

Green fingers lead to cricket job

MIKE PEETERS

YOUNG Midland man Rory Bairnsfather-Scott, 22, has always had 'green fingers' and attributes his early love of horticulture to his parents.

Mr Bairnsfather-Scott, who has an English father and Indigenous mother, grew up helping in the garden, mowing lawns and playing backyard cricket.

He started off his traineeship at the City of Swan and did work experience at the Midland Morrison Lawn Bowls Club.

He is currently working as a groundsman

at the WACA – WA's home of cricket – a job he says, is a dream come true.

At the WACA he helps to maintain the pitch, outfield, practice pitches and surrounding gardens.

"And with the State cricket team based and training at the WACA ground, I've had the chance to meet international cricketers such as Mitchell Johnson, Mike Hussey and Shaun Marsh," said Mr Bairnsfather-Scott.

"And cricket greats such as Dennis Lillee, Geoff Marsh and, until recently, Graeme Wood are still involved in administration or coaching roles at the WACA, so I've enjoyed meeting these legends of the game too."

He recently won the 2012 National Sports Turf Graduate Award – presented by The Australian Golf Course Superintendents' Association for excellence in turf management.

As part of his prize, he will travel to the United States next January to attend a specialised seven-week winter turf program at the University of Massachusetts.

He will also spend a week touring the Minneapolis factories and headquarters of major corporations in his field.

The award attracts



Award-winning Challenger Institute graduate Rory Bairnsfather-Scott working at the WACA.

competition from ground staff at the biggest and best stadiums and golf courses across the country.

"My ambition is to travel and try my hand at preparing cricket pitches in different climates and conditions around the world," Mr Bairnsfather-Scott said.

"I want to continue studying turf and horti-

culture to increase my knowledge and one day become a leader in the industry."

As part of his training, Mr Bairnsfather-Scott completed a three-year Certificate III in Horticulture (Turf) at Challenger Institute of Technology, Fremantle last year.

He said the focus on science was an enjoy-

able addition to the hands-on component of the course.

"I really liked the study side of my apprenticeship," he said.

"I found the technical and scientific part of the course fascinating and as I see the practical side every day at work, I enjoyed the time spent learning in a classroom."

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