

## PRESS RELEASE

*For immediate release*



### **Victoria celebrates the achievements of the plumbing and fire protection industries**

The 4<sup>th</sup> annual Plumbing and Fire Industry Awards (PFIA) were held Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> of September 2018 at The Sofitel Melbourne on Collins. Over 520 plumbing and fire protection industry participants, partners, friends and family members attended this year's event.

Danny O'Brien MP, Brad Battin MP, Cr Oscar Yildiz of Moreland City Council, Commissioners Anne Barker and Carmel Coate of the Victorian Building Authority along with Neil Coulson, Director of the Victorian Skills Commissioner, DJ Nunez, President of IAPMO and Alberto Fossa, (Brazil) Director of the World Plumbing Council also attended on the night.

PFIA celebrates the achievements of committed industry participants who excel in their trade or whose work has made a great impact for their company or the industry.

Congratulations to all those who received an Award in 2018, in particular the recipients of the major awards. Former Master Plumbers CEO, Ken Gardner, who received the William P. Hite Leadership Excellence Award. Ken has demonstrated fantastic leadership and has made a significant difference for the benefit of all in plumbing, fire protection, HVAC and pipe trades industries. Thomas Dunn from David McCarthy Plumbing who received the Andrew Letten Gold Medal. The Andrew Letten Gold Medal Award is the highest honour provided by the Master Plumbers and the highest industry award provided to apprentices. Geelong Fire Services for Project of the Year (Bunjil Place). Geelong Fire Services has delivered outstanding workmanship and innovation within the plumbing, fire protection or HVAC scope of works on a commercial project, and the award provides the winner with Industry wide recognition.

Official proceedings for the evening began with an address from Commissioner Carmel Coate of the Victorian Building Authority and Chair of PICAC who spoke about the importance of effective regulation in the industry and the commitment of the industry stakeholders to compliance to ensure community protection.

The announcement of the new Lou Maglio Medal for National Fire Protection Apprentice of the Year was a particularly poignant moment in the evening. Wayne Smith, CEO of the National Fire Industry Association and Earl Setches, National Secretary of the Plumbing and Pipe Trades Employees Union paid tribute to good friend, industry champion and 2017 William P. Hite Leadership Excellence Award winner

Lou Maglio who tragically passed away in late 2018 and announced the medal to be awarded in his honour, which will be presented for the first time at the PFIA in 2019.

PICAC CEO and World Plumbing Council Chair, Shayne La Combre announced that the international World Plumbing Conference that will be held 11-13 September, 2019 at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre will be open for registrations from 11 September 2018 and launched the website [www.worldplumbingconference.com](http://www.worldplumbingconference.com).

#### Plumbing and Fire Industry Award 2018 Award Winners and Finalists:

<b>Indigenous Professional Award</b>	<b>Winner: Troy Peden Jr.</b>	<b>RAW Recruitment</b>
<b>Tradelink Women in Plumbing Rose Curtis Award</b>	<b>Winner: Breanna Szitarity</b> Victoria Tomkins	<b>Plumbing Apprenticeships Victoria</b> Plumbing Apprenticeships Victoria
<b>Excellence in Occupational Health and Safety Award</b>	<b>Winner: Ron Burgess</b>	<b>CEPUTEC</b>
<b>Excellence in Education and Training Award</b>	<b>Winner: Warren James</b> Wayne Diffey Gavin Hunter	<b>RMIT</b> Master Plumbers Fire Industry Training
<b>Excellence in Sustainability Award</b>	<b>Winner: The Drain Man</b> Cooke & Dowsett	
<b>Victaulic NFIA Apprentice Award</b>	<b>Winner: Christopher Dunn</b> Corey Normington Joel Treeby	<b>Geelong Fire Services</b> Geelong Fire Services South East Fire
<b>Excellence in Fire Protection Award</b>	<b>Winner: Mark Buckley</b>	<b>Contractfire</b>
<b>AHSCA Tom Clements Consultant of the Year Award</b>	<b>Winner: Ben Rimmington</b> Mark Alexander Jonathan Flett	<b>rimmq</b> Alexander & Associates Cooke & Dowsett
<b>AHSCA Commercial Plumbing Affiliate Award</b>	<b>Winner: Geschke Plumbing Contractors</b> Cooke & Dowsett NSG Plumbing	
<b>AHSCA Corporate Sponsors Award</b>	<b>Winner: Dean Rowlands</b> Greg Brittain Darren Fletcher	<b>SpecRep Services</b> Zip Industries Stiebel Eltron
<b>Mechanical Services Award</b>	<b>Winner: Mokhtar Mahamood</b> Jye Collins Karly Tapner	<b>Plumbing Apprenticeships Victoria</b> Plumbing Apprenticeships Victoria Plumbing Apprenticeships Victoria
<b>Frank Maskell General Plumbing Award</b>	<b>Winner: Thomas Dunn</b> Tao Hing Lim  Bryce Healy	<b>David McCarthy Plumbing</b> Plumbing Apprenticeships Victoria/ Geschke Plumbing Contractors Cooke & Dowsett
<b>NA Smith Gas Award</b>	<b>Winner: Stephan Putter</b> Salem Zoghaib Stuart Masson	<b>Plumbing Apprenticeships Victoria</b> Plumbing Apprenticeships Victoria Plumbing Apprenticeships Victoria
<b>Project of the Year</b>	<b>Geelong Fire Services</b>	<b>For Bunjil Place</b>
<b>The Andrew Letten Gold Medal Award</b>	<b>Winner: Thomas Dunn</b> Stephan Putter Mokhtar Mahamood	Frank Maskell General Plumbing Award Winner NA Smith Gas Award Winner Mechanical Services Award Winner
<b>William P. Hite Leadership Excellence Award</b>	<b>Ken Gardner</b>	Former Master Plumbers CEO

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**ABOUT The Plumbing and Fire Industry Awards (PFIA)**

The Plumbing and Fire Industry Awards is a joint initiative driven by key industry stakeholders the Master Plumbers Association, the Plumbing and Pipe Trades Employees Union, the National Fire Industry Association, the Association of Hydraulic Service Consultants Australia and the Plumbing Industry Climate Action Centre.

The PFIA 2018 stakeholders would like to thank all our wonderful sponsors:

**Event Sponsor:** Victorian Building Authority

**Platinum Sponsors:** CBUS, Conex Banninger, Davey Water Products, Energy Safe Victoria, Fire Industry Training, Hutchinson Builders, Incolink, InSinkErator, Plumbing Joint Training Fund, RAW Recruitment, Reece, Tradelink and Victaulic.

**Gold Sponsors:** Caroma, FireMate, IAPMO Oceana and Milwaukee Tools Australia

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