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POWERCOR AND CITIPOWER CROWN HIGH ACHIEVING APPRENTICES AND TRAINEES

Victorian electricity distribution businesses Powercor and CitiPower today celebrated the success of future business leaders at its Annual Apprentice and Trainee Awards at Crowne Plaza, Torquay.

The awards formally recognise the achievements of the company's leading apprentices and trainees for the dedication they have shown to their careers.

A total of 11 winners received awards from locations across Victoria including Geelong, Bendigo, Ballarat, Shepparton, Mildura and Melbourne.
(A full list of winners by trade and location follows at the end of this news release.)

An additional award was presented to the company's mentor of the year, Craig Green of Geelong. This important award is voted on by all apprentices and trainees and awarded to the mentor who has provided the best tuition, guidance and leadership to new recruits.

Acclaimed Australian youth worker and media commentator, Les Twentyman, was a special guest speaker at the award ceremony.

He offered words of inspiration and hope to attendees and outlined his longstanding commitment to providing better opportunities for Australia's most disadvantaged young people.

CitiPower and Powercor's Group Manager Field Resources, Darrell Powell, said the awards reinforced the company's commitment to workforce sustainability.

"These awards recognise the collective achievements of apprentices, trainees and mentors and provide our business with the chance to reflect upon the achievements of a critical workforce development program," Mr Powell said.

"One of the most important aspects of our apprentice and trainee program is ensuring our most experienced employees are engaged to instruct new recruits, and to educate them about the culture and expectations of our business," Mr Powell said.

"Powercor and CitiPower have maintained a strong commitment to its recruitment program, hiring new recruits every year almost a decade now. This has occurred even through years when economic and employment conditions have been severely constrained," he said.

Powercor and CitiPower's Apprentice and Trainee Coordinator, Steve McConnell, said today's awards ceremony also recognised all apprentices and trainees that have completed their three or four year programs, earning industry recognised qualifications in the process.

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He added that CitiPower and Powercor would soon embark upon its 2010 Apprentices and Trainee Recruitment program with a state-wide advertising campaign and the opening of applications planned from mid-July.

“Powercor and CitiPower are looking for a new breed of highly motivated employees to join our company and set themselves up for long and successful careers in the electricity industry.

“Through our structured training programs we will provide new recruits with everything they need to earn their qualifications while placing critical emphasis on the best possible health and safety practices,” he said.

To find out more about the range of positions on offer visit Powercor and CitiPower’s corporate website at www.powercor.com.au or www.citipower.com.au

LIST OF 2010 AWARD WINNERS

Mentor of the year: Craig Green (Geelong)

Most Outstanding 1st Year Electrical Trainee: Leigh Krahe (Bendigo)

Most Outstanding 2nd Year Electrical Apprentice: John Gergiou (Ballarat)

Most Outstanding 3rd Year Electrical Apprentice: Josh Hare (Melbourne)

Most Outstanding 4th Year Electrical Trainee: Blake Stonehouse (Bendigo)

Most Outstanding 1st Year Apprentice Lineworker: Ben Neville (Geelong)

Most Outstanding 2nd Year Apprentice Lineworker: Andrew Smith (Ballarat)

Most Outstanding 3rd Year Apprentice Lineworker: Joe Sullivan (Shepparton)

Most Outstanding 1st Year Design Trainee: Brenton McKenry (Bendigo)

Most Outstanding 2nd Year Design Trainee: Simon Augustynowicz (Mildura)

Most Outstanding 3rd Year Design Trainee: Elise Bilney (Ballarat)

Dale Shorter Memorial Award for Most Outstanding 4th Year Apprentice Lineworker: Brad Webster (Horsham)

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