

MID WEST'S BEST BUILDINGS BY A COUNTRY MILE

Master Builders executive director Michael McLean shares some of the highlights from the 2017 Master Builders-Bankwest Building Excellence Awards for the Geraldton/Mid West region.

THE Mid West region's economic downturn didn't deter the talented, local builders from creating some first-class projects for their clients over the past year.

Their quality workmanship was showcased – and rewarded – at the annual Master Builders-Bankwest Building Excellence Awards, which were held at the Geraldton Grammar School on October 14.

Regional judges Charlie Baggetta and Kevin Sale travelled as far afield as Jurien, Dongara, Port Denison, Geraldton, Horrocks, Shark Bay and Yalgoo in order to determine which entrants would win one of the prestigious awards on offer. With more than 40 entries from both the residential and commercial sectors to assess, it proved to be a lengthy, labour-intensive process.

An impressive mix of established builders and young guns in the early stages of their careers took out this year's top honours. New builder, McAullay Builders, made its presence known by winning the Residential Alterations & Additions \$100,000 to \$200,000 category. Its cutting-edge carpentry skills also saw it take home the Best Carpentry award.

Geraldton Homes, which is managed by the award-winning Serena Giudice, received the ultimate accolade – the Truecore Best Country Home. The company previously traded as Kevin Giudice & Co.

Company founder (and Serena's late father) Kevin Giudice was a past branch chairman and long-time member of Master Builders. Under his leadership, Kevin Giudice & Co. became a six-time winner of the region's Best Country Home. Impeccable workmanship and quality customer service continue to define this long-running business, with Serena now at the helm.

Geraldton Homes' Best Country Home, which also won the \$400,000 to

\$450,000 category, will now compete with other regional winners from the Kimberley/Pilbara, South West, Great Southern and Goldfields/Esperance regions at the Master Builders Bankwest Housing Excellence Awards in Perth on February 24, 2018.

Kevin's legacy also lives on thanks to the Mitchell & Brown, Kevin Giudice Apprentice of the Year Award, which was bestowed on Bailey Pratt, his host employer Connolly Creative Building Co. and overarching employer Skill Hire.

The Ray White Apprentice Encouragement Award went to carpenter Lewis Scott, host employer Geraldton Building Services and Cabinets and employer Skill Hire.

Builders who train apprentices are an asset to the building and construction industry. They teach their apprentices to take pride in their jobs, meet work standards and share their knowledge down the line. This creates a productive chain reaction for years to come and creates a bright future for our industry and the built environment.

Speaking of bright futures, Firm Construction's refurbishment and new building work on Geraldton's Opal aged care facility has enabled elderly local residents to age gracefully and given their loved ones further peace of mind. This impressive building was declared the Bankwest Overall Best Commercial Project for 2017.



Other winning builders for contract homes were:

Contract Homes under \$250,000	Plunkett Homes, 4 Cobia St, Sunset Beach
Contract Homes \$250,000 to \$300,000	Plunkett Homes, 1 Stormking Loop, Wandina
Contract Homes \$300,000 to \$350,000	Steele Campbell Building, 6 Hester St, Drummond Cove
Contract Homes \$350,000 to \$400,000	Plunkett Homes, 10 Tartan Pl, Wandina
Contract Homes \$450,000 to \$500,000	Plunkett Homes, 8 Nichols St, Beresford
Contract Homes \$500,000 to \$650,000	WA Country Builders, 10 Hilltop Loop, Wokarena Heights, Buller
Contract Homes \$650,000 to \$850,000	Steele Campbell Building, 248 Chapman Rd, Beresford