

media release



MASTERS OF OUR INDUSTRY

Master Builders Association of Victoria
ABN: 38 004 255 654

1/3/13

Traralgon Apprentice of the Year Ryan a chip off the old block

Carpentry apprentice Ryan Wheeler was last night named the Gippsland section Apprentice of the Year in Traralgon.

Hailing from Maffra West, 22-year-old Ryan was among three apprentices from the Gippsland region recognised for their commitment, skill and diligence at the first of the 2013 Master Builders Apprentice of the Year awards.

More than 170 apprentices, builders, family and friends saw Ryan and his peers receive their awards at the Premiere Function Centre in Traralgon last night.

The other winners were carpentry apprentices Andrew Holland from Stratford and Wy Yung's Adam Dawson.

Executive Director Brian Welch said it was important that leading apprentices were recognised for their hard work and perseverance.

"Master Builders applauds the outstanding achievements of Victorian apprentices in the building and construction industry," Mr Welch said.

"Regional winners are selected after an interview with a judging panel of three judges. Once awarded, they will be invited to attend the State Apprentice of the Year Awards on 16 May in Melbourne where the overall winners will be announced."

Master Builders' Careers Manager Jarrod Flanigan, who led the panel of judges, said this year's nominees were of an exceptionally high caliber.

"Section winner Ryan is a 'chip off the old block' working in his father's business *KG and CD Wheeler*. Having grown up in the industry, Ryan's professionalism and enthusiasm make him a fantastic future builder," Mr Flanigan said.

"Chairman's Award winner Adam has great passion for his trade and realises that the skills that he has acquired will allow him to pursue a career in the building industry. He is employed by *Broker Builders*," he said.

"Employer Nominated Award winner Andrew Holland is extremely dedicated to his work and trade school. He is a model apprentice aiming for perfection and pride in his work with *Apprenticeships Group Australia* and host employer *PR Custom Homes*."

Interviews and photos of winners available upon request.

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