

Technology's worth a medal



Joel Anderson and Brady Yeates pouring the molten metal into the moulds. 10h1836d



Fitter and turners Brady and Joel with some freshly cast medallions. 10h1836a



STEPHEN O'GRADY

stephen.ogrady@frasercoastchronicle.com.au

IT IS more than fitting that a hotbed of technological innovation should have been the place where the winning medals for the 2010 Technology Challenge have been wrought.

Out of temperatures of 1000 degrees Celsius and beyond, 136 bronze red-hot medals have been poured and finely crafted by the team at Olds Engineering in Maryborough.

Father-and-son team Peter and Robert Olds have used time-honoured techniques at their North Street foundry where invention and innovation are a daily ingredient.

Their link to next weekend's Tech Challenge is nigh on perfection.

"The medals are hand crafted by skilled locals using a 6000-year-old-process and the latest technology. First the new design is prepared on computers and then cut by a laser into the face pieces used on the foundry patterns," Robert Olds said.

"Bronze is the metal of choice because the oldest known castings were made from this."

Every medal is unique because an individual handmade sand casting is used each time with a



Robert Olds with some freshly cast medallions for the Technology Challenge.

Photos: ALISTAIR BRIGHTMAN 10h1836c

slightly different textured surface resulting from each mould.

The "faultless" medals are ground and hand finished smooth on liners, hand filed to de-burr, and buffed ready for the final inspection. All the runners and off-cuts are recycled in the next

melt. Any castings with blemishes or faults are returned to the crucible and remelted in the furnace.

The RACQ Technology Challenge on September 11-12 is Queensland's largest youth and technology event.

Maryborough's city streets are

transformed into a super race meet with over 2000 students from primary and secondary schools throughout the state racing human powered vehicles, smile pushcarts, CO2 dragsters, solar boats and cars, as well as leading robots in dance, rescue and race.

Celebrating 21 years of service to the Wide Bay area

Mecano
ABN 66 060 490 851

Only while stocks last

Skillion W41 Zinc Double \$1990 Single \$1290	Gable W41 colour trim Double \$2300 Single \$1500 Various sizes available*

Transportable shelters 6x6 \$2300 6x9 \$3240 7.5x 9 \$3990 (Limited)	6x6x \$4690 6x9 \$6490 W41 7.5x9 \$7990 Limited colours 2.4 m high with 17.5 degree pitch		Lawn lockers with assembled wall frames in various sizes

Optional lofts. Various sizes available 9m wide 7m deep \$7990

Various sizes of open front sheds 9x12x3.6 (30x40x12 feet) \$8900

RUSSIE-1
BUILDER OF HOMES

Harvey Bay Agency

Corro or traditional Hardi board 3 bedroom kits from **\$16990**

Novelty garages suitable for guest rooms and games rooms	Commercial and industrial buildings 36m x 18m x 6m \$554900 4 Industrial doors (4.2x4.5) 4 Windows 1200x1800

STUCK FOR A GIFT IDEA? HOW ABOUT A CHRONICLE SUBSCRIPTION? 4120 1000

Advertisement

Celebrate disability action week
5-11 September 2010

Embrace the difference and diversity that enrich our community during Disability Action Week.

If we all work together, we can create a truly inclusive community.

To get involved in events and activities in your community call 1800 177 120 or TTY 1800 010 222 or visit www.disability.qld.gov.au

Be part of creating a more inclusive Queensland

randstad | **Toward** Tomorrow's Queensland | **Queensland Government**

2013-10 AUG 10