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GIPPSLAND APPRENTICE OF THE YEAR BEN BELLINGHAM BUILDS A STRONG CAREER FOUNDATION

Carpentry apprentice Ben Bellingham from Bairnsdale won dual awards when he was named both the Master Builders Gippsland Section Apprentice of the Year and winner of the Chairman's Award at the Premier Function Centre on 24 February.

Ben was one of two apprentices from the Gippsland region to be recognised for their dedication, skill and hard work.

The other recipient on the night was Employer-Nominated winner Andrew Hobson from Traralgon.

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

"Section winner Ben is a young man who takes pride in his work and demonstrates respect for the employers who gave him the opportunity to become an apprentice," Mr Flanigan said.

"Ben told us he felt honoured to be nominated, and was very surprised to win both of the awards."

Employer-Nominated winner Andrew Hobson is a mature-aged apprentice with a wife and two children, and has shown how a career change can lead to the profession of your dreams.

"Coming from a military background, Andrew was equipped with a well-rounded work ethic, keen determination and commitment to take on his career change," 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.

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