

Media Release: For immediate use

2 December 2010

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Future Shop and Office Fitters Score Apprentice Awards

Young and ambitious shop and office fitters were awarded for their hard work and dedication to the job by the Australian Shop and Office Fitting Industry Association (ASOFIA).

Sponsored by Asset Flooring Group, the *ASOFIA/Thomas Brown Shopfitting Industry Apprentice of the Year Award* was handed out at the recent ASOFIA conference in New Zealand. Thomas Bennett, a fourth-year apprentice at Strike Shopfitting in Victoria, was the outstanding candidate who convinced the judges that he is not only a committed employee but a true asset to the industry.

State winners from New South Wales, Queensland and Western Australia are being honoured at their own state award ceremonies. Nicholas Richardson of Ryder Shop & Office Fitting Pty Limited, Timothy Bartorillo of Benga Designs and Brae Kunzil-Rix of Kingman Designs received recognition as part of the awards program.

ASOFIA CEO Gerard Ryan sees the program as beneficial for companies as well as the apprentices themselves. "The contestants are the next generation of shop and office fitters in Australia. By giving them incentives and rewards for their contribution towards the industry, we create a future of highly-skilled and motivated professionals," says Ryan.

Further to the awards program, the association will be launching a new membership type that allows school leavers, apprentices and trainees to be part of the shop and office fitting community. The new membership will provide educational opportunities, assist in job searches, offer mentoring and networking.

"We want to make sure we consider fresh new professionals within our membership. By being an ASOFIA member they will get the chance to meet key players in the trade, and of course we will give them a voice to help shape the industry," adds Ryan.

For more information visit www.asofia.com.au

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From left: Thomas Brown – Chairman, ASOFIA National Training Subcommittee; Thomas Bennett – National Apprentice of the Year; Phillip Dixon – Asset Flooring Group (Sponsor); Ian Gamble – ASOFIA National President.

High-res images are available upon request.

Kind Regards
Nadine



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