

media release



MASTERS OF OUR INDUSTRY

Master Builders Association of Victoria
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Master Builders Association of Victoria name 2011 Apprentice of the Year

The Master Builders Association of Victoria have named Menzies Creek resident Devin Grant the State's top apprentice at the 2011 State Apprentice of the Year Awards on Thursday night.

More than 600 people attended the awards night hosted by former Australian cricketer and VFL footballer Simon O'Donnell.

Minister for Higher Education and Skills, Peter Hall, also attended as a special guest as did former North Melbourne footballer Glenn Archer representing Steel Blue footwear.

Master Builders Association of Victoria Executive Director Brian Welch said Mr Grant, who works for Hedger Construction, had been awarded for his dedication to the trade and mature outlook.

"Mr Grant has been given a lot of responsibility and has taken it all in his stride," Mr Welch said.

"He runs his own jobs, including a retirement village at Marysville, and he applies himself with dedication and professionalism. He is an outstanding apprentice who has shown what can be achieved with the right attitude and by accepting responsibility."

Among the other major award winners were Ballan resident Kate Cohen (Female Apprentice of the Year), Berwick resident Bradley Chesterfield (Metropolitan Apprentice of the Year) and Joshua Small (Regional Apprentice of the Year).

"These Awards are an integral part of the Master Builders Award program. The Master Builders Association of Victoria's Apprentice of the Year Awards applaud the outstanding achievements of Victorian apprentices in the building and construction industry," Mr Welch said.

"These apprentices are the future of our industry and we must encourage and reward them for their efforts.

"All the award winners are extremely deserving of this accolade and represent the future leaders of our industry."

See the following page for a full list of winners with their suburbs of residence, their employers and the TAFE that they attended. More info on award winners is available.

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2011 Apprentice of the Year Award winners

State Apprentice of the Year: Devin Grant, Menzies Creek. Hedger Construction. Holmesglen Institute of TAFE.

Employer Nominated Apprentice of the Year: Devin Grant, Menzies Creek. Hedger Construction. Holmesglen Institute of TAFE.

Metropolitan Apprentice of the Year: Bradley Chesterfield, Berwick. Weygang Constructions Pty Ltd. Murray Mallee Training Co.

Regional Apprentice of the Year: Joshua Small, Ballarat. Euca Build. Skill Training Victoria.

President's Award: Matt Wright, Shepparton. W.H. Image Tiling. Skill Training Victoria.

Female Apprentice of the Year: Kate Cohen, Ballan. John Matthews Painting Services. Skill Training Victoria.

Florence M Taylor Award: Simon Nygaard, Warranwood. Heritage Building Services Pty Ltd. Holmesglen Institute of TAFE.

Brian Fitzmaurice Memorial Award (employer award): Heath Donnellan, Chelsea. Donnellan Constructions.

Category Winners

Apprentice of the Year - Bricklaying/Blocklaying: Bradley Fellowes, Keilor Downs. HIA Group. Victoria University.

Apprentice of the Year – Carpentry (Framework, Formwork, Finishing): Bradley Chesterfield, Berwick. Weygang Constructions Pty Ltd. Murray Mallee Training Co.

Apprentice of the Year - Off-site Construction (Joinery): Lukas Page, Whittlesea. Perry Bird Pickets Pty Ltd. NMIT.

Apprentice of the Year - Painting and Decorating: Jesse Mckibbon, Mount Waverley. Programmed Maintenance Service Ltd. Holmesglen Institute of TAFE.

Apprentice of the Year - Roof Tiling and Slating: Grant Johnstone, Wallan. Brown's Roofing Services P/L. NMIT.

Apprentice of the Year - Solid Plastering: Simon Nygaard, Warranwood. Heritage Building Services Pty Ltd. Holmesglen Institute of TAFE.

Apprentice of the Year - Wall and Ceiling Lining: Steven Knapman, Bendigo. Corey Uren Plastering. NMIT.

Apprentice of the Year – Stonemasonry: Warrick Young, New Town. Heritage Stone Pty Ltd. Holmesglen Institute of TAFE.

Apprentice of the Year - Wall and Floor Tiling: Michael Millar, Moonee Ponds. JB Tiling. NMIT.

Student of the Year – Diploma of Building: Dante Sarpa, Invermay Park. University of Ballarat TAFE.