

MEDIA RELEASE

WESTERN APPRENTICE OF THE YEAR DANIEL NICHOLSON LAYS FOUNDATION FOR A WINNING CAREER

21/03/2018

Port Fairy carpentry apprentice Daniel Nicholson was tonight named Master Builders Western Section Apprentice of the Year at The Carmichael.

Daniel was one of two apprentices from the western region to receive awards for their dedication, skill and hard work. The other apprentice was Chairman's Award winner Stewart McCann from Barongarook.

Master Builders' Careers Manager Ingrid Mountford said this year's nominees showed great determination and commitment to building their careers.

"Apprentices have to work hard for this recognition, so there is a great deal of excitement that builds up when they make it this far," she said. "They are genuinely excited about the directions of their careers."

"Daniel thrives in the outdoors, and finds that a builder's life suits him extremely well," Mountford said. "He has already completed a double diploma in business and management, and looks forward to obtaining his Certificate IV in Building and Construction. "

"Daniel believes there are always things to learn from others and new ways to apply oneself; one of his goals is to build a house for his mother," she said.

Chairman's Award winner Stewart McCann's father was a carpenter, and instilled an appreciation for the craft in his son," Ms Mountford said. "McCann has a fondness for reclaimed hardwoods, building his own furniture from it, which he hopes to develop into a business at some point. Stewart is also a self-taught welder, and has a strong sense of family duty and cooperation."

Master Builders Chief Executive Officer Radley de Silva emphasised that apprentices are essential to Victoria's building industry.

"We have a strong need to grow our skilled workforce in the building and construction industry so that it will continue to provide the homes and infrastructure Victoria demands," Mr de Silva said. "Apprentices help to build our communities."

"Acknowledging their hard work and dedication encourages apprentices across Victoria to continue their career path to achieve bigger and greater things in our industry."

Western Section Apprentice of the Year

Master Builders Regional Apprentice Awards Regional winners are selected after an interview with a panel of two judges. Once awarded, they will be invited to attend the State Apprentice of the Year Awards on 11 May in Melbourne where the overall winners will be announced.

Media welcome – interviews and photos of winners available upon request.

What: Apprentice of the Year Awards (Western)

When: 6.30pm to 9pm Wednesday 21 March 2018

Where: The Carmichael, 50-58 Cramer Street, Warrnambool

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