



# MBA HUNTER NEWS

## Recognising excellence in building at the Newcastle gala Awards night

*Master Builders Association held its gala Excellence in Building Awards at the NEX, Newcastle West, on August 25th.*



With a black and white theme, elaborate table settings and one of Australia's top comedians in Vince Sorrenti, the Master Builders Association held its gala Excellence in Building Awards at the NEX, Newcastle West, on August 25th. Six hundred guests showed great appreciation for the outstanding workmanship on display. Over one hundred and fifty entries were judged representing a combined value of work exceeding \$240 million. Each year our entrants and winners set higher standards which promote greater public confidence in the region's builders, architects and subcontractors.

Newcastle Master Builders President, Matthew Haines, congratulated all entrants for the quality of their projects. Mr. Haines acknowledged the significant contribution the industry and members add to our region's employment and wealth with 25,000 workers and suppliers deriving an income from construction work.

The commercial projects were of outstanding caliber. The commercial builder of the year, North Construction and Building, were rewarded for their challenging efforts in completing the Maitland Sportsground, North Wyong Medical Practice and Mount

Hutton Opal Aged Care. It was a difficult choice for the judges when competing against projects of such high standard as Scratchley's Restaurant (PDA Building), Scenic Head Office (Graph Builders), St. John's Cathedral (Lyon Constructions), Go Kindy New Lambton (Mavid Construction), Christ Church Cathedral (Compton Projects) and Tighes Hill Substation (Gongues Constructions). All were worthy commercial winners. Godbee Electrical were again recognized as the commercial subcontractor of the year for their outstanding work on a number of projects including Kinda Capers Toronto, John Hunter Hospital and Toronto Anglican care.

The residential awards also produced entries of exceptional build quality, exciting new products and improved sustainability and energy/water efficiency. The residential builder of the year, Pycon Homes and Construction, delivered high quality standards and finishes throughout a number of dwellings on the Mid North Coast. To be recognized as the best residential builder against other notable category winners including Croese Building, McDonald Jones, Mavid Construction, Ferris Building, Graph Builders, Craig Marriot Building and Compass Additions was a memorable achievement. Evan Graham was judged to be the Master Builder's Young Builder of the Year and collected the award for his astute business skills, attention to detail and superior safety systems. Automated Innovation was recognized as the Housing Subcontractor of the year for excellent trade work at Bar Beach and Merewether.

# SAVE THE DATE

## Feb 2018

Certificate IV in Building  
MBA Newcastle Office

## Thu 15 Feb

Newcastle CPD Seminar  
West's, New Lambton  
12 CPD points

## Tue 27 Mar

Hunter Divisional Info Night  
East Maitland Bowling Club  
2 CPD points

## LICENCE RENEWAL REQUIREMENTS & CPD

From 2008, residential and pool building licence and certificate holders have been required to complete 12 points of CPD learning as part of the licence renewal process.

Each year you must undertake activities to make up the 12 points.

You can also carry forward 11 surplus points to the next year. When you attend a CPD event, you must sign the registration sheet and upon completion, retain the CPD receipt as proof of attendance.

CPD is not just about earning points. It's about helping you to stay informed, up-to-date, skilled and more knowledgeable.

CPD aims to create a learning culture in the building industry by providing the opportunity to learn about anything to do with building, including running a building business.

To find out more call the MBA Newcastle office or download the CPD booklet from the NSW Fair Trading website [www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au](http://www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au)

# Strong Construction Activity Forecast for the Hunter

Recent building approval figures for July to September 2017, compared to 2016, highlight a valuable pipeline of building work for the construction industry.

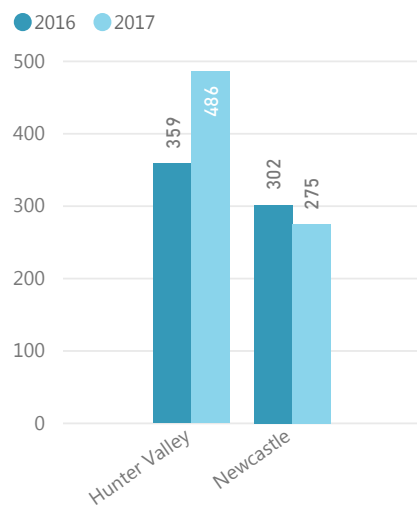
New housing approvals show a slight decline in the Newcastle area but strong growth in the Hunter Valley. Apartment and townhouse approvals have increased in Newcastle and Lake Macquarie compared to the same period 12 months ago. Alterations have

also increased in Newcastle with a slight decline in the Hunter.

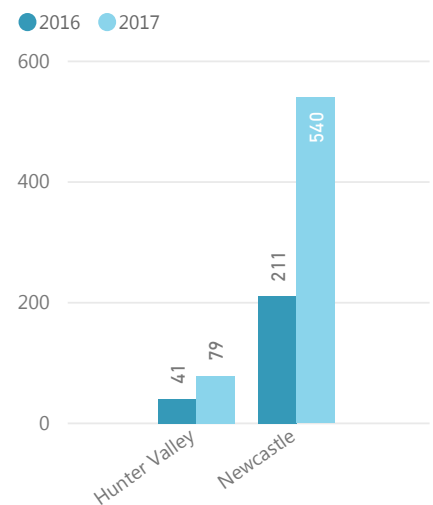
Commercial building approvals have also had a strong increase in Newcastle but a large decline in the Hunter.

Overall, the value of building approvals have increased by \$38 million for the three months ended September 2017 compared to the same period in 2016. The immediate forecast for the region's building sector is one of continued strong activity.

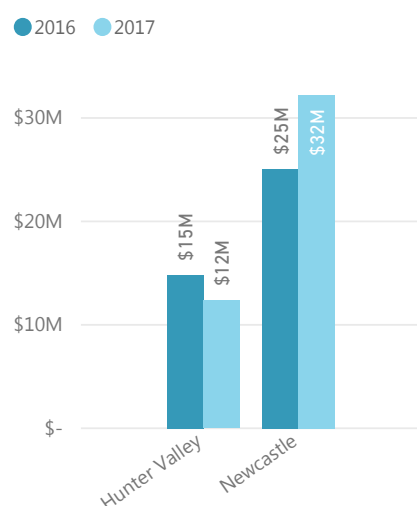
### New Housing Approvals



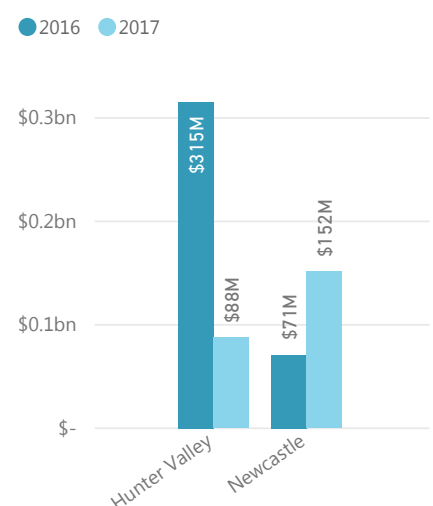
### New Apartment Approvals



### New Alterations Approvals



### Commercial Building Approvals





## PUTTING THE PIECES TOGETHER

There are so many things to consider when starting or expanding a business. The MBA Building Business Start Up Kit will show you how to handle some of the most common issues and requirements that you'll encounter, including Tax & Financial Reporting, Employing People, Business Finance and Protecting Yourself.

This resource is designed to assist those starting out, as well as a reminder tool for those industry participants who have been around a while. Call the Newcastle office for your copy now.



## Is your site secure for the holidays?

*Make sure your site is WHS compliant before you shut down for the holidays, or you could risk thousands of dollars in fines.*

During the holiday shutdown period, the Work Health and Safety Regulation 2011 requires construction workplaces to be secured from unauthorised access.

Management, or those in control of the workplace, must ensure their sites comply with the legislation or risk penalties up to \$3,600 for individuals or \$18,000 for a body corporate.

You must consider matters including:

- Risks to health and safety arising from unauthorised access to the workplace
- The likelihood of unauthorised access occurring e.g. proximity of the site to schools, parks and shopping precincts.
- The extent that unauthorised access cannot be prevented and how to isolate hazards.

As a proactive precaution, we have developed a **Shutdown Period Checklist** to use before leaving site and again upon return, to identify any anomalies that may have taken place during the break.

Contact the Newcastle Office or the

Safety Department on 02 8586 3523 for your copy of the checklist and make sure you're compliant before you lock up for the holidays!

### IS YOUR SITE SUN SMART?

Did you know an estimated 1 out of every 2 people will be affected by skin cancer in their lifetime?

The workplace is a major source of sun exposure, and outdoor workers who spend long periods of time in the sun, like in our industry, have an even higher risk.

That's why MBA stocks Hamilton sunscreens.

At 50+ SPF, Hamilton's non-greasy formula is perfect for being out on site all day in the summer sun. The Dry-Touch technology means you no longer have to choose between protecting your skin from the sun and being able to grip your tools, ladders or scaffolds. They even have lockable sunscreen dispensers to make application more convenient.

Call into the Newcastle office today to sample the range and make sure you and your team are sun safe this summer.

### WANT TO SAVE MONEY?

Do you know about the latest deals and discounts you can get with big name brands, just for being a member? Visit [www.mbansw.asn.au/discounts](http://www.mbansw.asn.au/discounts) for the full list of exclusive member-only discounts.

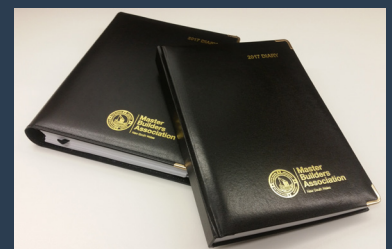
### IT'S CHRISTMAS TIME!

The MBA would like to wish you and your family Merry Christmas and we hope that you have a wonderful New Year. Thank you for your continuing support.

The Newcastle office will close on December 21st and reopen on January 8th.

We look forward to working with you in the New Year.

Have a safe and happy holiday.



## 2018 MBA DIARIES SELLING FAST

Don't miss out on your copy of the 2018 Master Builder Diary. Designed specifically for the building industry and packed full of useful features and inclusions, these diaries always sell out so don't leave it too late!

They make great gifts too, so why not get one for yourself and one for your staff or subcontractors for Christmas?

Order yours online today at [www.mbansw.asn.au/shop](http://www.mbansw.asn.au/shop) or contact the Newcastle office on 02 4953 9400

