MEDIA RELEASE

Master Builders ASSOCIATION

8/03/2016

EMBARGOED until 9pm, Tuesday 8 March 2016.

NORTH EAST APPRENTICE OF THE YEAR NAILS DOWN SUPPORT FOR HIS YOUNG BUILDING CAREER

Carpentry apprentice John Mason from Euroa was named the Master Builders North East Section Apprentice of the Year at Raffety's restaurant in Benalla this evening.

John was 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 were Employer-Nominated winner Nick Bateman from Euroa and Chairman's Award winner Jeremy Fitch from Samaria.

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

"Our judges described Section winner John as honest, genuine and dedicated," Mr Flanigan said. "He's certainly a credit to his employer and his RTO."

"John has a great deal of determination to succeed at his carpentry apprenticeship, and his eagerness to learn made the judges certain he's got a bright future ahead of him.

Employer-Nominated winner Bateman switched career tracks from cabinetmaking to carpentry, and believes it was the best thing he could have done. With a strong work ethic and a willingness to learn as much as he can, Nick is held in high regard by his employers.

"Nick's experience in cabinetmaking means he has an eye for detail and his work is of high quality; he sets exceptional standards for himself with customer satisfaction in mind," Mr Flanigan said.

Jeremy Fitch impressed the Chairman with his diligence and determination never to let the boss down. "Jeremy is the type of apprentice that all builders like to have working for them," 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.

"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 6 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: Tuesday 8 March 2016 from 7pm to 9pm
Where: Raffety's, 55 Nunn Street, Benalla VIC 3672

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