

Site Manager is Rising Star

A site manager who says his father taught him everything he knows, is the 2009 Ric New Rising Star Award winner.



2009 Ric New Rising Star winner Ray Kershaw (right) is presented with his trophy, incorporating an original Midland Brick, by award judge Robert Spadaccini.

Ray Kershaw (25), who works for Perth commercial builder Donal Building, completed year 12 at school and then a carpentry apprenticeship with his father before becoming a site supervisor with In Residence at 21. He has since progressed to managing Donal Building's projects but when he has time, runs his own building business, Kershaw Construction WA. He completed his building diploma in 2009 and has a swatch of other industry-related qualifications, including certificates in estimating and tendering and project supervision. Mr Kershaw, who was nominated for the Rising Star Award by his fiancé Jody Corica, has an ambition to be a leader in "green living". He has a passion to build homes using latest technology to optimise energy and water efficiency. Despite being Donal Building's youngest site manager, Mr Kershaw is well respected by peers and trade contractors. Currently, he is responsible for a \$4.1 million project in Bicton with a workforce of 40 contractors and employees.

Mr Kershaw was presented with his award at the Ric New Medal award function in Fremantle in September. Like the Medal named in honour of the late founder of Midland Brick, the Ric New Rising Star Award is presented annually

to a high achiever in the building industry who shows outstanding potential, work ethic and commitment. It is open to candidates up to 25 years old. Master Builders' director, Michael McLean, said that while Mr Kershaw was exercising great responsibility at a young age, he was a high achiever. "It's quite remarkable that a young man aged only 25 is not only already a registered builder but also supervising multi-million dollar construction projects and running a construction company in his spare time," Mr McLean said. "Ray Kershaw provides an excellent role model for young people contemplating a career in the building industry and particularly apprentices who are thinking about their future job options in the industry."

The other finalist for the 2009 Rising Star Award was **Robert Tate** (24), who runs his own insulation business in Esperance. He completed year 10 at school and started working for his father as a fencing contractor. In 2006 he identified a business opportunity in Esperance for insulation supplies and installation. Against his parents' advice and with three young children to support, he took the risk and built up his business from scratch, selling his home, a caravan, for \$6000 to get started.