

# THE BEST OF THE MIDWEST ON SHOW IN GERALDTON

*Incoming Master Builders executive director John Gelavis shares some of the highlights from the 2018 Master Builders-Bankwest Building Excellence Awards for the Geraldton/Midwest region.*

**T**HE Midwest region continues to manage the economic downturn, however, that did not dampen the commitment and enthusiasm of the region's building and construction sector. The region has some of the most talented local builders who produced some of the most amazing projects for their clients over the past year with the help of their dedicated trade contractors and suppliers. Their quality workmanship was showcased – and rewarded – at the annual Master Builders-Bankwest Building Excellence Awards, which were held at the Geraldton Grammar School on October 13.

The restoration of Geraldton's unique St Francis Xavier Cathedral was a standout project by Crothers Construction and secured the Best Regional Project award. Restoration work on the cathedral included a search for the grave of Geraldton's first bishop, William Bernard Kelly, who was buried under the floor in 1921, although the exact location had been long forgotten.

If you are in Geraldton, it is worth a visit to this amazing cathedral.

The major award of Best Country Home went to WA Country Builders for an elegant two-storey residence overlooking the ocean on Forrest Street, Geraldton, as well as winning the Contract Home \$650,000-\$750,000 category and also Best Appointed Kitchen. WA Country Builders finished the night well by taking out the coveted Bankwest Best Customer Service Project/Volume Builder award.

The night witnessed the birth of an emerging talent in James Groom from James Groom Building, who picked up an amazing eight awards, including Regional Tradesperson of the Year.

Master Builders Western Australia is committed to recognising the young apprentices in our industry. The Kevin

Giudice Regional Apprentice of the Year award is such an award and, this year, was presented to an emerging talent in Benjamin Murray, who also won Best Carpentry Apprentice.

The Apprentice Encouragement Award went to carpenter Nathan Koot, who is employed by Skill Hire. The Best Indigenous Building and Construction Apprentice was awarded to Tristan Little-Simpson.

The Brian Neil award was developed to commemorate life member Brian Neil and his extraordinary contribution to the establishment of the MBA Geraldton branch, and is rewarded for excellence in high-quality building. This year's award was won by Steele Campbell Building.

We were also pleased to award Best New Builder of the Year to McAullay Builders.

WA Country Builders' Best Country Home will now compete with other regional winners from the Kimberley/Pilbara, South West, Great Southern and Goldfields/Esperance regions at the Master Builders Bankwest Housing Excellence Awards in Perth on February 23, 2019.

Other winning builders for contract homes were:

- Contract Homes Under \$200,000 - James Groom Building - 181 Augustus Street, Geraldton.
- \$250,000-\$300,000 – Mandosio Homes – 15 Lagoon Entrance Sunset Beach
- \$300,000-\$350,000 - McAullay Builders – 22 Patten Place White Peak
- \$350,000-\$400,000 – McAullay Builders – 103 Volute Street Sunset Beach
- \$400,000-\$450,000 – Steele Campbell Building - 80 Webber Road Moresby
- \$450,000-\$550,000 – Steele Campbell Building – 40 Mark Street Beresford

For a full list of winners go to [www.mbawa.com](http://www.mbawa.com).

