

media release



MASTERS OF OUR INDUSTRY

Master Builders Association of Victoria
ABN: 38 004 255 654

10/05/12

Irymple carpenter Matthew Ablett named Master Builders 2012 Apprentice of the Year

A crowd of 700 guests saw Irymple carpenter Matthew Ablett named Master Builders 2012 Apprentice of the Year last night at the Sebel, Albert Park.

Matthew was among 20 of Victoria's top trade apprentices to be recognised for their determination, commitment and integrity at the awards. Former AFL footballer Luke Darcy hosted the night with guest speaker Peter Hall, Minister for Higher Education and Skills also attending.

Master Builders Association of Victoria Executive Director Brian Welch said Matthew, who works for Mildura based company Steel Frames, had been awarded for his exceptional dedication to his trade and his mature outlook.

"Matthew is the apprentice that every employer would want and the apprentice that every apprentice should aim to be," Mr Welch said.

"He began his apprenticeship while raising a young family and has remained trustworthy, committed and responsible, often travelling long distances to remote areas of Victoria and NSW for work," he said.

"Matthew hopes to one day become a leader in the industry and looks forward to training apprentices in all aspects of building to encourage more young people to try a trade. He is a worthy winner of this award."

Among the other major award winners were **Carrum Downs** resident Troy Gudgeon (Metropolitan Apprentice of the Year), **Carlton** resident Bianca Lucantonio (Female Apprentice of the Year), **Shepparton** resident Jordan Hallam (Employer Nominated Apprentice of the Year) and **Eaglehawk** resident Tony Hinton (Regional Apprentice of the Year).

"These Awards are an integral part of the Master Builders Award program because they applaud the outstanding achievements of Victorian apprentices in the building and construction industry," Mr Welch said.

"These apprentices are the future of the building industry and we must encourage and reward them for their efforts. They all have an amazing future ahead of them."

The State Apprentice of the Year awards recognise the emerging talent in the building and construction industry with apprentices from every corner of the state considered for the awards.

See the following page for a full list of winners with their suburbs of residence. More information, interviews and photos are available.

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2012 Apprentice of the Year Award winners

State Apprentice of the Year: Matthew Ablett from Irymple.

Employer Nominated Apprentice of the Year (Regional): Jordan Hallam from Shepparton.

Employer Nominated Apprentice of the Year (Metropolitan): Paul Tran from Doncaster.

Metropolitan Apprentice of the Year: Troy Gudgeon from Carrum Downs.

Regional Apprentice of the Year: Tony Hinton from Eaglehawk.

President's Award: Joseph Rayner from Lake Gardens.

Female Apprentice of the Year: Bianca Lucantonio from Carlton.

Florence M Taylor Award: Matthew Ablett from Irymple.

Brian Fitzmaurice Memorial Award (employer award for fostering apprenticeships): Shiavello (Vic) Pty Ltd based in Tullamarine.

Category Winners

Apprentice of the Year - Bricklaying/Blocklaying: Brett Koochew from Clifton Hill.

Apprentice of the Year – Carpentry (Framework, Formwork, Finishing): Troy Gudgeon from Carrum Downs.

Apprentice of the Year - Off-site Construction (Joinery): Fabian Guesli from Mernda.

Apprentice of the Year - Painting and Decorating: Matthew Langly from Hampton Park.

Apprentice of the Year - Solid Plastering: Leigh Cavallin from Bundoora.

Apprentice of the Year - Wall and Ceiling Lining: Jayden DeZilwa from South Morang.

Apprentice of the Year – Stonemasonry: Chris Ryan from Brunswick East.

Apprentice of the Year - Wall and Floor Tiling: Vince Ascone from Hadfield.

Student of the Year – Diploma of Building: Jessica Spiteri from Derrimut.