

Excellence in Franchising Awards recognise QLD/NT's best in franchising

10 February 2016

The important contributions that franchising makes to local communities and the opportunities the sector provides to foster business success were on show at the Franchise Council of Australia's 2016 QLD/NT Excellence in Franchising Awards presentations in Brisbane on Monday night.

Winners at the event included Drew Sherwin and Amanda Monaghan of Specsavers, Australia Fair, who were named the QLD/NT Single Unit Franchisee of the Year, two or more staff; and Brazilian Beauty's Francesca Webster, who took home the QLD/NT Franchise Woman of the Year award.

Stephen Halls of Poolwerx won the award for QLD/NT Field Manager of the Year and Bakers Delight multi-unit franchisee Ryan Kirkham took home the QLD/NT Franchisee Community Contribution and Responsibility Award for 2016.

For Drew and Amanda, who are respectively Optometry Partner and Dispensing Partner at Specsavers Australia Fair Pty Ltd in Queensland, franchising provided an unrivalled opportunity to become small business owners at just 24 and 25 years of age respectively. This young and successful franchise partnership team have grown their Specsavers store significantly since taking over the business in early 2013.

"As young franchisees we're very glad to have been afforded the opportunity to be in a business such as ours," said Drew. "We both started with our franchisor as employees before we progressed and became franchisees together. We're very grateful to have had this opportunity because there's no other sector or environment where young people like ourselves can have such wonderful exposure to life changing opportunities."

Franchising has also provided Ryan Kirkham with a career path and opportunity to become a small business owner. Starting out as a Bakers Delight apprentice as a teenager, Ryan has recently purchased his third Bakers Delight franchise.

As a local business owner on the Sunshine Coast, Ryan believes in the importance of putting back into the community and supports a range of charity groups and initiatives including supporting Wishlist, a Sunshine Coast charity that raises money for the improvement of local public health services and through Life Church makes weekly bread donations that go to help homeless people and struggling families within the community.

"The Bakers Delight network are really fantastic with supporting charitable organisations and helping groups out," said Ryan. "As a network, we have several large charity events every year that we

donate to. Having that platform from a network perspective makes it a lot easier to go out and do something in our local community. It just gives you the right place to start from.”

Supporting franchisees to become successful small business owners is a driving motivation for 2016 QLD/NT Field Manager of the Year, Stephen Halls, who is himself a former franchisee.

“Most people who join a franchise are on a journey,” said Stephen. “They are either looking for a job or looking to go into business for the first time, so seeing them become successful in their own right, whether it be financially or time-wise, for me is the most rewarding aspect of the role.”

For Brazilian Beauty CEO and Founder, Francesca Webster, winning the 2016 QLD/NT Franchise Woman of the Year Award was especially important given the strong focus the franchise has on providing opportunities for women.

“My personal philosophy and our philosophy at Brazilian Beauty centres around empowering women to be the best that they can be and also empowering women to own their own style of beautiful,” says Francesca. “Last year we serviced over 150,000 clients and 97 per cent of those were female; 100 per cent of team members at a salon level are female; and at a head office level predominantly we’re an all-female team. Winning this award is about all the amazing women that we have within the Brazilian Beauty brand.”

Following their success, all winners have qualified as finalists for the MYOB FCA National Excellence in Franchising Awards. The Gala Awards Dinner will be held in Canberra on Tuesday 11 October at the culmination of the 2016 National Franchise Convention.

WINNERS

Images available on request

QLD/NT Single Unit Franchisee of the Year, two or more staff

Drew Sherwin and Amanda Monaghan, Specsavers, Australia Fair

QLD/NT Franchise Woman of the Year

Francesca Webster, Brazilian Beauty

QLD/NT Field Manager of the Year

Stephen Halls, Poolwerx

QLD/NT Franchisee Community Contribution and Responsibility

Ryan Kirkham, Bakers Delight, Kawana & Maroochydhore

Future Awards presentation dates for 2016

FCA NSW/ACT Excellence in Franchising Awards - Monday 11 April



FRANCHISE COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

Franchise Council of Australia Media Release

FCA VIC/TAS Excellence in Franchising Awards – Monday 6 June

FCA WA Excellence in Franchising Awards – Friday 15 July

FCA SA Excellence in Franchising Awards – Monday 15 August

ENDS

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FRANCHISE COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

The Franchise Council of Australia is the peak industry body for the \$144 Billion Australian franchise sector representing franchisors, franchisees and suppliers/advisors. www.franchise.org.au