



**NIGHT OF NIGHTS:** From left, state training service regional manager Greg Poetschka with Marie Minslow, member for Tamworth Kevin Anderson, member for Northern Tablelands Adam Marshall and Phil Jones.

Photos: Geoff O'Neill 21061360C01

# Outstanding achievements in their fields

**YOUNG** apprentice Dominic Gall and Ellen Valler of the Community Mutual Group have come away as two of the big winners from this year's New England Training Awards.

The awards were held at TRECC on Friday night in front of more than 500 people, who saw Dominic, representing New England North West Group Training and McIntosh Building, take out apprentice of the year, and Ellen named trainee of the year.

Finalists from across seven categories were recognised, including special industry awards, and the winners will now progress to the NSW Training Awards in Sydney on September 5 at Darling Harbour.

The awards recognise outstanding achievement in the vocational education and training sector and Friday night's audience comprised finalists, employers, apprenticeship centres, registered training organisations, Jobs Services Australia, group training organisations and industry bodies from across the region.

State Training Services regional manager Greg Poetschka said this year's nominations were of a very high standard, and represented almost every New England, North West community.

## 2013 NSW TRAINING AWARDS- NEW ENGLAND CATEGORY WINNERS

### Apprentice of the Year

Winner: Dominic Gall, New England North West Group Training and McIntosh Building

Highly Commended: Luke O'Reilly, AAS (NSW)

### Trainee of the Year

Winner: Ellen Valler, Community Mutual Group

Highly Commended: Sara Bainbridge-Gardner, Milestones Early Learning

Industry Awards: Jennifer Walsh, Marina Harris, Kelly Woolfe, Simone Mingay

### School Based Apprentice/Trainee of the Year

Winner: Courtney Coleman, Hunter

### New England Health

Highly Commended: Courtney Harrison, Dieselquip and Matthew Smith, McLean Care

### Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander of the Year

Winner: Kelsha Sampson, New England North West Group Training and TAFE Tamworth

Highly Commended: Tanya Bush, New England North West Group Training and TAFE Tamworth

### Vocational Student of the Year

Winner: Margaret Noonan, Tamworth Regional Council

Highly Commended: Anthony Allwell, Tamworth Regional Council and Kelly Williams, McMaugh Gardens Aged Care

### VET in Schools Student of the Year

Winner: Emma McIlwain

Highly Commended: Matthew Jauja and Jade Fogarty

### VET Trainer/Teacher of the Year

Winner: Kerrie Honeyman, TAFE Tamworth

Highly Commended: Elizabeth Ingram, TAFE Tamworth

### Special awards

Phil Darby Memorial Award: Steveyjo Hamilton

Industry Excellence - Excellence in Electrotechnology: Brayden Smith

Excellence In Trade Skills: Prue Strahan

Top Apprentice in Vehicle Trades: Shannon Edwards

Special Award for a Woman in a Non-Traditional Trade or Vocation: Courtney Harrison

Excellence in Manufacturing: Douglas Blackburn

Sue Haylock Excellence In VET Award: Naomi Appleyard and Samantha McAlpine.

### Organisation Awards

Small Employer of the Year: Practical Systems

Large Employer of the Year: Community Mutual Group

Industry Collaboration of the Year: Make It Work Foundation, Shenhua Watermark



## EXCELLENCE REWARDED:

More than 500 people turned out for the New England Training Awards on Friday night. Photo: Geoff O'Neill 21061360C03