



Media release

Construction industry award honours Young Achiever of the Year

Local structural steel industry serious about safeguarding its future

28 October, 2023 – Queenstown – Grayson Engineering employee Bridget Young was recently recognised as New Zealand’s top young achiever in the structural steel industry. It’s the second year in a row that Manukau-based Grayson Engineering has produced a Young Achiever of the Year.

Steel Construction New Zealand’s (SCNZ’s) Young Achiever of the Year award celebrates those whose skills, drive and willingness to learn has helped them to achieve outstanding outcomes. It recognises well-rounded people who demonstrate not only talent, but display traits important to the industry – commitment, innovation and agility.

Young was presented with the prestigious award at a gala dinner in Queenstown on 27 October.

Young earned a degree in mechanical engineering and joined Grayson Engineering as a junior engineer in 2021 with little confidence or know-how. Today, she has grown to become a confident and valuable member of the project team and manages multiple jobs, says David Moore, Managing Director of Grayson Engineering and Chair of SCNZ.

“Bridget takes the time to familiarise herself to a high level of detail with every project that she is allocated and is able to problem solve in a pragmatic and equitable way with the client. She is prepared to do whatever is necessary to achieve outcomes and meet deadlines,” says Moore.

Growing up, Young loved building things; she loved trainsets and puzzles and Lego. “I still love Lego,” she says.

Working in a traditionally male-dominated industry has had its challenges and Young has worked hard to overcome them. “If you are passionate about something, don’t let anybody tell you what you can or cannot do. You are only as good as you believe you can be.”

Young says being able to think outside the box and come up with practical solutions is important. Currently, Young manages about eight projects and she loves it.

“It has been such a challenge but I am so grateful to have had this opportunity,” says Young. “I have learnt so much since I started this role, but there is infinitely more that I don’t know and I am so fortunate to be around people who are helping me grow and develop my skills as both an engineer and a project manager.”

The Young Achiever of the Year award reflects the industry’s commitment to upskilling young members of the trade and investing in the future of the local structural steel industry.

“Thanks to New Zealand’s robust construction sector, and growing demand for exceptional performance and delivery capability, people now recognise that the structural steel industry offers numerous avenues for success,” says Moore.

“As a well-established industry we have a duty to ensure we impart our knowledge and skills to the next generation of structural steel specialists. This will safeguard the future of the sector and support our economic recovery,” says Moore.

The industry is practising what it preaches. More than 10 percent of the total workforce employed by local structural steel contractors are in a training programme.

Judges of the Young Achiever of the Year award say they are filled with confidence about the future because the young leaders coming through are so talented. The winner, runner up and finalists for 2023 all possess strong leadership skills beyond their years and the judges are impressed with the skills they have around technology.

There are two finalists and one runner up for 2023:

- Gerhard Berkowitz from Waikato Steel Fabricators – runner up
- Sukhmit Singhrai from Beca – finalist
- Kyle Enriquez from iModel Steel Detailing – finalist

“This year’s young candidates demonstrate the growing diversity of our industry,” says Moore. “They are wonderful ambassadors for the structural steel sector now and into the future.”

Ends

Notes to editors

High-resolution images available on request.

About SCNZ

Steel Construction New Zealand Inc. (SCNZ) aims to advance the interests of New Zealand’s diverse steel construction industry by promoting the benefits of steel solutions in

building and infrastructure projects. Members include manufacturers of structural steel and steel products, distributors, fabricators, designers, detailers, galvanisers, and paint and building supply companies. SCNZ provides its members with technical advice on the latest in steel design trends and standards, networking opportunities, and a representative voice with key industry and government decision-makers. For more information please visit www.scnz.org.

About Grayson Engineering

Established in 1972, Grayson Engineering is a market leader in the steel fabrication industry. Through continued investment in CNC equipment and technology, and the construction of a purpose-built 12,000sqm fabrication facility in 2007, the company proudly boasts one of the best-equipped fabrication facilities in the country. Grayson Engineering has completed a wide range of projects over the years, from stadiums, sculptures and bridges, to towers, industrial sheds and more. visit www.grayson-eng.co.nz for more information.

Media contact:

Lisa van Beurden
E. lisa@xcubed.nz
M. 0274 377 579