

10/03/2015

**EMBARGOED until 9pm, Wednesday 11 March 2015.**

## North East apprentice of the year Travis Maxfield crafts his way to building success

Carpentry apprentice Travis Maxfield from Mansfield will be named the Master Builders North East Section Apprentice of the Year at Rafferty's Restaurant in Benalla tomorrow evening.

Travis will be among three apprentices from the North East region to be recognised for their dedication, skill and hard work.

The other two winners on the night will be Employer Nominated winner Charlie Hodge from Shepparton and Chairman's Award winner Alex McLellan from Seymour.

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

"Section winner Travis's intricate knowledge of his trade makes him as much a craftsman as he is a tradesman," Mr Flanigan said.

"Travis is so committed to his boss and his trade that he has said one day he will take on his own apprentice to pass on the skills that were once passed on to him."

Employee Nominated winner Charlie Hodge's determination to better himself saw him change employer halfway through his apprenticeship.

"Charlie was able to identify the areas where he needed to improve, and it was his determination to increase his skills as a tradesperson that helped him take home the win," Mr Flanigan said.

Alex McLellan impressed the Chairman with his diligence and loyalty, as well as with his intention to some day employ apprentices of his own.

"Alex has shown maturity, commitment and dedication to his trade; he has a well-planned future ahead of him," Mr Flanigan said.

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

"We need a skilled workforce in the building and construction industry that will continue to build Victoria.



# MEDIA RELEASE

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

Regional winners are selected after an interview with a panel of three judges. Once awarded, they will be invited to attend the State Apprentice of the Year Awards on 8 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 (North East region)

**When:** Wednesday 11 March 2015 from 7pm to 9pm

**Where:** Rafferty’s Restaurant, 55 Nunn Street, Benalla VIC 3672

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