

# Media Release

## Celebrating the best of the Mid West

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The Kalbarri Skywalk visitor services and a coastal home at Jurien Bay are highlights of this year's Master Builders-Bankwest Building Excellence Awards for the Mid West region.

Judges travelled 2500km across the region from Geraldton to Carnarvon and through wildflower country such as Three Springs and Mingenew to see the best new building projects.

"The passion shown by young, new builders in the area is great and we look forward to seeing their work mature," regional awards judge Charlie Baggetta said.

The Best Country Home award this year went to Poynton Building Company for a Hamptons-style home at Jurien Bay.

"The builder Clint Poynton custom-designed the home based on the clients' ideas and he is rightly proud of the results," Mr Baggetta said.

"The design lends itself to the spacious block and the tradesmen have done it justice with beautiful work throughout. A highlight was the double shower with a skylight and the superb external finishes, carpentry, roofing and ceilings, which all won trade awards."

The top commercial award went to Geraldton-based building company GBSC Yurra for the infrastructure surrounding the Kalbarri Skywalk including a kiosk, shade structures, toilets, artwork and landscaping with local stone excavated during construction of the viewing platforms.

"The new facilities, built on a challenging site overlooking the Murchison River Gorge, have been done amazingly well," Mr Baggetta said.

"It's a remote location with no water or power services and the work continued through scorching summer heat to be completed to a tight schedule, within budget and in compliance with biodiversity requirements at Kalbarri National Park.

"Innovative materials were used including rock from the Skywalk footings which was cut on site to form terraces, stairs, seats, walls and other landscaping features

"Patterned concrete and weathered-looking steel were used to blend in with the natural back drop so the buildings look like they've been there for years. The results are spectacular."

Master Builders regional manager Paul Kerr said the Mid West had been hit hard by the building downturn but industry activity had been ignited by recent state and federal grants.



“Shovel-ready projects are coming online for commercial builders including work relating to schools and hospitals, which is great for creating local jobs,” he said.

“Land sales have accelerated in the Mid West and established homes are in short supply so interest in building is high. We are expecting a wave of work as we move towards the end of the year and into 2021.”

For the awards this year, judges assessed houses valued from under \$200,000 to \$750,000 and commercial projects ranging from \$1.5million to \$20million. The total value of projects entered in the awards came to over \$45million.

The awards were held at Geraldton Grammar School on October 10. Winners will be considered for next year’s state-wide housing and construction awards

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