

media release



MASTERS OF OUR INDUSTRY

Master Builders Association of Victoria
ABN: 38 004 255 654

8/3/13

Chippies apprentices Rhys and Josh named joint Ballarat Apprentices of Year.

Carpentry apprentices Rhys James and Joshua McVitty were last night named joint Ballarat section Apprentices of the Year.

The pair, Rhys hailing from Black Hill and Josh hailing from Mount Clear, beat a record number of Ballarat nominees to win top honours.

More than 500 apprentices, builders, family and friends attended the presentation ceremony at the Mercure Hotel and Convention Centre in Ballarat last night.

Other winners in the section included Gisborne South's Daniel Jones who received the Employer Nominated Award, Creswick's Aaron Bartram (Chairman's Award) and Diploma Student of the Year Helena Roberts from Daylesford.

Due to the overwhelming pool of quality nominees, a special commendation was also given to Warrenheip apprentice Blair Pearce, who is undertaking a painting and decorating apprenticeship.

Regional winners are selected after an interview with a judging panel of three judges. Once awarded, they will be invited to attend the State Apprentice of the Year Awards on 16 May in Melbourne where the overall winners will be announced.

Master Builders' Careers Manager Jarrod Flanigan, who led the panel of judges, said the record number of highly skilled and competent nominees had made choosing a winner difficult.

"We couldn't separate section winners Rhys and Joshua so we had to award a tie. Joshua has demonstrated his loyalty by staying on with employer Searle Brothers Building Contractors, who took the time to train him. He's also an enthusiastic community volunteer who thrives in a team environment," Mr Flanigan said.

"Meanwhile, Rhys is a hard working apprentice who is not afraid of travelling, going as far as Warrnambool for work," he said.

"Chairman's Award winner Aaron is a mature aged apprentice who is now a qualified carpenter. He has the drive to become a registered builder and has completed two trades; plastering and carpentry.

"Employer Nominated Award winner Daniel Jones typifies what an employer wants in an apprentice. He is hardworking, dedicated and has amazing attention to detail," Jarrod continued.

"Last but not least, Diploma Student of the Year Helena Roberts has demonstrated great passion for her new career traveling from Gippsland to Ballarat to complete her Advanced Diploma of Building and Construction. She has made the unlikely switch from hairdressing to a building career and is flourishing."

See next page for winners list. Interviews and photos with winners available upon request.

Media enquiries:

Laura Luvara, Media Adviser, (03) 9411 4534, 0466 777 059
lluvara@mbav.com.au

www.mbav.com.au

Ballarat Apprentice of the Year Awards – winners

Apprentices of the Year

Joshua McVitty (apprentice carpenter) from Mount Clear, employed by Searle Brothers.

Rhys James (apprentice carpenter) from Black Hill, employed by DW Building Solutions.

Employer Nominated

Daniel Jones (apprentice carpenter) from Gisborne South, employed by Mt Gisborne Homes.

Chairman's Award

Aaron Bartram (qualified carpenter and plasterer) from Creswick, employed by Merritt Group.

Diploma Student of the Year

Helena Roberts (undergoing Advanced Diploma of Building and Construction) from Daylesford.

Media enquiries:

Laura Luvara, Media Adviser, (03) 9411 4534, 0466 777 059
lluvara@mbav.com.au