

## A word from the CEO

It was a pleasure to give recognition to Australia's best electrical and communications projects at NECA's annual Excellence Awards, held on 23 November.

Almost 400 industry representatives including contractors, educators and government representatives attended the Excellence Awards at the Sydney International Convention Centre.

Attendees heard from guest speaker the Hon. Craig Laundy MP, the Assistant Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science, who outlined the government's agenda for the electrical contracting sector.

There was a good geographical spread

of winners, with five winning projects from NSW, two each from Victoria, West Australia and South Australia and one each from Queensland and Tasmania.

We saw a fantastic range of projects this year. So it was even more challenging for our judges to decide on the national winners.

NECA thanks all the national finalists, congratulates the 2017 winners and acknowledges the ongoing support of the industry in making the Awards such a resounding success.

We would also like to particularly thank our sponsors, who have supported us in holding the awards for the past 29 years.



## 2018 Policy Statement

We've now released a refreshed and updated NECA Policy Statement for 2018, which was ratified by NECA's National Council at its November meeting in Sydney.

Our new statement continues to build upon our second iteration in 2016 and include new and amended policy positions in the renewable energy space, Continuing

Professional Development (CPD), building industry reforms and payroll tax concessions.

NECA's policy positions are critical for our industry as they signal to our stakeholders what members consider to be important issues for both themselves and the broader industry. To date we've had a number

of wins with respect to these positions we advocate for including payroll tax concessions, apprenticeship pilot programs, the return of the ABCC, the introduction of the Registered Organisations Act, the introduction of unfair contract provisions, and a focus on Security of Payment provisions to name a few.

## Nigel Peck honoured in re-named National Apprentice Industrial Award



This year, we've renamed our National Apprentice Industrial Award in honour of Nigel Peck, the founder of NHP, which he established in 1968 with a staff of 17. Nigel passed away in April this year, at the age of 89.

NHP is renowned for offering high-quality switch gear, advice and services across the Australia and New Zealand markets, having identified a market gap in for such products, 50 years ago.

In addition to Nigel's strong contributions to our industry, he was a highly valued philanthropist who dedicated himself to a range of causes across Australia. In June 2004, he received an Order of Australia medal for his services to the electrical industry and the wider community.

Naming our Industrial Apprentice Award in honour of Nigel's contribution to our industry is a fitting tribute to an individual who has supported NECA and the wider community.

# Congratulations to all our 2017 NECA Excellence and Apprentice Award winners.



They were honoured at a celebration in November attended by The Hon Craig Laundy MP, and almost 400 industry representatives including contractors, educators and government representatives.

Have you got a project that demonstrates outstanding commitment, innovation and professionalism? Information on how to nominate for the 2018 awards will be available early next year.

CATEGORY	PROJECT NAME	STATE	COMPANY
Domestic Residence	Modern Melbourne Residence	VIC	Advanced Lifestyle Solutions
Small Contracting Business	Curry Power	NSW	Curry Power
Work Health & Safety Management System (Project)	The Science Place - James Cook University - Townsville	QLD	Programmed Electrical Technologies
Work Health & Safety Management System (Company)	Kerfoot	NSW	Kerfoot
Industrial Small	Leonora Station Creek Telemetry Upgrade	WA	RCR Water and Water Corporation
Industrial - Medium Project	IKEA Multi Function Logistic Unit, Marsden Park	NSW	Barnwell Cambridge
Industrial - Large Project	Webb Dock International Container Terminal Project	VIC	Nilsen (VIC)
Energy Efficiency and Environment	Adelaide health and medical Sciences (AHMS)	SA	AZZO
Lighting	Sydney University's Great Hall	NSW	Elam Cabling Group
Voice/Data Communications & Audio Visual	Perth Children's Hospital - Communications Package	WA	DESA Australia
Commercial Small Project	TasWater North West Regional Offices	TAS	RBD Electrical & Instrumentation
Commercial - Medium Project	Wynyard Walk	NSW	Star Group
Commercial - Large Project	The New Royal Adelaide Hospital (nRAH)	SA	Nilse



**Alan Brown,**  
NECA National President



**Hon. Craig Laundy, MP**

## Apprentice Awards

	CATEGORY	EMPLOYER / HOST	STATE	APPRENTICE
<b>WINNER</b>	Industrial	Schneider Electric	VIC	Tim Stanway
<b>RUNNER UP</b>	Industrial	EGT / Host - Nilsen	WA	Justin Bennett
<b>WINNER</b>	Commercial / Domestic	Lanec Services	VIC	Jason Dupont
<b>RUNNER UP</b>	Commercial / Domestic	NECA Electrical Apprenticeships / Host - Kerfoot	NSW	James Brown
<b>WINNER</b>	Communications	PEER / Host - Integrated Cabling Solutions	SA	Christopher Cowan

## NECA reaches 5,000 members milestone

We're very pleased to announce that NECA now has over 5,000 members for the first time in its history.

Reaching the 5,000 member mark is a fantastic milestone in NECA's long and rich history. It's pleasing to see an uptake in membership and that the services that

we're offering are resonating amongst the electrical contracting sector.

It's encouraging to see that our products, such as WH&S advice, assistance in IR and contractual matters, training and apprenticeships as well as regular networking events are well received. We

will continue to work towards improving all of our offerings for the benefit of both our members and the sector more broadly.

We also look forward to continuing to work on behalf of the electrical contracting sector and delivering outcomes for our members in a number of critical policy arenas.

## Jamie Roberston wins Electrotechnology Industry Trade Award

Jamie Robertson, a former electrical services technician from the Ford auto-manufacturing plant in Geelong, has won the Electrotechnology Industry Trade Teacher Award for 2017.

Jamie is an A-Grade electrician who joined NECA Education and Careers in 2016 through its Teacher Pipeline recruitment process after completing both a Certificate IV in Training and Assessment and classroom time under the guidance of NECA Education and Career's Senior Teacher and Operations Leader.

The program has been created to bring in new trade teachers to the industry, based on their passion and dedication to mentoring the next generation of young electricians.

Despite Jamie's experience being limited as a teacher, there has been

positive feedback from staff, his students and employers according to NECA chief executive, Suresh Manickam.

"Jamie has an obvious way of connecting and engaging in the classroom and this has helped foster mutual respect," says Suresh.

"A strength of his is his motivation for continual learning and extending his knowledge within the electrical trade. References from his managers include 'regardless of the project he will always roll up his sleeves, have a go and learn along the way' and 'he is the absolute pinnacle of the culture and values we are promoting at NECA Education and Careers.'"

Trade Teacher Award judge Wes McKnight adds: "Once again, we were



highly impressed with this year's list of Trade Teacher Awards applicants and the ongoing success of this award is a testament to the quality of teaching across the industry. I wish to acknowledge all of this year's applicants and in particular, two others who we awarded a High Commendation to – Gregory Morgan from CET in Western Australia and Michael Cullen from the Holmesglen Institute in Victoria."

## Non-conforming building products

Parliaments around Australia are moving to address the very serious issue of non-conforming building products, which pose grave dangers both to public safety and our industry.

The Building and Construction Legislation (Non-conforming Building Products – Chain of Responsibility and Other Matters) Amendment Act 2017, which were recently passed in Queensland:

- Establishes a chain of responsibility, placing duties on building supply chain participants (including designers, manufacturers, importers, suppliers and installers) to ensure building products

used in Queensland are safe and fit for intended purpose; and

- Expands the compliance and enforcement powers of the Queensland Building and Construction Commission (QBCC), and the responsible minister.

To assist industry in meeting their obligations, the Department of Housing and Public Works has prepared a Code of Practice on non-conforming building products.

Similarly, at the time of writing there is legislation – the Building Products (Safety) Bill 2017 – before the NSW parliament which would:

- Give the NSW Commissioner of Fair Trading powers to stop new apartment buildings being covered with dangerous cladding;
- Impose fines of \$1.1 million for companies and \$200,000 for individuals if they use dangerous cladding; and
- Provide councils with the power to have non-conforming products removed.

NECA welcomes these initiatives, which align with our advocacy on this issue, including our submission to the Australian Senate's inquiry into non-conforming building products, which is scheduled to release its final report on 30 April 2018. ■

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