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Media Release

NECA recognises future stars of the electrotechnology industry

Some of the brightest and best electrical apprentices, along with 2018's outstanding Trade Teacher, were recognised at the 2018 NECA National Apprentice and Trade Teacher Awards ceremony on 22 November 2018.

The winners of the NECA National Apprentice Awards, Sam Morrow, Andrew Binetti and Luke Hentschke were selected from a very competitive field of 16 exceptional State Apprentice Award winners from right across Australia.

"Judging Awards is never easy and once again this year the quality of the entrants was exceptional," said Suresh Manickam, CEO NECA.

"Well trained, quality apprentices are the future of our industry and it is encouraging to see the innovation and technical excellence demonstrated by these young people. The demand for electrical skills is going to continue to grow as we become more and more dependent upon technology and all these apprentices will have a bright future," he said.

Andrew Binetti VIC, Winner Industrial Apprentice Award

Andrew Binetti, who has spent his apprenticeship with NHP, CJ Pearce and Abbe Corrugated, was the top achiever in the Industrial category. A talented apprentice, one of the projects Andrew was commended for was a job for Abbe Corrugated which required him to design and construct a switchboard for a new in-line printer, wiring three phase motors and installing an operator panel.

Sam Morrow VIC, Winner Commercial/Domestic Apprentice Award

Sam Morrow won the State Award in the Commercial/ Domestic category. He's spent his entire apprenticeship at Malady Electrical. During his apprenticeship, Sam took on a highly complex, challenging project for the RTO Federation Training Centre, single-handedly running a team of tradesmen and apprentices ensuring the project was completed before the Ministerial ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Luke Hentschke SA, Winner Communications Apprentice Award

Luke Hentschke – has spent his full apprenticeship with Apex Communications Technologies One of the major projects Luke worked on for Apex Communications Technologies was the National Royal Adelaide Hospital. This project required that Luke install wireless access points and Sonitor ultrasonic tracking units, as well as, just four weeks into the project, taking on a leadership role managing three other tradesmen.

Matthew King WA, Winner Trade Teacher Award

Winner of the 2018 Trade Teacher Award was Matthew King, who has been a teacher at the Swan Trade Training Centre in WA since its inception in 2012. He established and runs the only school-based, pre-apprenticeship program delivered by in-house staff in Western Australia. The course realises Matthew's vision of providing a solid grounding in theory while delivering the content in practical, hands-on ways. Mathew also provides his students with the opportunity to

undertake work experience at an orphanage in Cambodia as well as having them work in his own electrical business. His success rate speaks for itself with 100% of his students gaining a pre-apprenticeship offer after finishing school.

Stephen Hall, Campus Manager for the College of Electrical Training in WA nominated Matthew and says "Matthew's dedication to training electrical apprentices sets a benchmark all industry should emulate."

-ENDS-

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Notes for editors

1. *NECA is the peak industry body representing the interests of electrical and communications contractors Australia-wide.*
1. *Membership comprises over 5,000 contracting companies with over 50,000 employees.*
2. *NECA provides employment and ongoing skills development for over 4,000 apprentices Australia-wide.*
3. *The Australian Cablers Registration Service (ACRS) is a wholly owned and operated subsidiary of NECA.*
4. *Neca has a joint venture with NESS Super in NSW.*