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Historic WA Family Business Wins Top Award for Shaping Our Great State

An historic, family-run building firm whose involvement in WA's construction industry stretches back to the goldfields in 1895 has received the ultimate recognition from the Master Builders Association – winning the 2017 Robert Law Award.

W. Fairweather & Son Pty Ltd, received the accolade at a luncheon for industry executives on August 18.

The award, named after the Association's first President in 1898, is given to an individual or organization that has made an outstanding contribution to the building industry in WA.

Managing director Peter Fairweather, the great grandson of the company's founder, William Fairweather (who was the proud holder of Certificate of Registration No. 1 from the Builders Registration Board of WA), accepted the honour on behalf of his trailblazing family.

Master Builders Executive Director Michael McLean said the fourth-generation building company had a proud history and continually delivered outstanding workmanship in an extremely competitive industry.

"Fairweather & Son may not be a household name in Western Australia, but to each of their many clients they are first-class master builders that can be relied upon," Mr McLean said.

"Master Builders is privileged to have had Fairweather & Son as members for over 100 years."

William Fairweather was a founding member of Master Builders and served as President from 1919 to 1920. His son, also called William, was a member from the 1920s and President from 1938-1940. Peter's father, yet another William, joined the family business in 1956 and Peter has been making his mark in the industry since 1990.

"Fairweather & Son is an inspiration to all builders in WA as they are living proof that you can survive booms and busts, and live to see the landmarks your predecessors have built as legacies to future generations," Mr McLean said.

"It's incredible that the walls of Kunanalling's Premier Hotel, which were built by the Fairweathers in the late 1800s, still stand today even though the town has been abandoned."

W. Fairweather & Son Pty Ltd is sought after for its expertise regarding projects of a specialised and/or difficult nature or of heritage significance.

Recent projects of note have included:

- The Weld Club Master Plan Refurbishment.
- University of Notre Dame School of Medicine (heritage significance).
- Archdiocese of Perth – Aquin House (heritage significance).
- Presbyterian Ladies College Library.
- Scotch College Early Learning Centre.
- International School of WA.
- Curtin University Accessibility Inclusion Plan.
- Coles supermarkets (multiple).
- Patricia Kalis Centre.
- University of Western Australia – student services precinct.

“The builder has excelled in restoring historic and heritage-listed buildings such as churches, schools and universities to a consistently high standard,” Mr McLean said.

W. Fairweather & Son Pty Ltd joins previous Robert Law winners such as Homeswest, Plunkett Homes, John Roberts, Dale Alcock, Garry Brown-Neaves, Ross North and the late Len Buckeridge in the list of worthy recipients.

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