

## APPRENTICESHIPS

**Hooked by a  
Spice Rack**

**D**on't let it be said that craftsmanship is dead! The finer art of woodwork is alive and well—especially, it seems, on the north side. Tools down! The winners of the inaugural Youth Woodworking Scholarship have been decided and the first three placegetters are, yes, from the north shore.

The Scholarship is a national competition open to any apprentice woodworker under 22. Sponsors, Mother of Pearl & Sons Trading (suppliers of furniture restoration products) say they hope their involvement will raise the profile of the trade and promote the tradition of apprenticeship. Just to make it as difficult (and authentic) as possible, the judges decided that each entry must be a miniature of a traditional item of furniture.

In days of yore, miniatures were considered an important part of furniture making. The apprentice piece was used to demonstrate the level of craft gained whilst working under the influence of various master craftsmen.

The winning entry, made by Scott Zeller of Normanhurst is a Louis XVI writing desk from Brazilian mahogany with inlaid ebony decoration. For his winning effort Scott has received an airline ticket to Florence, Italy (we hope it's a return), along with \$1000 spending money and expenses for three weeks of study in artisan workshops.

Scott, now 23, works as an antique restorer/cabinet maker for his own company, "Zellers".



● Scott Zeller's winning Miniature Louis XVI writing desk.

"It all started off at high school when I did woodwork," Scott says. "After creating my first spice rack I was hooked for life!" Scott left school in Year 11 and began an apprenticeship in 1989 under the guidance of master craftsman, Andrew Farquhar. "If you want to learn the traditional skills, Andrew is the person to see," Scott recommends.

So it's no surprise that runner up Philip Mathie is also currently apprenticed to Farquhar. The other runner up, Robert Huntley, is employed by James Salmond—formerly an apprentice of Mr Farquhar.

"We have the talent in this country to create the furniture that most people believe can only be made in Europe," Mr Farquhar said from his workshop in Bowral. "My apprentices are as good as any in the world—I only want people who strive to be the best, I don't have time for mediocrity."

*All of the finalists' pieces from the Scholarship will be on display at the Timber & Working With Wood Show, 21-23rd July at RAS Showgrounds.* • STEPHEN LACEY