

**EMBARGOED UNTIL 11PM ON FRIDAY, 8 MAY 2015**

08/05/15

## **ANOTHER WIN FOR WOMEN IN CONSTRUCTION: SECOND FEMALE IN A ROW NAMED STATE APPRENTICE OF THE YEAR**

For the second time in as many years, a female tradie has been given top honours at the Master Builders Association of Victoria, Apprentice of the Year Awards in Melbourne. Cranbourne West local **Danielle Shedden**, 24, received her award during a ceremony in front of more than 900 guests at The Pullman, Melbourne tonight (8 May). She won \$10 thousand worth of tools, work wear and vouchers.

Minister for Training and Skills Steve Herbert MP was present on the evening to recognise the achievements of this year's apprentices.

"Creating opportunities for people to develop their vocational skills is critical to the future of our economy, as our skills base is built on apprenticeships and traineeships," Minister Herbert said. "The Andrews Labor Government understands and values the importance of apprenticeships, and I congratulate the outstanding achievements of Victorian building and construction industry apprentices and their employers tonight."

Master Builders CEO Radley de Silva said Danielle exemplified the skills, work ethic and positive attitude required to be a successful tradesperson in the building and construction industry.

"It is very rewarding to see such a gifted and dedicated pool of building talent among our apprentices in Victoria. The challenge to select only one winner gets more difficult every year," Mr de Silva said.

Danielle, who was also named Metropolitan Apprentice of the Year and Joinery Apprentice of the Year, has been described by her trade school, Chisholm TAFE, as demonstrating maturity beyond her years and an impressive eye for detail.

"We are delighted to see more women entering the building and construction industry. It reflects increased diversity, a strong appeal for young professionals, and our eagerness to see both women and men thrive in this industry," Mr de Silva said.

"Danielle is an ambassador and role model not only for women entering the building industry but also anyone considering a career change and especially young people considering a career in building and construction," he said.



Danielle will represent Victoria at the annual Excellence in Building and Construction Awards to be held at Jupiters Hotel Convention Centre, Broadbeach, Gold Coast on Saturday, 14 November where the National Apprentice of the Year will be announced.

**Other winners are:**

**Metropolitan Apprentice of the Year**

Danielle Shedden, Cranbourne West, employed by Whytehall Shopfitters, attends Chisholm TAFE.

**Regional Apprentice of the Year**

Daniel Carroll, Bendigo, employed by David Clouston Builders, attends Skill Training Victoria.

**Female Apprentice of the Year**

Daniela Lopez, Point Cook, employed by Joncol Building Services, and attends Victoria University.

**Employer Nominated Award Winner**

Bryce Alexander, Long Gully, employed by SAS Constructions, attends Skill Training Victoria.

**Diploma Student of the Year**

David Vastbinder, Blackburn South, employed by DPV Constructions, attends Swinburne University.

**Florence M Taylor Award Winner**

Nathan Cartledge, Highton, employed by Wilmoore Allstone, attends Holmesglen.

**Presidents' Award Winner**

Ashley Heffernan, Sebastopol, employed by Rhino Build Construction, attends Skill Training Victoria.

**Brick and Blocklaying Apprentice of the Year**

Matthew Baxter, Pearcedale, employed by C&S Lightweight Building Specialists P/L, attends Holmesglen.

**Carpentry Apprentice of the Year**

Keegan Whitbourn, Kilsyth, employed by Marshall Pro Carpentry, attends Swinburne University.

**Joinery Apprentice of the Year**

Danielle Shedden, Cranbourne West, employed by Whytehall Shopfitters Pty Ltd, attends Chisholm TAFE.

**Solid Plastering Apprentice of the Year**

Jason Blick, Somerville, employed by Australian Rainbow Render, attends Holmesglen.

**Stonemasonry Apprentice of the Year**

Nathan Cartledge, Highton, employed by Wilmoore Allstone, attends Holmesglen.

**Wall and Ceiling Lining Apprentice of the Year**

Stewart Hindley, Mornington, employed by South City Plaster, attends Skill Training Victoria.

**Painting and Decorating Apprentice of the Year**

Chris Parkinson, Epping, employed by Colour-Dec Painting Services Pty Ltd, attends Melbourne Polytechnic.

**Roof Tiling and Slating Apprentice of the Year**

Kieran Schultz, Kew, employed by E&S Roofing, attends Holmesglen.

**Wall and Floor Tiling Apprentice of the Year**

Jessica Ross, Bendigo, employed by Trevor Showell Tiling, attends Skill Training Victoria.

**Media enquiries:** Leanne Edwards, Manager-Policy & Communications, [ledwards@mbav.com.au](mailto:ledwards@mbav.com.au) 0413 450 254; Peter Sackett, Media Adviser, (03) 9411 4534, 0466 777 059, [psackett@mbav.com.au](mailto:psackett@mbav.com.au)