

BEST APPRENTICES IN THE WEST

Each year there are more apprentices being trained in the building industry than any other industry in WA. Master Builders director Michael McLean reports on the best apprentices from this year's Apprentice of the Year Awards.

CONSTRUCTION apprenticeships continue to be the most popular way for most young school leavers to commence a career in the building industry.

Each year the Master Builders Association organises an awards presentation function for the best apprentices in WA's building industry.

This year's event was jointly hosted by Skill Hire and the WA Solid Plastering Association, with prizes sponsored by the Construction Training Fund.

The judging criteria focuses on trade skills, the apprentice's relationship with fellow workers, the ability to work unsupervised and make decisions, level

of competency, academic results, relevant awards and community work.

The judging panel for the top apprentice award this year comprised of the Construction Training Fund's Alan Jackson, the chairman of MBA's Training Committee Philip Kemp and MBA's business director Graeme Dix.

This year's list of finalists vying for the top apprentice award was one of the best ever which reflects well on the quality of training being provided by builders, specialist contractors and group training schemes.

The top apprentices this year were:

CATEGORY	WINNER	TRADE	EMPLOYER/HOST
Most Outstanding Apprentice	Nick Johnston	Cabinet Making	Studio Milton
Most Outstanding Plastering Apprentice	Ryan Billingham	Plastering	Tom Irvine
Most Outstanding Skill Hire Apprentice	Connor Duffy	Electrical	E&M Electrical
Most Outstanding Wall and Tiling Apprentice	Luke Lamille	Wall and Floor Tiling	Skill Hire WA
Most Outstanding Direct Indentured Apprentice	Roan Spence	Stonemason	Colgan Industries
Most Outstanding Brick and Blocklaying (Direct Indenture) Apprentice	Beau Simpson	Bricklaying	BGC Residential
Most Outstanding Brick and Blocklaying Apprentice (Group Scheme)	Beau Mettraux	Bricklaying	Skill Hire WA
Most Outstanding Female Apprentice	Jessie Wilson	Bricklaying	BGC Residential
Most Outstanding Indigenous Building and Construction Apprentice	Beau Simpson	Bricklaying	BGC Residential
Most Outstanding Carpentry Apprentice (Direct Indenture)	Jamie Stewart	Carpentry	Everthought Education
Most Outstanding Carpentry Apprentice (Group Scheme)	Luke Brooker	Carpentry	Skill Hire WA
Most Outstanding Regional Apprentice	Nick Johnston	Cabinet Making	Studio Milton
Apprentice Safety Award	Owen Baigent	Plumbing	Johnson and Co
Employer Safety Award	BGC Residential	N/A	N/A

Congratulations to Nick Johnston, who is employed by Studio Milton in the South West region, in winning the 2017 Master Builders Most Outstanding Apprentice. Nick's prize was \$500.

Over 300 apprentices, builders, contractors, trainers and guests attended the awards presentation at Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre on November 4.

The Hon Sue Ellery MLC, Minister for Education and Training, was the special guest and encouraged all apprentices to keep doing their best in pursuit of their goals and career aspirations.

All finalists and winners of each

apprentice category received a framed certificate, cash prize and pair of shorts, kindly sponsored by 14 organisations.

The 2017 Ric New Medal, judged on entrepreneurial flair and innovation for persons aged 35 and under, went to Timothy March.

Tim is the managing director of Beyond Bricklaying and Beyond Building Supplies.

The Ric New Rising Star Award for young high achievers aged up to 25 years was presented to Matthew Wimmer who is the WA sales manager with AUSSTAR Holdings.