

# MEDIA RELEASE

## Building tomorrow: Bunnings Trade & NAWIC celebrate 10 women breaking ground in the trade industry



L to R: Winner, Georgia and Palmerston Complex Manager, Paul Burgess

10 Aussie women making their mark in the trade industry have been celebrated as the recipients of the *Bunnings Trade Women in Apprenticeships Awards*, in partnership with National Association for Women in Construction (NAWIC).

The awards aim to recognise and reward women at the start of their trade careers with support from the industry to complete their apprenticeships. Winners receive professional resources and a Bunnings Trade prize pack valued at more than \$10,000.

The winners of the 2025 award are:

- **Renee Evans** (electrician, Victoria)
- **Georgia Hladyssew**, (electrician, Northern Territory)
- **Ruby Iles** (carpenter, NSW)
- **Emma Tran** (carpenter, NSW)
- **Felicity Wadsworth** (civil construction, Queensland)
- **Ella Gillon** (fire systems, Victoria)
- **Milly Finn** (electrician, NSW)
- **Holly Bromage** (plumber, Victoria)
- **Kodi Miles** (cabinet maker, Western Australia)
- **Teagan Berghout** (tiler, South Australia).

Nominations were judged on the individual's contribution to their trade and how they innovate, inspire and make a positive impact on the industry and those working in it.

Bunnings General Manager Commercial, Penny Gray said the Awards present the opportunity to reward the future of the trade industry.

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"Congratulations to our 10 amazing winners of this year's awards, Renee, Georgia, Ruby, Emma, Felicity, Ella, Milly, Holly, Kodi, and Teagan who are all inspiring others to give it a go. Their growing influence and exceptional abilities promise an even brighter future for the entire industry."

Bunnings 2024 WIA Winner, Talitha, a carpenter apprentice from Victoria, said, "I'm so proud of the women showing up on site, ready to give it a crack and turn a trade into a lifelong passion and fulfilling career. Congratulations to this year's 10 incredible tradeswomen continuing to show up for themselves and their families. They should all feel really proud of this recognition."

NAWIC CEO, Cathryn Greville said, "Our continued partnership with Bunnings Trade underscores our commitment to fostering greater equity within the trades. By celebrating and elevating the achievements of women making their mark, we actively contribute to a more inclusive and representative industry. We eagerly anticipate collaborating with this year's accomplished tradeswomen, providing support as they build impactful careers in construction."

In Australia, only 13 per cent of apprentices and 2 per cent of Tradespeople are women. Last year, we had over 1,900 submissions for the awards with a diverse range of winners from across the country in industries including carpentry, plumbing, mechanics and landscaping.

**- ENDS -**

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## Each winner has received

- Bunnings Gift Card valued at \$5,500
- Hard Yakka Voucher valued at \$1,000
- NAWIC National Mentorship and Membership valued at \$162 (varies per region)
- AEG, Kango and Empire product Pack valued over \$1,450 RRP
- Irwin Product Pack valued over \$770 RRP
- Kincome Pack valued over at \$1,130 RRP
- Full Boar Pack valued over \$1,045 RRP

## About NAWIC

The National Association of Women in Construction is an Australian not-for-profit organisation advocating for change and striving to help champion and empower women in the construction and related industries to reach their full potential.

<https://www.nawic.com.au/>

## About Bunnings Trade

Bunnings Trade is a major supplier to project builders, commercial tradespeople and the housing industry. It serves the industry through a network of trade centre locations across Australia.

<https://trade.bunnings.com.au/>

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## Our 10 Winner Bios

### **Renee Evans, Electrician – VICTORIA**

Mother of four, Renee, has kickstarted her new life as an electrician, commencing an apprenticeship in March. Now immersed in the exhilarating yet challenging world of electrical work, Renee is eagerly expanding her learnings and showing up as a role model to her family and team, proving that you can do anything you set your mind to.

### **Georgia Hladysew, Electrician – NORTHERN TERRITORY**

Having transitioned from the Army, Georgia, a second-year female electrical apprentice, applies her military discipline and problem-solving skills to a fulfilling trade, eager to break barriers and inspire other women. She has persevered in overcoming financial barriers, determined to learn, grow, and contribute to the electrical trade field and wider community.

### **Ruby Iles, Carpenter – NEW SOUTH WALES**

From building tree huts as a child to entering the building industry at age 15, Ruby has found immense satisfaction in creating homes and challenging societal norms. Inspired by the women around her, Ruby is committed to being a positive example and using the support available to further excel in her apprenticeship and future career in the trades.

### **Emma Tran, Carpenter – NEW SOUTH WALES**

Emma's passion for hands-on work and endless learning has taken her from a childhood of Lego creations to a thriving carpentry apprenticeship at Western Sydney International Airport. On her way to becoming a site supervisor, she is determined to make her family proud, renovate their home and mentor future female tradespeople.

### **Felicity Wadsworth, Civil Construction – QUEENSLAND**

Believing wholeheartedly that women belong in every facet of construction, Felicity thrives in civil construction, embracing its hands-on nature, teamwork, and the resilience it cultivates. Dedicated to leading by example and fostering a supportive community through her podcast, Hardhatsnheels, she aims to empower other women to join the trades and achieve their own aspirations of independence and leadership.

### **Ella Gillon, Fire Systems – VICTORIA**

A lifelong learner with a passion for ensuring the safety of others, Ella bravely transitioned from a corporate career to pursue a fire protection apprenticeship in a male-dominated field. She has consistently demonstrated hard work, creative problem-solving, and exceptional teamwork. Her quiet confidence and selfless dedication make her an inspiring role model, eager to advance in her trade and amplify her positive impact.

### **Milly Finn, Electrician – NEW SOUTH WALES**

Milly, a third-year electrical apprentice, who overcame initial job site isolation, has since found a supportive, women-focused company where she has thrived personally and professionally. Now a confident and proud female tradie, she finds deep fulfilment in providing a sense of safety and security to women and aims to use any opportunity to inspire others to pursue careers in the trades.

### **Holly Bromage, Plumber – VICTORIA**

As a third-generation plumber, Holly proudly follows in her family's legacy and passion for the trade, giving her family immense reward as they watch her embrace the craft and strengthen their intergenerational bond. While proud of her family history in the industry, Holly is forging her own path and demonstrating that women can achieve excellence and break new ground in trades.

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## **Kodi Miles, Cabinet Maker – WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

Discovering a passion for cabinet making, Kodi embraces each day with enthusiasm for learning and perfecting her craft, finding immense joy in the analytical problem-solving and the delight of creating dream kitchens for customers. As the sole female in her workplace, she is driven to excel and prove the equal capabilities of women in the trade.

## **Teagan Berghout, Tiler – SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

From overcoming early hardship to excelling as a dedicated wall and floor tiling apprentice, Teagan's outstanding work ethic, positivity and commitment shine brightly, as she enters her final year of qualification. She consistently proves her capabilities in a male-dominated field, inspiring her peers, both apprentices and tradesmen alike.