

Date claimer: Training awards

By Jessica McGrath

South Burnett Training Awards will be returning next year.

The second annual South Burnett Training Awards will be held on 23 March 2024 at the Wondai Town Hall.

Run by the Rotary Satellite Club of Kingaroy Sunrise, the event is set to champion the South Burnett region's training industry.

Rotary's Mark and Nicola Pitt are part of the team heading up the awards, and are in conversation with Cherbourg, and also Murgon Rotary in regards to the Murgon Rotary Pride of Workmanship awards.

"We want to make it a truly regional event," Nicola said.

"It's a celebration, it's understanding what's out there and particularly the ones who traditionally don't get a run... they're the underdogs, they are our future tradesmen and women... it's really important that we do recognise them."

Last year they really enjoyed listening to each of the different businesses and trainee's stories of success and look forward to more stories in 2024.

A focus of next year's awards is that not all recognised training has to be formal.

"We recognise that not all training has to be accredited," Nicola said.

"The on the job stuff is teaching the ethos of good customer service or going that extra step... it is about 'how we can make this experience better for the customer.'"

Mark added that all types of training are valuable.

"Vocational education and training is equal to university training... they are both so important," Mark said.

Next year the 'Small Business of the Year' award has been replaced with the 'Business of the Year' award.



2023 Trainee of the Year Sharlette Calvert from ATC Engineering was presented the award by Paul Hovey and Alison Huntley.
Picture: NANCY JAYDE PHOTOGRAPHY

Darren Schmidt is coming on board as the night's MC and the rotary club are hoping to get many local groups involved.

"As much as possible will be done locally," Mark said.

They encourage all businesses to put in an application online.

"They need to tell the story of how they train," Mark said.

Categories for the 2024 South Burnett Training Awards include:

- School Based Apprentice of the Year
- School Based Trainee of the Year
- Equity Award

- 2024 Apprentice of the Year
- 2024 Trainee of the Year
- 2024 Business of the Year

The Rotary Pride of Workmanship will also be presented on the night.

They also strongly encourage anyone interested to also apply for the regional state awards.

"We're not in competition to the state awards, we see it as complimenting," Mark said.

More details will be released in the New Year.