

Custom fit for college office pod enterprise

Kurtis Eichler

A COSY home office for an aspiring author crafted by 12 construction students at a Taperoo high school will soon hit the market.

Ocean View College students taking part in the Doorways2Construction program created the 3.5m by 2.5m office pod over nine months last year.

Students have been adding finishing touches to their creation ahead of it being put up for sale next month with a price tag of about \$15,000. The money raised will go towards funding the construction of more office pods.

Teacher Kaz Neilson said the pod had plumbing and electrical wiring similar to caravans and could be placed in a suburban backyard.

"The students have been working on it every Monday for about three terms and that is part of their trade training," Mr Neilson said.

"It's designed for install-

ation in someone's backyard as the want-to-be author's home office and it's an attractive thing that could be in your backyard."

This was the first year the school built an office pod and it is believed to be one of only a few in the state to offer such a program.

"If we were trying to run the project on our existing

budget we couldn't afford to build stuff and then pull it down for training purposes," Mr Neilson said. "We have to be a little bit enterprise-thinking about it."

Mr Neilson said the 16-year-old students who complete the Doorways2Construction program earn their Certificate I in construction. The school al-

ready has two companies, one in Tennant Creek and another at Coober Pedy, wanting to order more office pods.

"They find they are paying \$35,000 to \$40,000 for old mining offices which they fit out with air conditioners but they cost a lot to run and look really ugly."

Student Culann, 17, says

the project turned out a lot better than many of the students expected.

"It allowed us to develop all skills to do with building and it pretty much gave us the opportunity to do a little bit of everything," Culann says. "And it gave us a lot of problems to actually figure out as things went wrong and how we could fix them."



Ocean View College Year 12 students Brody, Bradley, Natasha and Culann spent most of last year building a transportable building as part of their Doorways2Construction course.

Picture: SIMON CROSS