ASHCROFT High School student Samaria Taia is defying the stereotype of what a skilled tradesperson should look like.

“As a female, people are surprised when I tell them I want to do a trade,” Samaria said.

John Holland Group recently held a Try A Trades Day at Miller TAFE for young women interested in becoming apprentices.

“Everyone thinks it’s a guys job but I thought I’d give it a shot,” she said.

Her interest in working with her hands stems from when she would help her grandfather around the house.

“I have been accepted for six weeks of work experience in construction with John Holland and am looking forward to it,” Samaria said.

Coming from a family of tradies, she said her relatives have been supportive.

“My grandfather Itaea passed away and his wish was for me to build the house he always wanted on the Cook Islands,” she said.

Girls trade up careers

Megan, Sonia, Elizabeth, Stacy and Tamika get hands on experience.

Picture: TIM CLAPIN

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