

media release



MASTERS OF OUR INDUSTRY

Master Builders Association of Victoria
ABN: 38 004 255 654

17/05/12

Young Tocumwal dad named 2013 Master Builders Apprentice of the Year

Tocumwal carpenter Matthew Miller, 20, was last night crowned Master Builders State Apprentice of the Year during a presentation at Etihad Stadium.

About 800 people celebrated Matthew's win along with 14 other Victorian apprentices who were named the best in their category.

The State Apprentice of the Year awards recognise the emerging talent in the building and construction industry with apprentices from every corner of the state considered for the awards. Minister for Higher Education and Skills, Peter Hall presented the major awards.

Master Builders Executive Director Brian Welch said that those awarded exemplified the skills, work ethic and positive attitude required to be a successful tradesperson in the building and construction industry.

"Matthew has overcome many challenges during his apprenticeship including becoming a young father," Mr Welch said.

"He has taken these challenges in his stride and applied himself to his trade with dedication, commitment and determination to succeed. This attitude has won him the respect of his peers, employer, FAD Steel, and the wider building community in the Murray region.

"As a result, Matthew has obtained extra responsibilities on the job and continues to shine. This award recognises his excellence and is a huge achievement for Matthew that holds him in good stead for the rest of his career."

Matthew has his employer, FAD Steel to thank for encouraging him to finish year twelve with the offer of an apprenticeship at the end. He has shown his loyalty to his employer by remaining committed to the company throughout his apprenticeship. He is a student of GOTAFE.

Other winners are:

Apprentice Bricklayer of the Year

Brad Lawson, Vermont South, employed by CP and JM Read, attends Holmesglen Tafe.

Apprentice Carpenter of the Year

Liam Gardiner, Altona, employed by Legudi Group, attends Victoria University.

Apprentice Fibrous Plasterer of the Year

Taylor Lovell, Niddrie, employed by Moracom, attends NMIT.

Apprentice Off-Site Construction (Joiner) of the Year

Blake Jobson, Wyndhamvale, employed by Mainly Office, attends Victoria University.

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Apprentice Painter and Decorator of the Year

Emma Stevenson, Bendigo, employed by Glenburn Contracting, attends BRIT.

Apprentice Solid Plasterer of the Year

Nicholas Aykut, Greensborough, employed by Render Creations, attends Holmesglen Tafe.

Apprentice Stone Mason of the Year

Matthew Bowden, Lancefield, employed by WT Jones and Sons, attends Holmesglen Tafe.

Wall and Floor Liner of the Year

Josh Smith, Kilmore, employed by Murray Road Enterprises, NMIT.

Metropolitan Apprentice of the Year

Blake Jobson, Wyndhamvale, employed by Mainly Office, attends Victoria University.

Regional Apprentice of the Year (joint winners)

Matthew Miller, Tocumwal, employed by FAD Steel, attends GOTAFE.

Ryan Wheeler, Maffra, employed by KG and CD Wheeler, attends Advanced Tafe.

Female Apprentice of the Year

Christine East, Mooroopna, employed by LD and DF Elliott, attends Skills Training Victoria.

Employer Nominated Award Winner

Samuel Winfield, Horsham, employed by DJ Hogan Building Contractor, attends Murray Mallee Training.

Diploma Student of the Year

Matt Maud, Heidelberg Heights, employed by HACER Group, attends Swinburne Tafe.

Florence M Taylor Award Winner

David MacGregor, Preston, employed by Imperial Builders, attends Building Skills Centre.

Presidents' Award Winner

Aaron Bartrem, Creswick, employed by Merritt Group, attends Building Skills Centre.

Brian Fitzmaurice Award Winner

Hedger Construction, Alexandra.

Interview and photos/ photo opportunities available with winners. Contact Laura Luvara on (03) 9411 4534.