



# Students blooming from property industry pros

PROPERTY and development proteges starting their careers are gaining firsthand industry knowledge that cannot be taught in the classroom.

The Urban Development Institute of Australia's mentor program is allowing property novices to tap into the know-how of seasoned professionals in the city's second-largest industry.

One of the partnerships has teamed 18-year-old Griffith University student James Ballantyne with Gold Coast City Council town planner Wiremu Cherrington.

Through the program, Mr Ballantyne has been introduced to the various facets involved in council's development application process.

Gold Coast UDIA president Col Dutton said the mentor program had become a well-regarded learning tool.

"Tertiary education provides a great grounding, but

there's nothing like firsthand industry exposure," he said.

Mr Cherrington said Mr Ballantyne, a first-year business student, was looking over the details of recent planning approvals, including the \$850 million Soul tower.

When completed, Soul by Juniper will include 77 floors and stand 245 metres above Surfers Paradise on an enormous 8260sqm site.

"We will be explaining how this application was assessed, tracking through the various stages, and then going onsite so James can see the end result," said Mr Cherrington.

Organised by Urban Edge, the key industry committee for young professionals, the program is open to university students or anyone with less than two years' experience with a member organisation.

Along with Mr Ballantyne, three other Urban Edge

mentees are participating in the program:

- Hannah Silvasich, a Bond University student, will learn from Kerrie Young, partner and research analyst from Conics.

- Jeremy Allan, from Bond University, will be mentored by Steve Twohill, development manager at Ingles Group.

- Ciara Donnelly, from Bond University, will be mentored by senior staff at Land-Mark White.

In addition, two members of Gold Coast UDIA's Women in Development Committee have signed on:

- Rochelle Barclay, a University of New England graduate, who will be mentored by Gareth Richardson from Stockland.

- Natalie Duncan-Tibbey, of Ray White Burleigh Heads, will be mentored by a senior member of Arnold Development Consultants.



Student James Ballantyne (rear) with town planner Wiremu Cherrington