

Charitable foundation helped Martin Phillips swap country life for city university degrees and work

# Ex-farm boy works field of defence

Community | Heather Bloom

IT'S a long way from the farm to the biggest defence company in the nation, but Martin Phillips has made the leap seamlessly.

Thanks to the team at the West Melbourne-based Doxa Youth Foundation, he was able to move to Melbourne and complete his degree.

Doxa helps disadvantaged young people by investing in education programs to help them realise their true potential.

Hailing from Camperdown in southwestern Victoria, Mr Phillips grew up on his family's struggling farm.

With the help of Doxa, the 23-year-old completed a double degree in aerospace engineering and technology and now works for BAE Systems Australia in Abbotsford.

"I don't think I ever saw myself ever finishing a double degree and working for the biggest defence company in Australia," he said. "I absolutely love what I do. It's a

## GOOD CAUSE

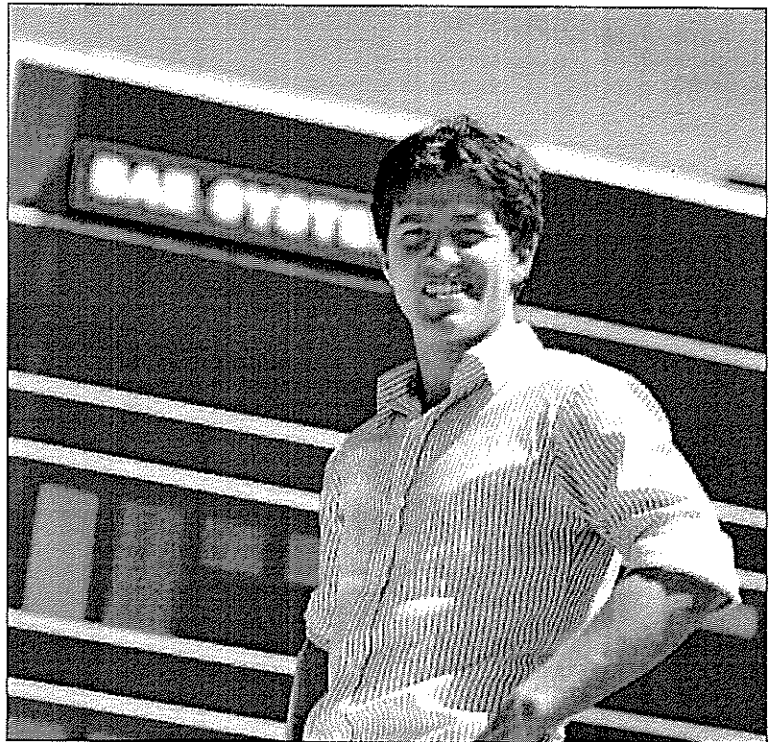
ALL proceeds from works sold in a new exhibition in the city will be donated to the Doxa Youth Foundation. From There to Here features the works of artists Kim Kennedy, Di King, Lina Ryazanoff, Clive Sinclair, David Taylor and Michael Weitnauer and sculptor Max Irvine. The show is on at Australia on Collins, 260 Collins St, until November 28.

really friendly environment to work in and everyone really enjoys what we do."

And he hasn't forgotten how important the support he had from Doxa was in his future.

Mr Phillips said he wanted to help other disadvantaged students in the community.

"I think with some experience in the company I could one day be a mentor for a cadet," he said.



Martin Phillips wants to return the favour after being helped to achieve a defence career. Picture: SUSAN WINDMILLER NISAME701