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Marion Fitzpatrick from Northern Sydney TAFE named National Trade Teacher of the Year

The Institute for Trade Skills Excellence Recognises Excellence in trade skills teaching.

Marion Fitzpatrick from Northern Sydney TAFE in Ryde has been named the Hospitality and Personal Services Trade Teacher of the Year at a ceremony in Sydney.

The Trade Teacher of the Year Awards are in their inaugural year and recognise excellence in training and teaching across the eight industry groups of focus for The Institute for Trade Skills Excellence, covering the: Automotive; Building and Construction; Electrical; Manufacturing; Metals and Engineering; Hospitality and Personal Services; Rural and Farming; and Mineral Resources.

The awards have been developed by The Institute for Trade Skills Excellence, which is funded by the Federal Government and led by three industry groups: The Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry; the National Farmers' Federation; and the Australian Industry Group.

The Chief Executive Officer of the Institute for Trade Skills Excellence, Brian Wexham said that the Trade Teacher of the Year Awards were an important initiative.

“The Institute has been established to promote and advance learning, teaching and training in Australian trades education. One of our three key purposes is to foster and recognise excellent standards and teaching in trade’s education and training.”

Mr Wexham also said that the Awards enabled teachers to further develop their teaching.

“The Trade Teacher of the Year Awards are an excellent way to recognise teachers who excel in their chosen fields, amongst their peers and also provide the teacher with some funding to further develop the teaching practices in their industry, which in turn will also reward the

students. This is an important initiative as this specifically recognises and awards teachers within the vocational trade training arena” said Mr. Wexham.

A total of 18 awards were presented across 18 categories in the inaugural Trade Teacher of the Year Awards, each with prizes of \$10,000 to individual teachers or teams of teachers who work in a trade area. The prize money was awarded as a \$5,000 cash prize and a \$5,000 developmental activity or program that will contribute to industry and teaching.

Marion Fitzpatrick was named The Trade Teacher of the Year for Hospitality and Personal Services for her commitment to developing young chefs and her commitment to improving the quality of teaching.

Marion actively promotes and develops excellence in cookery students, especially through competitions and awards and over the year has mentored many students to achieve greatness in competitions including WorldSkills.

Marion regularly adapts her teaching strategies to accommodate student diversity and needs and also shares her expertise and the insight she gained from many years working in the industry.

Marion said she plans to use the prize money to identify record and share best practice models.

“As a result of implementing a number of e-learning resources I am continually discovering new and innovative delivery approaches and I want to investigate other innovative practices around Australia and the various models that are meeting the challenges of training in rural and remote areas” said Marion Fitzpatrick.

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