

Media Release

Quality shines in new Great Southern buildings

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The top home winner in the 2020 Master Builders-Bankwest Building Excellence Awards for the Great Southern proves quality doesn't have to come with a high price tag.

Regional awards judge Charlie Baggetta said the Best Country Home award went to Poett Building Co for a house in the Willyung area which was far from the most expensive among this year's entries.

Judges looked at new homes ranging from less than \$200,000 to \$750,000 and alterations and additions priced under \$150,000 to over \$1million. The total value of entries this year came to more than \$35million.

Outside, the winning home has generous Australian-style verandahs, while English-inspired interior features include double-glazed windows and a designer kitchen with spacious scullery.

"Poett have shown excellent standards can be achieved at all levels. The cost of the winning home was in the mid-range but the work was top tier across all the trades. I've never seen a better painting job than the precision and finish on this home," Mr Baggetta said.

"Master Builders awards are judged on quality workmanship, not price, so the top home doesn't have to be one that costs millions.

"The owners were ecstatic in their praise for the builder, Russell Poett, who was on site from start to finish. This hands-on approach and the open communication between client and builder clearly had an impact on the results."

The Great Southern commercial entries ranged in value from under \$1.5million to \$5million and, again, the overall winner was not priced at the top end of its category. Smith Constructions won the Best Regional Project for the Oyster Harbour Lifestyle Village Clubhouse at Bayonet Head.

The clubhouse, which overlooks a natural lake, was designed to be the social hub for the over-55 community. It has a function hall, café, pool and gym inside plus an outdoor bowling green and tennis court.

"Smith Constructions keep their place in the local market by consistently producing great results," Mr Baggetta said.

"The landscaping on this project was exceptional, with native plants used extensively to blend in with the surrounding area.

"Another standout feature was the high quality exposed concrete and parquet flooring."

Master Builders regional manager Linda Gibbs said it was pleasing to see a high number of new entrants to the awards, with many smaller operators stepping up and showing their class.

“It’s exciting to see many of the small builders get involved this year, some for the first time, and winning categories. It’s a sign of the talent and quality being produced in our region.

“Builders across the region are saying there are busy times ahead. The stimulus packages have sparked lots of enquires to builders, land sales are through the roof and we are anticipating a mini boom in the next 18 months to two years.

“Trades shortages are expected due to deadlines for some of the building grants leading to high demand in a concentrated time frame.

“It’s great to see capable young apprentices learning trades and moving into the industry like our two finalists, Caiden Lionetti and Darcy Lambert.

“In awarding the Best Regional Apprentice title to Caiden, the judges said it was hard to choose between two young men who both have the potential to be industry leaders and rank among the best tradespeople in Australia.

“Congratulations to Skillhire and Schlager Homes for taking on these future carpenters and ensuring the skills we need in the building industry are passed on to the next generation.”

The awards were held in Albany on September 5 and winners of the Great Southern awards will be considered for the 2021 state-wide awards.

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