

WIRED FOR WORK IN FAMILY TRADE

SIBLINGS Matthew and Andrea Coleby are not only on a path to an electrical career together, but also are following in the footsteps of their father Leighton – completing their apprenticeship with the same employer and training provider as their father.

Both have chosen to begin their careers with PEER, where Leighton started his training in 1995.

Leighton says he chose the career because of his interest in electronics and how things worked.

“I haven’t had any problems getting work, it’s exciting, and I’m doing something different each day – you never do the same thing twice,” he says.

He operates his own business but at this stage he says it is too early for them all to commit to joining forces once his children become qualified tradespeople.

“They have different interests ... they both want to do a combination of electrical (work) and other things,” he says. “We’ll see how things turn out.”

Matthew is a second-year electrical apprentice and is enjoying his career choice so far.

He is interested in the industrial and commercial side of the work, and contemplating moving into engineering after finishing his apprenticeship.

“Since I was 7 I knew that was what I wanted to do,” he says.

“As I got older, I was helping (his father) out,

when he was doing stuff at home, passing tools.”

He says being employed by PEER has been a great opportunity because PEER will find host employers for him to work with, giving him experience across different companies in the domestic, commercial and industrial areas of electrical work.

He also says PEER has excellent training facilities at its Albert Park Trade Training Centre.

Andrea is two months into her four-year electrical apprenticeship and says the problem-solving nature of the work so far has her interest. “I’ve always gone out on jobs with (her father) and handed him tools and stuff like that,” she says. “When I was about 10, they asked us what we wanted to be when we grew up, I wanted to be a sparky.”

“There’s always new technology coming out.

“It’s not going to be boring.”

Once licensed, Andrea is interested in pursuing refrigeration work as an extension to the electrical qualification, and she also wants to start her own business.

PEER chief executive Peter Nolan says it is great to play a part in helping Matthew and Andrea begin their skilled careers.

“Career paths open to apprentices are so broad and it will be interesting to see where Matthew and Andrea are 10 years from now,” he says.

“It’s amazing to think PEER has been involved across the generations, it’s a real privilege actually.”



IN DAD'S FOOTSTEPS: Matthew and Andrea Coleby are doing apprenticeships through PEER.



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