

30 June 2016

Top Builder's Award to Ross North

A former Kiwi apprentice carpenter is the recipient of this year's Robert Law Award.

Ross North, the Managing Director of the Ross North Group of companies, was presented with this prestigious award by Master Builders National President, Dan Perkins at Master Builders annual CEO Lunch at Crown on 29 June in front of 160 of his peers.

The Robert Law Award, named in honour of Master Builders' first President in 1898, recognizes exceptional service to the WA building and construction industry over a number of years. It can be awarded to individuals or organizations.

"The Robert Law Award is judged by Master Builders' Board and Ross North is a man worthy of the highest recognition by his peers," Master Builders Director, Michael McLean said.

Ross North arrived in Perth in 1967 from New Zealand where he had completed his carpentry apprenticeship.

Mr North went to night school twice a week from 1968-74 to obtain his builders registration ticket.

During this time he had progressed from a sub-contract carpenter to a Building Supervisor and then to a Building Manager with reputable project home builders, PJ Constructions and AV Jennings.

He started Ross North Homes in 1976 from one room in an old house in North Perth doing renovations and building for friends and relations, including the odd pergola on weekends to keep his carpentry skills well tuned.

The Ross North Group now comprises:

- Ross North Homes – the marquis brand targeting second and third home-buyers in the \$250k-\$450k price bracket.
- Complete Homes – specializing in house and land packages for the entry level market.
- Ross North Developments – focussing on strata and multi-unit developments.

The Ross North Group currently builds from Mandurah to Yanchep, having resisted the temptation to extend the business to regional WA.

As a fit and healthy septuagenarian, Ross North is still actively involved in the day to day operation of the company, remaining the "face" of his business.

Today the Ross North Group has 12 display homes and about 50 staff.

Through a personal connection, Ross North Homes has built 2 charity homes for the Multiple Sclerosis Association.

Over the last 40 years, the Ross North Group has built more than 10,000 quality homes for over 30,000 West Australians.

According to Master Builders Director Michael McLean, Ross North recognized from the outset that cutting corners by using second class trades and building materials may get the job done, but his clients were unlikely to return or provide referrals to friends or family.

Media Release

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“Over the years, Ross North Homes have won over 20 Master Builders awards and more than 12 HIA awards for building excellence as well as awards for stylish kitchens and bathrooms”, Mr McLean said.

“Ross North has mentored and trained aspiring young builders, as well as encouraging his staff to participate on industry policy forums such as Master Builders Housing Council”.

“Ross North Homes pride themselves on their customer service and rarely appear before any of the dispute tribunals – preferring to fix the problem rather than fight it”.

“From the outset, Ross North has built double brick homes – being a loyal client of Midland Brick from day one – that company celebrating 70 years in business this year”, Mr McLean said.

“Ross North’s career should inspire many young apprentice carpenters who are prepared to work hard to achieve their ambitions to be successful in a dynamic building industry”.

“The Ross North Homes’ positioning statement is “a reputation built on excellence”. After 40 years, this has been achieved without dispute – making Ross North a worthy recipient of this year’s Robert Law Award”.

Ross North said he felt very humbled and honoured to receive the Robert Law Award.

“I continue to enjoy building quality homes for West Australians”, Mr North said.

“My vision was never to be the biggest builder of new homes in Perth but to do my best to be the best”.

The Robert Law Award has been presented annually by the Master Builders Association since 1998, the Association’s centennial year. Previous winners have been:

- 1998 HomesWest
- 1999 Graham Kierath
- 2000 Geraldton Building Company
- 2001 Len Buckeridge *
- 2002 John Roberts *
- 2003 Plunkett Homes
- 2004 Graham Glick
- 2005 Ron Scott *
- 2006 Gervase Purich
- 2007 Robert Torrance
- 2008 Garry Brown-Neaves and Dale Alcock
- 2009 Peter Hunt *
- 2010 Peter Bruechle
- 2011 John Lewis Doust AM
- 2012 Julian Walter
- 2013 George Allingame
- 2014 Bob Greaves AM
- 2015 Ron Doubikin AM

* Deceased

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