

# Be Inspired

Introducing the best apprentices and trainees at the 2025 Apprentice Employment Network Awards.



## Apprentice Of The Year

**Liam Bleasel**

**GTO:** Master Builders Association of NSW  
**Apprenticeship:** Carpentry

**From Engineering to Excellence**

Despite earning a Bachelor of Engineering, Liam Bleasel realised a desk-bound career wasn't for him. After struggling with mental health in his senior years, he found that physical, hands-on work was the key to his well-being.

Liam traded Macquarie University for a Carpentry apprenticeship with the **Master Builders Association of NSW**. Now at **Blueprint Projects**, he combines his mathematical background with trade skills. Having recently completed his Certificate IV, Liam is now focused on achieving his builder's license.



## Trainee Of The Year

**Marcus Hallam**

**GTO:** NTHA Trainees & Apprentices  
**Traineeship:** Supply Chain

**Unlocking Potential**

Once disengaged from traditional education and facing personal hardship, Marcus Hallam's life changed when he began a **Certificate III in Supply Chain Operations** at age 17. His resilience and ambition saw him quickly rise from warehouse trainee to Internal Sales Representative at **ITI Australia**.

Supported by **NTHA Trainees & Apprentices**, Marcus became a mentor to cadets and a leader in sustainability projects. Now pursuing further study, he aims for a future in product management, proving that vocational training truly unlocks professional potential.



## First Nations Trainee/ Apprentice of the Year

**Brendan Syron**

**GTO:** My Gateway  
**Apprenticeship:** Electrical

**Leading by Example**

A proud Biripi man, Brendan Syron transitioned from a 13-year hospitality career to become a fourth-year electrical apprentice with **My Gateway**, hosted by **Stowe Australia**. Seeking a meaningful path for his family, Brendan overcame the challenges of returning to study as a mature-aged student with resilience and purpose.

A **Bert Evans Scholarship** recipient and multi-award winner, Brendan is a passionate advocate for First Nations and mature-aged workers, proving it is never too late to pursue a fulfilling trade career through vocational excellence.

# Inclusion Trainee/ Apprentice of the Year

## Shaani Monson

**GTO:** Zeal Futures

**Apprenticeship:** Mobile Plant

### Driven by Passion

Shaani began her Mobile Plant apprenticeship in 2022 with **Zeal Futures**, hosted by **Maules Creek Coal**. Driven by a lifelong passion for mechanical work, Shaani's transition into the industry has been seamless.

From her initial interview to her daily work on-site, her exceptional knowledge and work ethic have consistently impressed her peers. Her dedication was officially recognized when she was named Apprentice of the Year at the New England Regional Training Awards, highlighting her excellence in the field.



# Women in Trades Trainee/ Apprentice of the Year

## Kasey Lewis

**GTO:** Zeal Futures

**Apprenticeship:** Electrical

### A Creative Spark in Electrotechnology

Originally working in graphic design, Kasey followed her determination into the electrical field, starting an apprenticeship in 2021 with **Zeal Futures** and **Origin Energy**. Despite facing health challenges, Kasey's unwavering enthusiasm for her trade and RTO studies has earned her numerous accolades, including the **2025 Woman in Non-Traditional Trade Award**. Now a proud VET ambassador, Kasey proves that a background in the arts can successfully bridge into a high-voltage career.



# School-Based Trainee/ Apprentice of the Year

## Sarah Schofield

**GTO:** CCGT

**Apprenticeship:** Commercial Cookery

### A Culinary Blueprint

A standout school-based apprentice in Commercial Cookery, Sarah Schofield is employed by **CCGT** and hosted by **Peterson Champagne House at Blaxland Inn**. Her passion for the culinary arts began early, leading her to become one of only five recipients of the **Hunter Culinary Association's Emerging Apprentice Scholarship**. With multiple Principal's Awards and a first-place rank in Food Technology, Sarah's success serves as a blueprint for how passion and purpose can align through school-based vocational training.

Start your career through a Group Training Organisation (GTO).

For more information and to find a GTO in your area visit the

Apprenticeship Employment Network website: [www.iwantanapprenticeship.com.au](http://www.iwantanapprenticeship.com.au)