

HARD TIMES

feeling the pain

being built falls by declines by 10%

only do a couple of developments each year, so it hurts us."

At the moment, Mr Carrigan is selling the final unit in Amaroo Drive in Buderim, a stunning penthouse.

Of the six in the development, he said the first four sold very quickly, then there was a lull as the economic downturn took hold.

The fifth unit took longer to sell.

Now the final unit is being sold just as the Coast is supposed to be recovering, so Mr Carrigan is optimistic about his chances.

Stuart Greensill also thinks Mr Carrigan's final unit could be sold sooner rather than later, flagging "some green shoots" in the market.

The director and property valuer with Herron Todd White in Mooloolaba said it was the higher-end market which always suffered in a slowdown.

However, as confidence returned to the industry, the buyers would not be too far behind.

"When there's more confidence, more people are looking at doing things," Mr Greensill said.

"But I don't think there's anywhere where there's been massive improvements."

Mr Greensill said there had been some stimulus in the industry since the latest statistics were calculated and described them as a "lagging indicator".

"But interest rates aren't helping and the sheer horsepower needed to finalise a mortgage is quite high on the Coast," he said.

Mr Carrigan said first homebuyer grants were often spent with project builders selling house and land packages in estates.

Higher-end builders were still facing a slowdown in demand, he said.



READY TO WORK: Aaron Burton-Hillman and Andrew Logan have just completed a civil skills training course through Cadet. PHOTO: BRETT WORTMAN/187407

On-the-job training to benefit locals

AFTER 10 weeks of study and on-the-job experience, these two are trained and ready to work.

They yesterday finished the first civil skills program on the Sunshine

Coast, run by CADET Group Australia and funded by the state government.

Aaron Burton-Hillman, who studied with Andrew Logan, saw the course as a "good opportunity to start afresh".

"I was unemployed but before that I was working at a wreckers, wrecking cars," he said.

"The course wasn't too bad, now I'm just hoping it will be worth it."

Welcome **2**Christmas

SUNSHINE COAST CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SPECTACULAR

12th - 24th December | 6 - 9:30pm
Maroochy Baptist Centre | 186 Wisers Rd, Buderim

WHAT'S ON

- Animal Farm
- Market Place
- Food Plaza
- Christmas: the Real Story Musical Production (7pm & 8pm every night)
- Christmas Carols and Much More!

Sunshine Coast's largest FREE Christmas event

My Next Kitchen will be a Mynex

...call

Kitchen Grants

Up to \$250,000 in grants to eligible Kitchen Renovators

Call Mynex Kitchens now to see if you qualify

Order your Kitchen before X'mas and get an extra 25% added to your grant

ph: 5445 4877