Junior Winner – Nathan Swain, age 11, Tristan da Cunha

Topic: 3. I am the future

I want to be a carpenter and a builder and learn the skills from the elder people on my island. As I learn, the skills will be passed from those people on to me. When I grow up I want to be just like my dad. My dad learnt how to be a carpenter from his dad and I will learn the skills from my dad.

Watching my dad doing his work is amazing sometimes. I do learn a lot from my dad just by watching him. When my dad started working as a carpenter he was only seventeen. Since then my dad has built his own house and used his carpentry skills to build his own fitted kitchen and furniture. My dad taught me that not all work is easy but still I’m looking forward to learning.

I am eleven and I am the future for my island and all of the other children in my school are the future too. The building and carpentry skills I learn will help with the problems on Tristan, like there isn’t a lot of space left in the settlement. Because of the strong winds and salt air on Tristan there is always damage to the buildings that needs repairing. Being a carpenter and builder will help the people in my community.

I could also use my carpentry skills to build boats. On Tristan boats are used for fishing, sailing to the nearby islands, and travelling around Tristan to reach the cattle that are kept there. We do not have an airport so the boats have to take the islanders off to a nearby ship. If the volcano ever erupted then boats can be used to evacuate people. Boats are very important on Tristan so the more boats we have the better.

In the future I can teach the younger people the skills and techniques that I have learnt and improve the buildings on Tristan.

My dad told me that in carpentry and building anything is possible. I can build anything I want if I have the skills.