



Longveld was founded by Les and Pam Roa in 1992 with little more than a toolbox, a welder and some great trade skills, to provide stainless steel site installation services to the dairy sector in Australasia.

“Our purpose is to be a team of courageous people creating remarkable things.”



For more info on Longveld, check out [longveld.com](http://longveld.com)



**KYLE PRINCE**  
MACHINING APPRENTICE



The FutureForce® Crew sat down with Kyle to chat about his role...

Longveld Services:

- Profile cutting
- Fabrication
- Engineering design
- Collaboration projects
- Bespoke customisation
- Mobility impaired design

Industries Served:

- Dairy
- Food & beverage
- Water
- Marine
- Aquaculture
- Art & sculpture
- Future foods
- Medical

When Machining Apprentice Kyle Prince decided he wanted to work for award-winning Hamilton engineering business Longveld, he took the plunge and sent them his CV out of the blue.

“They weren’t advertising for a new apprentice or anything but I had done my research and I was just like “I’ll just give it a shot,” and sent in my CV. Then within the day they sent me an email wanting to meet and, yeah, that was pretty much how I got it!”

To find out more about this sector, profiles of young people like you in the industry, and career tools and tips...

scan here



WHAT IS YOUR ROLE?

I am a Machining Apprentice. I work a couple of machines that are pretty challenging to work. That’s what I was initially trained to do. When I started my apprenticeship I spent a lot of time on those machines learning from the person doing it before me. After that I trained someone and then they moved me to start doing more of the fabrication side, so more welding.

WHAT GOT YOU INTERESTED IN ENGINEERING?

A friend was going to Hillcrest too and he was doing this engineering course that sounded pretty cool to me because they built a push cart the year before. Then they told me they were building a motorbike and I LOVE motorbikes. Once I got started on building this motorbike I just sort of fell in love with it. I used to stay after school to 6pm building my school project and just having fun with it, learning. Ever since then I knew I wanted to go into the engineering sector.

TOP CAREER TIP

“IT’S ALL ABOUT BEING CONSISTENT AND DOING WHAT YOU LOVE AND DOING EVEN WHAT YOU DON’T LOVE TO MAKE YOURSELF BETTER.”

HOW DID YOU GET THIS JOB?

At the time all I wanted to do was tech welding and obviously we do predominantly tech. They weren’t advertising for a new apprentice or anything but I was just like “I’ll just give it a shot,” and sent in my CV. Then within the day they sent me an email wanting to meet and, yeah, that was pretty much how I got it!

WHAT DO YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT WORKING AT LONGVELD?

I’ve been here for going on to three years. With all workplaces you form relationships and you come in as a shy person not knowing what you’re really doing. Eventually, you’re just mates with everyone, you can work with anyone, talk to anyone. Yeah, just the camaraderie at Longveld is really good!

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**WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNT ON THE JOB?**

Everything I know I've learnt here. Obviously I learnt a little bit from my previous job but nothing compared to here. I never touched a tech welder before I got here, and they just threw me in there and was like, "you're doing your welding ticket in two weeks." I'm quite hard on myself because I take a lot of pride in my work. Obviously you have to balance perfection with practicality and you're working to deadlines so you can't spend an insane amount of time on everything. The saying is: "it takes the same amount of time to do a bad weld as a good weld. You just have to be realistic."



**WHERE WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO WITH YOUR CAREER?**

I would like to work my way up the company. I quite enjoy 3D modelling, CAD and all that stuff – so maybe to a role like that. I was thinking maybe in a few years time – underwater welding! Something challenging, something not a lot of people do because there's a lot of fabricators out there and I don't want to do the same old, I want to do something that really challenges and pushes the boundary and even if that puts my body on the line. There's a whole bunch of training that goes into it.



**TIPS & ADVICE**

**WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE SOMEONE LOOKING AT THIS TYPE OF WORK?**

Do a little bit of research on a company you apply for and make sure that what they do and what you're going to learn will align with what you want to do in the future. There's no point in learning something and getting good at it when it doesn't align with your future goals.

**WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO SOMEONE DECIDING ON THEIR CAREER?**

If you don't know what to do it just takes a little bit of time. While you're young you can change your careers, and don't think that because you choose something right after school it's what you have to stick with for the rest of your life. I've personally gone through three-to-four careers already and I'm 23! If you want it bad enough just go for it! You'll get there eventually.

**WHAT IS THE BEST CAREER ADVICE YOU'VE RECEIVED?**

Again, just patience. It's all about being consistent and doing what you love and doing even what you don't love to make yourself better. It's going to take a little bit of time to become the best you can be. Also don't put stainless steel next to mild steel... it rusts... haha.

