

2021 Apprentices of the Year

QUEENSLAND – ZAC KUROWSKI



AMIC's Queensland Denco Apprentice of the Year competition was hotly contested with an impressive and talented line-up of our future butchers. Well done to all of the apprentices who entered, and a huge congratulations to the winner **Zac Kurowski** from [The Paddock Butchery](#).

Third year apprentice, 18-year-old Zac, claimed top spot and was presented with his award at the QLD Industry Awards Dinner on Saturday 9 October.

Zac's intent for entering was to represent the Paddock and improve his skills, to learn new techniques and test himself against other apprentices.

Eight competitors from across the state took part and put their skills to the test at the Axial Training College- Brisbane campus in September.

Paddock Butchery Head Butcher, Ted Ellison said, "We are so pleased for Zac, as his passion for the industry and his commitment to local produce and customer service is evident each day at work, and for this to be recognised by independent judges reinforces what we all know. He has a very big future, and all our staff and our customers congratulate him on an outstanding achievement."

Zac was chuffed with the win, saying, "I am a bit overwhelmed to be honest, but very proud to represent the Paddock and the Toowoomba region. I am looking forward to putting what I have learnt during the competition to good use and would encourage all apprentices to have a go next time as it really is a challenging, but very rewarding experience. Thanks again to AMIC for giving me the opportunity to test myself at this high level."

WESTERN AUSTRALIA – DAVID OLSEN



Congratulations to the 2021 Western Australia Apprentice of the Year winner David Olsen!

The AMIC Western Australia Apprentice of the Year winner, sponsored by [Borrello Beef](#), was announced at the WA Industry Awards Dinner, held on Saturday 23 October. David was crowned the winner of this year's competition. David is a first-year apprentice from [Olsen Butchers](#) in Perth.

David's aim for entering was to gain knowledge and experience and meet like-minded people that inspire him. It also provided a great opportunity to learn about butchery and the meat industry. The event, which tests skills learnt and provides a fun competition, was a goal for David which he is proud to have met. Congratulations to David and all other finalists that took part in the competition and thank you to [Borrello Beef](#) and [South Metropolitan TAFE WA](#) for their assistance and support.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA – SARAH HOPGOOD



Congratulations to the 2021 South Australia Apprentice of the Year winner Sarah Hopgood!

The AMIC South Australia Apprentice of the Year winner, sponsored by Thomas Foods International, was announced at the SA Industry Awards Dinner, held on Saturday 30 October.

Sarah Hopgood of [Carve 'N' Cut Meats](#) in Whyalla SA, was crowned the winner of this year's competition.

Sarah is a second-year apprentice at Carve 'N' Cut Meats and wanted to enter the competition to push her abilities to be the absolute best she can be.

Sarah wanted the opportunity to see how other apprentices do things and learn as much as she could from the experience. She certainly proved extremely capable, knowledgeable, and experienced and was a worthy winner.

The competition was a great success with the best young talent in the SA butchery trade and the meat industry on display. Congratulations to Sarah and all other finalists that took part in the competition and thank you to [Thomas Foods International](#) and [TAFE SA](#) for their assistance and support.

VICTORIA – LAUREN JACOBSON



Congratulations to the Victorian Apprentice of the Year Winner Lauren Jacobson from [Sinclair Meats](#) in Ballarat.

Held at [Melbourne Polytechnic - Epping campus](#), on Tuesday 30 November 2021, it was a very exciting day and for the 15 participants a very close competition.

Lauren was overjoyed saying “it was an awesome day and I got to meet some good apprentices and hopefully I can compete again next year and it will be just as awesome”.

Thank you to our Apprentice of the Year Victorian event sponsors [Prime River](#) and [Murray Pure Beef](#), [Corona Manufacturing](#), [Melbourne Polytechnic - Epping campus](#), [MC Herd](#) and [AMIST Super](#).

Congratulations to all of our participants and winners – the future looks bright.

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