

MASTER builder

January - March 2019

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TALENT SHINES

Queensland members take top gongs at National Excellence in Building Awards





Gong a shock for Jock

A TWENTY-NINE-YEAR-OLD is debunking the avocado on toast millennial stereotype as he builds multi-million dollar construction projects, takes home a national gong and redefines the meaning of hard work.

It was at boarding school in Brisbane in 2006 that Jock Kent, knowing he wanted to be hands on and outdoors with his work, did a ring around to local builders in a bid to secure a job post-graduation.

"I thought carpentry was a skill I'd benefit from for the rest of my life," Jock said.

Starting out with a small building company, he then progressed to a supervisor role and later went on to work for a personal connection.

"A builder I knew moved overseas and he asked me to take over his jobs while communicating with him remotely," Jock said.

"That was the first time I realised I could handle most jobs myself."

At the same time, Jock was getting an increasing number of friends asking him to do small jobs and projects for them.

"I realised if I kept saying no they wouldn't ask again and so I sort of stumbled into it," he said.

In 2015, Jock launched Taranaway Building & Landscapes, a nod to the namesake family farm he grew up on in Longreach featuring the same, distinct red writing as his brand.

With just an apprentice and himself, he worked in the blue-chip suburb of Graceville. Their reputation for unwavering dedication and high-quality work quickly spread in the tight-knit community.

Word of mouth led him to be approached for his biggest job yet, a million dollar ornate Queenslander renovation at Verney Road.

"Realistically, we had done nothing to deserve the opportunity of taking that project on," Jock said.

"We'd started in 2015. In 2016 we did a small renovation a couple of streets away from Verney Road and then we took the (Verney) project on in June that year.

"Experience wise, there was nothing saying we could even do the project, let alone do it





well," Jock said.

Questioning his own abilities, but keen to take on the challenge for the experience, Jock met up with an industry contact turned mentor.

"I took the plans to him and he helped me through pricing it. I asked him, 'Should I be doing this?' and he told me to pull my socks up and rip in," Jock said.

"Are you confident in building it?" he asked me, "What makes you nervous?"

"Him asking that made me realise it wasn't building I was worried about, it was inexperience in pricing and business that made me nervous."

Agreeing to take on the project, Jock said he discovered by doing the absolute best job you can, 'you work construction out'.

"It's not rocket science, you've ... got to work hard."

Jock Kent, Taranaway Building & Landscapes

"It's the rest of it that's tricky, you spend your whole career learning how to build, then suddenly you're expected to run a business and quote perfectly"

Jock's small team poured their blood, sweat and tears into Verney Road.

"We absolutely dedicated ourselves to that place for 14 months," he said.

From installing cold rooms inside the kitchen, sunken cinema seating, building the pool themselves to installing a 20,000 litre water tank in the front yard, their skills were certainly tested on every level.

The high-end project went on to take out the Master Builders Australia National Luxury Alterations/ Additions over \$1M in Adelaide in November 2018.

"It's so good for myself as the leader of a young team to set a standard and be acknowledged for it, it lets you know you're on the right track and gets rid of any insecurities about the way you are running things" he said.

"We've completely evolved as a team because of that and the boys deserve to be rewarded for the attitude they have towards their work everyday. Now you've got guys who have been working with us since Verney Road who are setting the same standard for new guys coming on," he said.

With a team of 14 and growing, he gave two golden pieces of advice to those up and coming in the industry.

"Learn to do everything yourself, I did my own books until I didn't have time in the day to do them," he said.

"And do the right thing. It's so easy to do and it ends up paying you back. You do the right thing for someone and they'll tell someone else."

NATIONAL EXCELLENCE IN BUILDING

FIVE Queensland builders have shone a light on the incredible talents of our state, taking home six prizes at the pinnacle Master Builders' 2018 National Excellence in Building and Construction Awards.

Held in Adelaide in November last year, Australia's finest builders went head-to-head. A win at Nationals is much sought-after and represents the highest achievement for our industry.

Blinco Constructions, Cavcorp, DTL Constructions, Graya Construction and Taranaway Building & Landscapes have now joined the ranks in achieving this success.

DTL Constructions were a favourite with the judges and took home three wins on the night.

Master Builders CEO, Grant Galvin said it was an incredible achievement and congratulated the fantastic representation of Queensland Master Builders on their well-deserved, national recognition.

"To take out a win at our regional Awards is a feat in itself. To then go on and win at State is truly sensational. Backing this up with a win at Nationals is the golden trifecta and deserves to be wildly applauded," Mr Galvin said.

"The logistical planning, problem solving, sleepless nights, hard work, teamwork,

blood, sweat and tears all held together with unwavering passion and support from loved-ones to push through and deliver these premium quality homes is simply astonishing.

"We are so proud of the glass ceilings our members smash through time and time again as they continue to raise the bar for excellence higher and higher each year."

If you'd like to raise the profile of your business and be recognised for your great work, enter your projects into the Housing & Construction Awards program this year. See page 50-53 for our 2019 Awards and all the entry information you need.



Taranaway Building & Landscapes Pty Ltd
National Luxury Alterations/Additions Award - over \$1 million
WINNER



Blinco Constructions Pty Ltd
National Project Home - \$350,000 to \$500,000
WINNER



DTL Constructions Pty Ltd

National Residential Master Builder of the Year
National Luxury Project Home - over \$3 million
National Project Home - \$500,000 to \$1 million

WINNER WINNER WINNER



Cavcorp Qld Pty Ltd

National High Rise Apartment Building

WINNER



Graya Construction Pty Ltd

National Luxury Alterations/Additions Award - \$650,000 to \$1million

WINNER