

The annual MVRIA Apprentice Merit Awards were held on Friday November 23, 2007. The event was once again at the Royal Automobile Club in Sydney and award winners, their families, special guests and industry supporters were there to celebrate their achievements.

The Minister for Fair Trading the Honourable Linda Burney, along with The Commissioner of Fair Trading Lyn Baker, supported this event. The awards luncheon was a fitting finale to a busy Fair Trading week.

The special guest speaker was Warrack Leach, designer of the exterior of the new Holden ute. Warrack enthralled the audience with his first-hand tales of the many facets of design.

The seven award winners were:

Light Vehicle Mechanic: Kelly Plunkett

Automotive Electrician: Timothy L'Huede

Body Maker: Scott Slattery

Motor Cycle Mechanic: Toni Flegg

Panel Beater: James Aggelo

Vehicle Painter: Aaron Gadd

Heavy Vehicle Mechanic: Jason Lavis

It was particularly pleasing to see two female winners this year, and positive outcomes such as this for these young ladies bodes well for our industry.

Each of the winners showed a common thread – tenacity, dedication commitment and a passion for industry.

As of 2008, the awards event will be opened up to encompass both public and private training providers. Our aim is to further the scope of the awards as the years progress, so that the many talented people we have can be recognised and rewarded for their excellence.