

Media Release

Apprentice Awards: results confirm that building and construction is in safe hands

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

- If the results of the Master Builders WA Apprentice Awards are anything to go by, the future of the building and construction industry is in good hands.
- Lewis Italiano wins 2025 Master Builders WA Apprentice of the Year Award
- Most Outstanding Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Apprentice won by Meriel “Mezz” Farr
- Most Outstanding Female Apprentice won by Nicole Lamont-Rodgers

On Friday 20 June, apprentices from around Western Australia descended on Phat Brew Club in West Perth to learn who amongst them would be crowned Apprentice of the Year at the 2025 Master Builders WA Apprentice Awards.

Welcomed by distinguished guest, the Hon. Jodie Hanns MLA, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Energy and Decarbonisation; Manufacturing; Skills and TAFE; Pilbara and supported by their families, friends, employers and lecturers, two apprentices dominated the evening.

Meriel “Mezz” Farr took home Most Outstanding Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Apprentice and Most Outstanding Second Year Apprentice of the Year. A Carpentry apprentice with 90 Degree Residential, Mezz was nominated by her employer for “her technical proficiency, strong initiative to solve problems creatively and efficiently, and consistent drive to go above and beyond the minimum expectations of her role and workmanship.”

Lewis Italiano, a Cabinetmaking apprentice employed by Dardanup-based boutique furniture maker Studio Milton, was recognised as Most Outstanding Regional Apprentice and Most Outstanding Fourth Year Apprentice of the Year; it was no surprise that he then also took home the top gong, Master Builders WA Apprentice of the Year.

Lewis was nominated for his strong work ethic, passion and commitment to his craft, attention to detail, and focus on ensuring a safe environment for himself and others around him – the makings of a true master builder.

The “superstar” apprentice also received a Medallion for Excellence at the 2024 WorldSkills competition in Lyon, France for his exceptional trade abilities.

Rounding out the major winners, Nicole Lamont-Rodgers took home Most Outstanding Female Apprentice.

Chief judge and Master Builders WA Head of Training, Charlotte Sutton, said that the calibre of nominees in this years' cohort was astounding.

"Every single apprentice who was nominated for an award this year was of such a high calibre. Each young person we spoke to was incredibly passionate about their chosen trade, and all displayed a strong commitment towards becoming a true master of their field."

Master Builders Chief Executive Officer, Matthew Pollock, agreed and added that the support of the apprentices' family, friends and employers could not be overstated.

"Getting an apprenticeship is a team sport. Many young people commence their apprenticeship before the age of 18, while they are still a minor, so it's imperative for them to have a strong, supportive community around them to keep them on track, to build their confidence and skills, and most importantly – to get them across the finish line.

If the nominees from this years' cohort are anything to go by, the future of the building and construction industry is very, very bright."

The full winners list is as follows:

- Lecturer Trainer of the Year – Wayne Sutherland
- Employer Trainer of the Year – AE Hoskins
- Most Outstanding First Year Apprentice of the Year – Corey Basten, Grouted
- Most Outstanding Second Year Apprentice of the Year – Meriel "Mezz" Farr, 90 Degree Residential
- Most Outstanding Third Year Apprentice of the Year – Luke Jones, JWM Tiling
- Most Outstanding Fourth Year Apprentice of the Year – Lewis Italiano, Studio Milton
- Most Outstanding Female Apprentice – Nicole Lamont-Rodgers, Cablewise Electrical & Communications
- Most Outstanding Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Apprentice – Meriel "Mezz" Farr, 90 Degree Residential
- Most Outstanding Regional Apprentice – Lewis Italiano, Studio Milton
- Master Builders WA Apprentice of the Year – Lewis Italiano, Studio Milton

About the Apprentice Awards

The Master Builders WA Apprentice Awards celebrate the outstanding talent and overall standard of achievement of apprentices employed within the Western Australian building and construction industry. Many past winners have developed into successful contractors and builders who are well-renowned in the building and construction industry today. In a full-circle moment, a not-insignificant number of past winners have gone on to win other Master Builders WA awards categories.

About Master Builders WA

Master Builders WA services the needs of the entire building and construction industry, from residential to commercial, and civil engineering businesses, principal contractors to subcontractors, manufacturers and suppliers. We assist members by providing access to a wide range of specialised services, an impressive degree of recognition, as well as representation to government and industry. Master Builders also serves the Western Australian public by fostering best practice work standards.

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Comment from Master Builders WA

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Interviews with winners

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Photos

Images of winners can be downloaded [here](#).

Attributable photographer: David Broadway.