



National Retail Association

MEDIA STATEMENT

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Australia's best young retailers sell themselves in industry awards

The best and brightest young members of Australia's retail trade sector will vie for the title of *Young Retailer of the Year* at a major industry event in Sydney later this month.

The 22 finalists in the awards, backed by the National Retail Association, are all aged between 18 and 25, and come from every mainland state and territory. They face an intensive interviewing and presentation process in coming weeks to highlight their career experience and demonstrate their understanding of the key aspects of retailing.

Judges Greg Harper and Marlene Barratt said the competition had attracted an overwhelming number of high calibre applicants, and reducing the list to 22 finalists had been challenging.

Mr Harper said: "I am impressed by the number and standard of the applications this year. It reflects the amazing richness and diversity of rewarding careers available in the sector.

"We have applications from store managers, owners, sales managers and buyers, from large department stores, supermarket chains, fashion, food, and merchandise chains, large retailers and small, reflecting that diversity. The talent is inspiring," he said.

Ms Barratt said: "The judging panel was extremely pleased at the standard of this year's entrants, and would like to commend each nominee on their commitment and career achievements at such a young age.

"Many students identified that retail is not a job, it is a career, and their comprehensive submissions are testimony to this statement."

National Retail Association executive director Gary Black said the award aimed to encourage young people to consider retail as a career, rather than just a temporary job option in high school or university.

"Retail is by far the largest employer of young Australians, and it offers thousands of different opportunities for people who are prepared to work on their skills and develop the experience needed to succeed," Mr Black said.

"Every year we see talented young retailers that have come so far in a short amount of time, and this year has been no different.

"These finalists are an example to everyone about what a career in retail can offer young Australians."

The NRA Young Retailer of the Year award will be presented at a sit down Lunch at the Sydney Harbour Marriott on Wednesday the 28th of July. The event is open to the public, and tickets and more information are available from www.nra.net.au.

Congratulations to the finalists:

Ashleigh Philippa	Boost Juice, Glendale	NSW
Kate Swain	Coles Liquor Group, Vintage Cellars	VIC
Tara Donnellan	Country Road, Whitford City	WA
Matthew Neideck	Dick Smith, Westpoint Shopping Centre	NSW
Cassie Edmeades	Esprit, Marion	SA
Jennifer Naomi Cox	Fantastic Furniture, Homeworld Helensvale	QLD
Matt Priestley	IKEA, Adelaide	SA
Alysse Winter	Kmart, Aitkenvale	QLD
David McPherson	Kmart, Centro Bankstown	NSW
Cory Gordon	Michael Hill Jeweller, Joondalup	WA
Rowayne Kapugama	Myer, Sydney City	NSW
Kaylee Albronda	Myer, Docklands	VIC
Justin Howe	SABA, Westfield Chermside	QLD
Johnathon Michail	Supercheap Auto, Joondalup	WA
Stevi Guthrie	Supercheap Auto, Tamborine	QLD
Nathan Lorimer	Supercheap Auto, Alice Springs	NT
Adam Papa	The Reject Shop, Kensington	VIC
Carley Whittaker	Toys R Us, Morley	WA
Samantha Burrows	Toys R Us, Westfield shopping Centre	ACT
Benito Campione	Woolworths, Robina Town Centre	QLD
Martin Heeremans	Woolworths, Moorooka	QLD
Tim Nash	Yum! KFC, Westfield Geelong	VIC

The NRA is Australia's largest and most representative retail organisation with more than 3000 members and affiliates located across all states and territories. Its membership includes the majority of Australia's national retail chains and extends across the retail take-away food and fast food sectors.

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