

Rubble and toil prove anything but trouble for young gun

Carin Pickworth

SPENDING his gap year on a cattle station north of Julia Creek gave Andrew Northcott the stamina he needed to tackle the volatile world of business ownership.

The 23-year-old managing director of Milton-based human resources company Labour Solutions Australia is a poster boy for youthful confidence.

Beginning with just \$800 he earned from a casual job, the QUT property economics student is at the helm of a national recruitment powerhouse.

His bright idea to address the shortage of labourers in the building industry began when he took up labouring work.

"I was driving trucks and digging holes and I sort of realised how there was a massive skills shortage in the blue collar industry, so I thought I would give it a go," Mr Northcott says.

Some face-to-face networking and months without sunshine later, the then 20-year-old managed to secure contracts with several large companies with recruitment



YOUNG achiever . . . Andrew Northcott has reached great heights with Labour Solutions.

needs—including Smorgon Steel Recycling, Grace Removals Worldwide and The Formula Group.

"From day one I have been concentrating on partnering with our clients in offering a level of service that is second to none (and) which has been maintained even with such

significant levels of growth," Mr Northcott says. "I have also continually ensured all candidates are of the highest possible standard."

Labour Solutions Australia is in the process of securing another three contracts that are set to send its growth rocketing. Last month also marked the

appointment of experienced general manager John Nardi and investor Ken Warriner.

"This will bring a lot of experience to the table and we are hoping to secure some big contracts," he says. These "big contracts" could lead to a 500 per cent increase to the turnover of \$1.5 million.

Picture: John Wilson

The former Brisbane Boys College young gun has promised himself he will pour more energy into his love of sailing in the near future—to "keep the sanity".

"I do work too much, I admit," he says. "I want to eventually do a Sydney to Hobart race, so I will work towards that."