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EMBARGOED until 9pm, Wednesday 18 March 2015.

Geelong apprentice of the year Zak Porter sets his sight on building success

Carpentry apprentice Zak Porter from Barwon Heads will be named the Master Builders Geelong Section Apprentice of the Year at the Skilled Stadium tomorrow evening.

Zak will be among three apprentices from the Geelong region to be recognised for their dedication, skill and hard work.

The other two winners on the night will be Employer Nominated winner James Brewster from Apollo Bay and Chairman's Award winner Lachlan Humphries from Ocean Grove.

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

"Section winner Zak shows outstanding commitment to his trade, and his positive outlook and maturity are rarely seen in such a young apprentice," Mr Flanigan said.

"With an eye for detail and always looking for perfection, Zak is an exceptional apprentice and worthy winner of the Geelong Section Apprentice of the Year."

Employee Nominated winner James Brewster left England with little more \$500 in his pocket and a determination to prove to his family that he could make it in Australia.

"James is a mature-aged apprentice that has pushed himself to be the best apprentice possible, and he is a credit to his employer," Mr Flanigan said.

Lachlan Humphries's respect for his boss and his belief that every apprentice owes their employer time for putting them through an apprenticeship were just two of the qualities that impressed the Chairman.

"Lachlan is very passionate about his trade and hopes to be able to start his own business and employ apprentices in the future," 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



“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 (Geelong)

When: Wednesday 18 March 2015 from 7pm to 9pm

Where: Captains Room, Skilled Stadium, Geelong

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