

# engine room of the future

The Build Your Future program is powering up. *Housing* reports on the first round of scholarship winners.



## About the scholarship

Scholarships are open to people currently employed in the residential building industry as an apprentice, employee or working as a contractor wanting to increase their skills and qualifications, typically 25 years old or younger. The HIA Build Your Future program will award full and partial training scholarships across Australia, with individual scholarships ranging up to \$6000, to help offset the cost of HIA training fees.

### Your support is needed

If you know of or have an apprentice, employee or contractor in the building industry, aged 25 years or younger, encourage them to take up this great opportunity to increase their training qualifications and business skills. It will help them to get ahead of the others and potentially save thousands of dollars.

HIA Training Scholarships will be awarded twice a year, with the next closing date on 31 May 2011. To nominate for a scholarship please register via [hia.com.au/buildyourfuture](http://hia.com.au/buildyourfuture)

**W**ith the building and construction industry acknowledged as ‘the engine room of the economy’, it is imperative that it is powered with an ongoing supply of qualified tradespeople. HIA, in partnership with JELD-WEN Australia and supported by Stratco, is providing the environment to do just that.

In September last year HIA and JELD-WEN launched the HIA Build Your Future program and its inaugural HIA Training Scholarships. The first round of scholarships closed on 30 November and 26 young tradespeople from around the country have now been granted an HIA Training Scholarship, collectively valued at \$140,364. (See box opposite for the list of scholarship recipients.)

The HIA Build Your Future program is an industry-driven initiative specifically designed to support apprentices and young tradespeople in the residential building industry to go on to become successful sole contractors.

It aims to help young people achieve their training goals and meet their full potential and professional development objectives by encouraging them to increase their qualifications, business skills and better prepare themselves for a successful future.

With apprentice numbers in the industry falling in a number of key states, and nine out of 12 occupational areas in short supply (*2011 HIA – Austral Bricks Trade Report*), it is vital to provide up-and-coming generations with the skill, solid knowledge base and industry encouragement to pick up the slack if underlying housing demand is to be met, says HIA Managing Director Shane Goodwin. The current shortages will be exacerbated in the face of an ageing workforce, and the

recent natural disasters across Australia will also place a heavy demand on skilled tradespeople.

The Build Your Future program aims to correct this, with an encouraging and positive response from young tradespeople Australia-wide who have registered online to join the program.

HIA also received nearly 100 nominations for the scholarships, which will provide the opportunity for individuals to complete training courses to achieve the necessary qualifications towards a trade licence and consequently profit from the necessary growth in the industry. With the cost of training courses often out of reach for most young tradespeople, the HIA Training Scholarships will help offset the cost of HIA training course fees.

Nominees were asked what career aspirations they had and how they would use the new skills acquired from the scholarship. It was rewarding to see so many wanting to advance their skills, with the ultimate goal to independently operate their own business in the residential building industry. Many also expressed the importance of providing quality workmanship and services, and acknowledged the need to keep skilling future generations, hoping to eventually be in the position to employ apprentices in their own businesses.

One winner’s ecstatic reaction to the news of his scholarship win was nothing compared to his mother’s emotionally charged response. A single parent, who has struggled through financially tough times, she and her son know only too well how difficult it can be to afford the cost of education and training.

On top of having to work at McDonalds after school to help make ends meet – and to buy a vehicle so he could obtain an apprenticeship – it’s been ‘extremely hard’ to pay off the car and build up his tool



Photo: Shaun Murray Photography

*Above: HIA National President Jill Lee awards Zac Norris from Queensland with his scholarship.*

supply on apprenticeship wages, he says. As a result, he hasn't had 'the spare cash' necessary to save towards the Cert IV course to further himself in an industry he is clearly passionate about. The scholarship is 'fantastic', his mother adds: 'You just don't know what this will mean to him. Thank you and HIA so much.'

Shane Goodwin says the response to the scholarships has been encouraging.

'The winners of these scholarships are our future leaders and HIA and its partners are pleased to be able to support them in their endeavours,' he says. 'They will set a fine example for other young people in our industry who recognise the need to continually strive to improve their skills.'


CEO for JELD-WEN Australia, Nigel Lapping, says: 'Building and construction is the engine room of the Australian economy.'

'The HIA Build Your Future program is a very real and proactive way in which we as an industry can ensure an ongoing supply of qualified tradespeople.'

'I am delighted that applications are open for the 2011 program. If you or someone you know involved in building

and construction knows of an apprentice I strongly encourage you to let them know of the HIA Build Your Future program and encourage them to lodge their application.'

Supporting company Stratco Australia Pty Ltd is also thrilled to be part of this venture. 'As one of Australasia's largest producers and marketers of quality building and home improvement products, Stratco has a strong commitment to employing young people with the right attributes and dedication, and developing them to their fullest potential,' says Michael Stenhouse, Stratco's group marketing manager – sales. 'Stratco therefore understands the importance of professional trade contractors, and the crucial role today's apprentices will play in the future success of the housing industry.'

*For more information go to [hia.com.au/buildyourfuture](http://hia.com.au/buildyourfuture) and associated facebook page at [facebook.com/buildyourfuture](http://facebook.com/buildyourfuture)* 

**JELD-WEN**  
AUSTRALIA



## HIA Build Your Future scholarship recipients

### ACT

**Dayne Tidswell** Bonython, ACT  
**Brendan O'Toole** Waramanga, ACT

### NSW

**Brenton Pearce** Bateau Bay, HUNTER  
**Joshua Roe** Nobbys Creek, NSW  
**Benjamin Lipski** Gordon, NSW  
**Nicholas Kellie** Pennant Hills, NSW  
**Jari Mowatt-Penna** Cessnock, HUNTER  
**Michael Kezovski** Blackbutt, NSW  
**Lonny Nourse** South Windsor, NSW

### Queensland

**Zac Norris** Upper Coomera, QLD  
**Benjamin Watkins** Bundaberg, QLD  
**Myles Arber** Ransome, QLD  
**Daniel Chapman** Kings Beach, QLD  
**Jayde Bowman** Burleigh, QLD  
**Jordan Nugent** Garbutt, QLD  
**Nicholas Maher** Arana Hills, QLD

### South Australia

**Carlo Simpson** Adelaide, SA  
**Sam Ryan** Clearview, SA  
**Ryan Menz** Keith, SA  
**Scott Norton** Aberfoyle Park, SA  
**Christopher Seery** Woodville West, SA

### Tasmania

**Alex Turner** Mowbray, TAS

### Victoria

**Steven Patching** Mount Eliza, VIC  
**Matthew Lewis** East Warburton, VIC  
**Andrew Goulopoulos** Docklands, VIC

### Western Australia

**Matthew Parente** Morley, WA

HIA and JELD-WEN also awarded HIA Training Scholarships to the following 2010 HIA state and regional apprentice award winners:

**Daniel Jeffries** HIA Queensland Apprentice of the Year  
**Terry Lake** HIA-Alec Fuller Commonwealth Bank Victorian Apprentice of the Year  
**Toby Joyce** HIA New South Wales Apprentice of the Year  
**Lee Stevens** HIA Hunter Apprentice of the Year