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Construction greatness in the Great Southern

Embargoed until 11pm, 22 September 2018

Two building projects in Albany have been judged the best of the year for the Great Southern region.

The Best Regional Project title for the 2018 Master Builders-Bankwest Building Excellence Awards went to Smith Constructions for the Beryl Grant Community Centre in the Lockyer area of Albany.

And a classy, low-maintenance home at 51B McLeod Street in the suburb of Mira Mar won the Best Country Home award.

Regional branch manager Linda Gibbs said the winning builder, Haydn Glendenning of North 2 South Executive Homes, was a first-time entrant to the awards who started his building career working with his father in the state's north before moving to the Great Southern with his young family and starting up his own business.

He earned the award for a contemporary, European-style home built as a coastal escape for a farming family. Master Builders regional awards judge Charlie Baggetta said the construction quality complemented the great site with stunning ocean views and excellent design which captured natural light.

"The beautiful location was matched by beautiful workmanship through every aspect of the home," he said.

"The finishes were excellent across all trades including carpentry, tiling, ceilings, plastering and painting. All the elements came together to make it an outstanding entry.

"Everything in the house will wear well and keep working for years."

The top commercial entry was a multi-purpose facility designed as a focal point and flexible event space for a future aged care community.

Mr Baggetta said one of the features which impressed the judges about the Beryl Grant Community Centre was its extravagantly curved wooden ceiling which was both innovative and functional in improving acoustics within a large room.

"The ceiling was unbelievable. It was a unique feature of the building and an exceptional piece of work, along with the stonework outside.

"The function areas were very spacious and could be separated by sliding doors to suit various events.

“The high quality of workmanship met the form and function of the building. It’s a vibrant and stimulating environment for a host of uses and I think people will enjoy the facilities.”

Ms Gibbs said the building industry in the Great Southern had been slowing in recent months and the awards were an important recognition of builders who had proven the excellence of their work.

“We showcase the best of our regional industry from rooftop to foundations,” she said.

“We are extremely fortunate that we live in a region which has a number of quality builders who continually produce constructions of a high standard.

“Consumer confidence is low at the moment and many prospective home buyers are hanging on to their money when really now is the time to be building because it’s so affordable.

“Albany is unique because of our climate and terrain. We have hills, coast, lakes, rivers and forests which lead to a variety of housing types and diverse styles.

“In town we have big building companies but also more than 100 small builders so there’s an opportunity to build something exceptional.

“If you have a vision for the home you want, take it to one of our Master Builder members and they will cost it for you. This is the place to build your dream home.”

Ms Gibbs is walking the talk by building a Federation-style home with sweeping ocean views in Albany.

The 2018 Master Builders-Bankwest Building Excellence Awards for the region were announced at a gala event at Lime 303 Restaurant in Albany’s Dog Rock Motel on 22 September. Winners will be considered for the 2019 Master Builders state-wide awards.

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