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GIPPSLAND APPRENTICE OF THE YEAR JUSTIN CLEELAND SEES CARPENTRY AS HIS CALLING

Carpentry apprentice Justin Cleeland from San Remo won dual awards when he was named both the Master Builders Gippsland Section Apprentice of the Year and Employer-Nominated Apprentice of the Year at Premier Function Centre, Traralgon, on 22 February.

Justin 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 Chairman's Award winner Ashley Challenor, a carpentry apprentice from Newlands Arm.

Master Builders' Careers Officer Kathleen Peachey said that this year's nominees showed great determination and commitment to building their careers.

"Section and Employer-Nominated winner Justin stands out with impressive knowledge of the industry, and he made a strong impression with the obvious time and effort he put into preparing for his interview," she said.

"Chairman's Award winner Ashley Challenor impressed the judges with his record of steady improvement during his apprenticeship, tackling his work with ever-increasing gusto and dedication," Peachey said.

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

"We need a skilled workforce in the building and construction industry that will continue to provide the homes and infrastructure Victoria needs," he said.

"Apprentices help to build our communities," Mr de Silva said. "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 12 May in Melbourne where the overall winners will be announced.

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