

# GOLDFIELDS-ESPERANCE BUILDING CHAMPIONS

*The Master Builders Bankwest Building Excellence Awards for the Goldfields-Esperance region were held at the Kalgoorlie Overland Motel last night. Master Builders director Michael McLean reports on the winners.*

**T**HE Goldfields-Esperance region is one of nine in Western Australia. The region comprises the local government areas of Coolgardie, Kambalda, Dundas, Esperance, Kalgoorlie-Boulder, Laverton, Leonora, Menzies, Ngaanyatjaraku and Ravensthorpe. It also incorporates the area along the Great Australian Bight to the South Australian border known as the Nullarbor, but there is very little building carried out in that remote area.

The Goldfields-Esperance region is the largest of WA's regions, with an area of 770,488sq km. It has a population of just under 60,000 people, about half of whom live in the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder. Another quarter live in the Shire of Esperance, and the remaining shires are very sparsely populated.

Each year the Master Builders Association, in conjunction with Bankwest and several other leading organisations, conduct an awards program to benchmark the best builders, specialist trades and apprentices in the region.

In 2017-18, there were 58 new homes with a combined contractual value of \$18.7 million built in Kalgoorlie. In Esperance, there were 56 new homes built, worth \$17 million. Both towns recorded a slight increase in housing approvals from the previous year.

Two registered builders, Charlie Baggetta and Kevin Sale, judged the entries across the 400km divide between Kalgoorlie and Esperance this year. With few exceptions, local trades provided the specialist skills to support the local builders to complete their projects. Our judges were once again impressed with the quality of entries received.

This year's successful builders and specialist contractors were:

- Top Home: Dixon Construction for a magnificent home in Merivale.
- Best Commercial Project: Pindan Constructions for the Kalgoorlie-Boulder Community High School.
- Best Multi-Unit Development: Westralia Homes.
- Best Contract Home (\$250,000-\$300,000): Westralia Homes.

- Best Contract Home (\$300,000-\$350,000): Goldfields Homes.
- Best Contract Home (\$350,000-\$400,000): Westralia Homes.
- Best Contract Home (\$400,000-\$450,000): WA Country Builders.
- Best Contract Home (\$750,000-\$1 million): BD Partington Building Contractors.
- Best Contract Home (\$2.5-\$3.5 million): Dixon Construction.
- Best Display Home (\$240,000-\$270,000): Westralia Homes.
- Best Display Home (\$300,000-\$350,000): Goldfields Homes.
- Excellence in Ceilings: Daniel Jurkovic Plastering.
- Excellence in Painting: Boomer Painting Service.
- Excellence in Wall and Floor Tiling: D&J Renton Tiling.
- Excellence in Carpentry: External – BJT Carpentry together with Dixon Constructions. Internal – Shannan Carpentry & Tiling.
- Excellence in Plasterboard Linings: Daniel Jurkovic Plastering.
- Excellence in Brick and Block Paving: Neil Harland.
- Excellence in Roofing: BJT Carpentry.
- Best Historic Restoration or Renovation: ACorp Construction.

Master Builders awards showcase the best the building industry has to offer clients. To each builder, their project is a winner, as it reflects many months of planning, coordination of specialist trades and attention to detail in delivering the finished project. As these awards provide an independent assessment of workmanship standards, the real winners are, of course, homebuyers and corporate clients who benefit from builders striving for continual improvement from one year to the next.

Like Perth, the Goldfields-Esperance region has been experiencing an economic downturn. However, there are some encouraging signs of renewed mineral exploration activity around Kalgoorlie and a port expansion in Esperance which will eventually generate additional work for the building industry. This is a resilient community which is conditioned to volatility as a result of mining booms and economic downturns. As always, the locals hope the recovery phase will occur sooner rather than later and be sustained for years ahead.

Before embarking on your next housing or construction project in the Goldfields-Esperance region, however big or small, visit [www.mbawa.com](http://www.mbawa.com) or contact Doug Backhouse on 0437 184 366, our Regional Representative based in Esperance.

