

Accident a lesson for all drivers

By BREANNA TUCKER

AFTER surviving a major truck accident a year ago, Andrew Twitt easily could have walked away from his job as a Border Express truck driver.

Instead, he went back to school to learn how to teach others how to avoid accidents such as his.

He has now been named the NSW State Training Awards Trainee of the Year for the Riverina region.

Mr Twitt, 39, graduated with a certificate II in transport distribution and then completed a certificate IV in workplace training and assessment.

He now trains 40 Border Express haul line drivers across the country and has led training seminars in Brisbane, Adelaide, Sydney and Canberra.

He said he was trying to lift Border Express workers to a higher level and to make them realise they were accountable for everything they did.

Mr Twitt said the industry was full of "big boof-head drivers who think we know what we are doing".

That meant there were drivers who knew how to tarp up a truck but were unaware of a safer way of doing it.

"I want to change attitudes within the industry so that Border Express is not just another distributor but a shining example of how it should be done," Mr Twitt said.

He said he initially was sceptical of the training program.

After 20 years in the industry he felt there was nothing more they could teach him, so he was reluctant to go back into what he thought would be a classroom environment.

"It is more a hands on, practical experience and while you may be upgrading your skills in some areas, you are also being given accreditation for the things you do know," he said.

Wodonga TAFE and Border Express managers said Mr Twitt was a man who was always learning and always had questions.

They admired the realistic way he put his message across to other workers.

Riverina award committee member Samantha Lloyd said Mr Twitt was a stand-out choice for the Riverina award.

Mr Twitt will attend a state gala presentation dinner at the Darling Harbour Convention Centre in Sydney on September 7.



● Andrew Twitt with Border Express' Mark Chaston and TAFE's Sput Lowry.