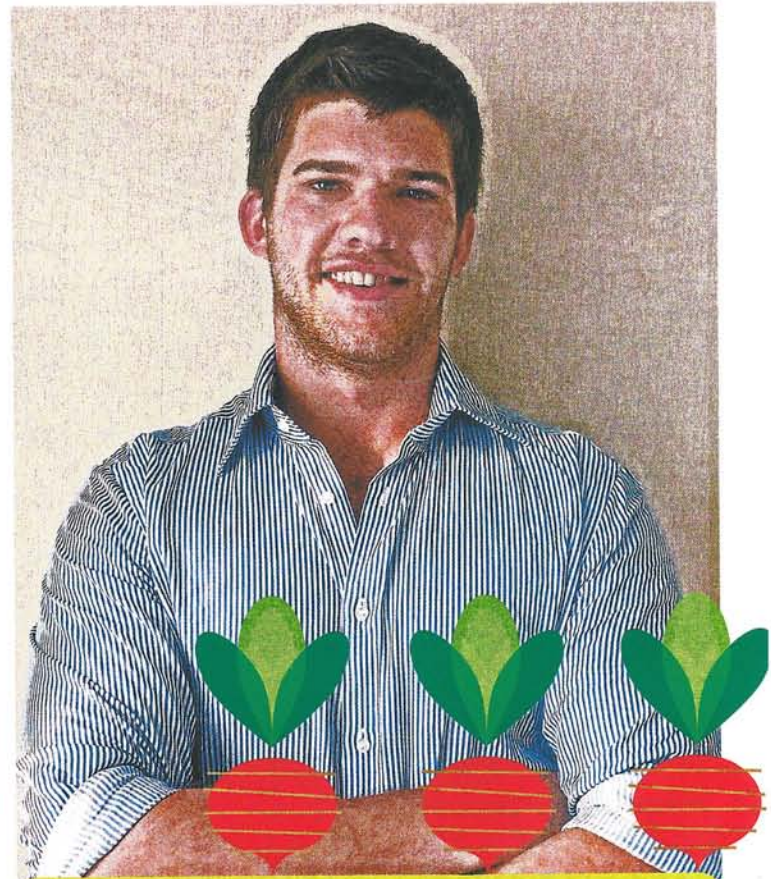
I also find the team environment encouraging – I like being part of a common goal and contributing to a project and seeing the end results.

At the moment I am a school-based trainee. I am working at Phillip Johnson two days a week and the remaining three days are school and TAFE.

I am inspired by seeing what we can achieve and making sure I do the best job I can, the first time.

I would recommend the job because of the varied nature of the role and the fact that I spend my days outside.

Oliver drawn to design landscape



AS this article is going to print, Oliver Carroll is in China on a university trip.

What is he studying, you ask? International relations? Political science? Foreign trade?

None of these, actually.

Oliver is currently completing a degree in Landscape Architecture at Melbourne University and is set to graduate in November 2010.

His course has allowed him to work alongside industry professionals on various projects run through Melbourne Uni, including redesigning Melbourne's laneways.

On top of this, he is currently working with Phillip Johnson Sustainable Landscape Systems as a junior landscape designer.

Oliver finished his VCE in 2006 and was a scholarship holder at Brighton Grammar School.

He says his initial interest in the landscaping industry was a culmination of love of design and the natural world, which led to undertaking a course in landscape architecture at the

University of Melbourne.

"The beautification of the developed world, and reclaiming a piece of void area to the natural landscape appealed to me greatly," Oliver said.

"While an emphasis on 'hard' surfaces was becoming more prevalent throughout my tertiary education, the ideas held by many of Australia's great landscape designers of creating natural habitats guided me towards garden design, where I managed to gain employment with Phillip Johnson Sustainable Landscapes.

"Here I was able to learn valuable skills while being given the opportunity to immerse myself in exciting landscape designs in an amazing working environment."

Oliver said being surrounded by people who share a passion of creating a beautiful landscape and restoring natural habitats provides a direction in his career, and has fuelled his desire to explore the many opportunities that he encounters within the landscape industry.