

Aptitude and **attitude**

FUELED by a mix of determination and enthusiasm, apprentice boilermaker Mandy Van Ee is beating the odds.

Sharp Welding owner Lee Sharp said female boilermakers were a rare breed and Ms Van Ee was pioneering a successful career in the male-dominated trade.

“Not only is she working in a male-dominated trade but she has successfully overcome a hearing impairment to get where she wants to be,” Mr Sharp said.

“It’s all about attitude and she’s got the right attitude to succeed in this industry,” he said.

Ms Van Ee said she was thankful Sharp Welding had taken her on.

“I love a challenge and I’m determined to prove I can be the best boilermaker apprentice possible,” Ms Van Ee said.

Sarina Russo Apprenticeship Services general manager Kevin Jarick said Ms Van Ee was a great role

model for women who wanted to enter careers that attracted a proportionately higher number of males.

“Mandy is fortunate she has a boss who understands the need to create a learning environment,” Mr Jarick said.

“If employers want employees better educated and more aware, they need to contribute to their learning.

“The apprenticeship system allows people to do real work and receive real pay while undertaking relevant training,” he said.

Mr Jarick said SRAS’s priority was to educate employers that apprentices needed to complete their training.

“Apprentices also have to be educated not to stop their apprenticeship for the lure of short-term, full-time money,” Mr Jarick said

He said apprentices would find completing a trade had long-term advantages.



APPRENTICE boilermaker Mandy Van Ee gets the sparks flying in a man's world.