

AWARDS JUDGING CRITERIA

2026 

MAJOR AWARDS

CONCRETE POOL OF THE YEAR

Chosen from the gold winner of categories 10-15

FIBREGLASS POOL OF THE YEAR

Chosen from the gold winner of categories 16-20

SMALL POOL OF THE YEAR

Chosen from the gold winner of categories 27-29

FREEFORM POOL OF THE YEAR

Chosen from the gold winner of categories 21-22

PREFABRICATED POOL OF THE YEAR

Chosen from the gold winner of categories 23-24

VINYL-LINED POOL OF THE YEAR

Chosen from the gold winner of categories 25-26

RENOVATION OF THE YEAR

Chosen from the gold winner of categories 33-35

MASTER POOL BUILDER PROJECT OF THE YEAR

Presented only at a Australasian Awards of Excellence

BEST SPA RETAILER

BEST MOBILE SERVICE BUSINESS

BEST PROFESSIONAL SERVICE BUSINESS

BEST SUPPLIER

ENHANCEMENT OF THE YEAR

Chosen from the gold winner of categories 36-39

PRODUCT OF THE YEAR

Chosen from the winners of categories 7-9

BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

Chosen from the gold winners of categories 51-58

PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR

Chosen from the gold winners of categories 59-68

SPA OF THE YEAR

Chosen from the gold winners of categories 30-32

COMMERCIAL PROJECT OF THE YEAR

Chosen from the gold winners of categories 40-45

BEST POOL STORE

Chosen from the gold winner of categories 46-50

BEST CONCRETE POOL BUILDER

BEST FIBREGLASS POOL BUILDER

BEST PREFABRICATED POOL BUILDER

BEST VINYL-LINED POOL BUILDER

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INDUSTRY & PRODUCT CATEGORIES

1. Education & Training Excellence Award

This award recognises an organisation which has achieved excellence by enabling the provision of education and training to its employees and/or industry professionals.

Criterion	Statement	Clarification
Program Description	The organisation clearly outlines its education and training offering.	Range and relevance of courses offered, delivery methods, target audience (employees and/or industry professionals), accessibility, learning structure, and how the business facilitates effective education outcomes.
Achievements & Outcomes	The program has delivered measurable or notable achievements.	Qualifications attained, completion rates, certifications achieved, skills development, career progression, and documented improvements resulting from the program.
Industry Impact	The program delivers meaningful benefits to employees and/or the wider industry.	Workforce capability uplift, contribution to industry skills and standards, long-term benefits, scalability, and alignment with industry needs.
Testimonials & References	Testimonials support the effectiveness and value of the education and training program.	Quality, relevance, authenticity, and consistency of testimonials or references from participants who have completed the training.

2. SPASA Training Excellence Award

This category is awarded by SPASA's Institute of Research and Learning (Registered Training Organisation) to a student who has shown exemplary commitment to furthering their education and personal growth.

Eligible students will have completed an IRL nationally recognised training qualification within 2 years of the nomination deadline.

Criterion	Statement	Clarification
Commitment to Education & Learning	The nominee has demonstrated a strong and ongoing commitment to their education and professional learning.	Evidence of dedication such as course completion, additional study, consistent attendance, active engagement, perseverance through challenges, or exceeding minimum training requirements.
Personal Growth & Development	The nominee has shown clear personal growth as a result of their training and education.	Demonstrated improvements in confidence, professionalism, leadership, communication skills, self-awareness, or clarified career direction directly linked to their learning journey.
Application of Skills & Knowledge	The nominee has effectively applied their skills and knowledge gained through training in the workplace or industry.	Practical application of IRL qualification outcomes, measurable improvements in job performance, problem solving capability, contribution to team or business outcomes.
Achievements & Outcomes	The nominee has achieved measurable outcomes as a direct result of their training.	Qualifications completed, promotions, expanded responsibilities, awards, employer recognition, or clear career progression within the past two years.
Referee / Supporting Statements	Supporting statements provide strong and credible validation of the nominee's excellence and impact.	Relevance, consistency, and credibility of referee feedback (e.g. employer, trainer, mentor) confirming commitment, growth, and real-world impact.

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3. Marketing Campaign Award

This award recognises a marketing or promotional campaign for a new project or product that either directly or indirectly positively promotes the benefits of the swimming pool and/or spa industry.

Criterion	Statement	Clarification
Campaign Description	The campaign description clearly explains how the campaign promotes the project, product, or industry, demonstrating strategy, target market understanding, effective use of resources, market acceptance, and achievement of objectives.	A concise overview covering objectives, audience, key messages, channels, budget/resources, timeline, and rationale. Includes examples (e.g. channel mix, messaging variations) and evidence of market fit or acceptance.
Creativity & Innovation	The campaign demonstrates a distinctive and creative approach, clearly presenting a unique selling proposition or effectively addressing a strategic issue.	Originality of concept, strength of the USP (Unique Selling Position), problem–solution fit, quality of creative execution (visuals, copy, format), channel use, and how creativity supported campaign objectives.
Measurable Results	The campaign achieved strong and measurable business and customer engagement outcomes aligned to its objectives.	Quantified results such as reach, engagement (CTR, CPC, watch time), conversions, leads, sales uplift, ROI/ROAS, share of voice, brand lift, or sentiment. Clear attribution, benchmarking against targets or industry norms, and evidence of optimisation or learnings.
Marketing Materials	The marketing materials effectively demonstrate the campaign as delivered across relevant channels.	Quality and consistency with strategy and brand, clarity of calls to action, suitability for each channel, accessibility, and evidence that materials were used as described (e.g. links, screenshots, files).

4. Community Project

This award recognises a construction project, product, service or program, that promotes social responsibility in the industry. Examples may include: an installation to assist with rehabilitation and enhancing lifestyle, community project to promote healthy living in remote areas, a community program that raises awareness or funds in support of a foundation or a project built to support a specific community.

Criterion	Statement	Clarification
Description	The entrant clearly explains the initiative, its purpose, target audience; and how it promotes within the industry.	Clear articulation of the need or problem addressed, objectives, target community, activities, timeline, partners, and how the initiative may demonstrate social responsibility (e.g. ethics, inclusion, sustainability).
Achievements	The initiative has delivered strong and measurable outcomes.	Any quantified results such as community benefits, funds raised, awareness generated of the cause, participation levels, in-kind support, and the depth and quality of partnerships built; includes before/after indicators where relevant.
Industry Impact	The initiative has created a positive and meaningful impact on the industry, workforce, and/or community.	Evidence of positive change such as improved skills or safety, reputation uplift, adoption of best practices, influence on policy or behaviour, ongoing programs, and potential for scalability or repeatability.
Testimonials	Testimonials credibly demonstrate the impact and value of the initiative.	Specific, verifiable, and role appropriate testimonials referencing tangible outcomes, ideally from a mix of participants, partners, beneficiaries, or community leaders.

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5. Innovative Project

This award recognises an innovative project that displays an original, creative concept in design or construction of a pool, spa or aquatic project not seen before in the industry.

Criterion	Statement	Clarification
Innovation & Customer Brief	The project clearly meets the client brief while demonstrating innovative thinking and effective problem solving to realise the client's vision.	Evidence of strong alignment to the client's requirements, supported by thoughtful and creative problem solving. The submission should demonstrate how innovative ideas, approaches, or solutions were applied to deliver a well-considered and impactful outcome that fulfils the intended purpose.
Installation & Technical Challenge	The project demonstrates effective management and resolution of installation and technical challenges.	Complexity of construction, site constraints (such as access, slope, or proximity to other structures), quality of planning, and how challenges were successfully addressed through skill and expertise.
Quality of Workmanship	The project demonstrates a high standard of workmanship consistent with industry best practice.	Attention to detail, quality of construction and finishes, durability, compliance, and adherence to recognised industry standards.
Design, Functionality & Aesthetics	The project is fit for purpose, functional, easy to use, and visually appealing.	Integration of design elements, usability, functionality, aesthetic quality, and how well the project complements its surrounding environment.

6. Sustainable Project

This award recognises any pool or spa construction project which incorporates specific features or equipment that achieve improved sustainability through delivering a reduction in energy, chemical and/or water usage.

Criterion	Statement	Clarification
Sustainability Outcomes	The project demonstrably reduces energy, chemical and/or water usage compared to industry standard.	Clear evidence of reduced resource consumption achieved through design, construction methods, or equipment, supported by data, statistics, or benchmarking (before/after or estimated performance). Climate Care Certification may be noted where applicable but is not mandatory.
Sustainability Measures & Equipment	The project incorporates appropriate sustainability features or equipment that contribute to reduced resource use.	Selection and effective implementation of systems or features such as efficient pumps, heating solutions, filtration, automation, covers, or water saving measures, and how these directly support improved sustainability outcomes.
Installation & Build Execution	Installation challenges were effectively managed and resolved without compromising sustainability outcomes.	Consideration of site constraints (access, slope, proximity to structures), planning and coordination, and quality of execution ensuring sustainability measures perform as intended.
Quality of Workmanship	The project demonstrates a high standard of workmanship consistent with industry best practice.	Overall build quality, attention to detail, finishes, durability, compliance with relevant standards, and long-term reliability of sustainability related systems
Design, Functionality & Usability	The project is fit for purpose and supports practical, easy operation and maintenance.	Functional design, ease of use for owners or operators, maintainability of sustainable features, and suitability for long term operation.

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7. New Product Award

This award recognises a new product that demonstrates a high degree of innovation, value and originality. The product must offer significantly different benefits from previous models (if applicable) or comparable products in market. The product must show evidence of meeting local standards or regulations and have been released within 24 months of the nomination deadline.

Criterion	Statement	Clarification
Product Description	The entrant clearly outlines the product, its key features, and how it meets the criteria of the award category.	Specific product details, functionality, originality, and explanation of how the product offers clear value or distinct benefits compared to previous models or comparable products.
Research & Market Need	The entrant demonstrates appropriate research to identify market need, demand, or desire for the product.	Evidence of research undertaken, explanation of identified market gap or need, alignment of the product solution with research findings, and demonstrated benefits to consumers or the industry.
Marketing & Market Response	The entrant clearly explains how the product was launched and how the market has responded.	Description of launch strategy, communication of product benefits, sales performance or uptake where available, and inclusion of in market promotional materials.
Reviews & External Validation	External reviews or references support the effectiveness and value of the product.	Credible third-party reviews, testimonials, or references; where unavailable, a reasonable and clearly explained justification.

8. Sustainable Product Award

This award recognises any product on the market that offers sustainability outcomes in the form of improved water and/or energy use, operational efficiency and/or cost effectiveness for the customer over time. Products in this category must be supported by measurable data to quantify the product's sustainability benefits. The product must be compliant with local standards or regulations and released on the market within 24 months of the nomination deadline.

Criterion	Statement	Clarification
Product Description & Customer Brief	The entrant clearly explains how the product meets the client's brief and how the solution delivered the intended outcomes.	Clear articulation of the brief or need, how the product addresses it, and how the solution delivers value or improvements for the customer or end user.
Research & Market Need	The entrant demonstrates appropriate research to identify market need, demand, or opportunity for the product.	Evidence of market, customer, or industry research informing the product development, alignment of the solution to findings, and identification of key benefits for consumers or the industry.
Marketing & Market Response	The entrant effectively describes how the product was launched and how the market has responded.	Launch strategy, positioning, communication of benefits, sales performance or uptake, customer interest, and inclusion of promotional materials used in market.
Reviews & External Validation	External references or product reviews support the product's performance and value.	Credible third-party feedback, testimonials, or reviews; where unavailable, a clear and reasonable explanation is provided.
Sustainability Performance	The product delivers clear and efficient sustainability benefits supported by evidence.	Demonstrated reductions in energy, water, or resource use; explanation of how sustainability outcomes are achieved; supporting data or statistics; Climate Care certification or endorsement through recognised sustainability programs or rating schemes (where applicable).

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9. Innovative Product Award

This award recognises innovation in the design or manufacture of a product that delivers a unique outcome not seen before in the industry. The innovation may use materials or products in unusual ways, use materials not commonly seen in pool construction or operation or demonstrate superior design and workmanship in the use of a specific material.

The product must be compliant with local standards or regulations and released in market within 24 months of the nomination deadline.

Criterion	Statement	Clarification
Product Description	The entrant clearly outlines the product and how it meets the criteria of the Innovative Product Award.	Detailed explanation of the product's design or manufacture and how it delivers a unique outcome not previously seen in the industry.
Research & Market Need	The entrant demonstrates appropriate research undertaken to identify a clear market need or opportunity.	Evidence of research informing product development, alignment to an identified need, and explanation of how the product delivers an effective solution.
Marketing & Market Response	The entrant clearly explains how the product was launched into the market and the response received.	Description of launch strategy, communication of benefits, evidence of sales or uptake, and copies of in market promotional materials.
Benefits to the Industry or Consumer	The product provides significant and measurable benefits to the consumer or industry.	Improvements in performance, efficiency, usability, durability, installation, or operation compared to comparable products or previous solutions.
Reviews & External Validation	External references or reviews support the credibility and effectiveness of the product.	Independent reviews, testimonials, or references; where unavailable, a clear and reasonable explanation is provided.

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BUILD & INSTALLATION CATEGORIES

Concrete Pools

The winner of each concrete pool category competes for the 'Concrete Pool of the Year' major award.

10. Concrete Pool up to \$80,000

11. Concrete Pool up to \$160,000

12. Concrete Pool up to \$240,000

13. Concrete Pool over \$240,000

Open to any residential pool constructed of concrete; can be any depth, width or length. The total contract value must be within the specified category dollar values and represent the completed construction price in accordance with the project price definition.

Criterion	Statement	Clarification
Design & Client Brief	The project clearly meets the client's brief and demonstrates strong design outcomes appropriate to the site and budget.	Understanding of client needs, design intent, proportion and layout, integration with the residence and landscape, and how well the final outcome reflects the brief.
Construction Quality & Workmanship	The project demonstrates a high standard of concrete construction quality and workmanship.	Structural quality, finishes, detailing, durability, accuracy, consistency, and adherence to industry best practice and relevant standards.
Installation & Technical Execution	The pool has been installed with a high level of technical skill and professionalism.	Site works, excavation, formwork, steel fixing, concrete application, waterproofing, services installation, coordination of trades, and management of site constraints.
Functionality & Usability	The completed pool is fit for purpose, functional, and easy for the client to use and maintain.	Pool usability, circulation, access, safety considerations, equipment selection, layout efficiency, and practical operation for private residential use.
Finishing, Detailing & Presentation	The project demonstrates strong finishing quality and overall presentation.	Coping, tiling, surfaces, edges, surrounds, visual coherence, cleanliness of finish, and overall aesthetic impact at completion.

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14. Concrete Pool & Spa Combination

Open to any concrete pool and spa built as part of the same structure at the same time; can be any depth, width or length. May include an acrylic self-contained spa as the spa component that is incorporated within the overall concrete structure.

Criterion	Statement	Clarification
Design Integration & Client Brief	The pool and spa are cohesively designed and clearly meet the client's brief.	Integration of pool and spa as a unified structure, proportional design, relationship between pool and spa, response to client needs, and suitability for the site and private residential use.
Construction Quality & Workmanship	The project demonstrates a high standard of concrete construction and workmanship.	Structural quality, concrete work, finishes, detailing, durability, accuracy, and adherence to industry best practice and standards across both pool and spa elements.
Installation & Technical Execution	The pool and spa have been installed with a high level of technical skill and coordination.	Site works, formwork, steel fixing, concrete placement, waterproofing, plumbing and electrical coordination, integration of spa systems, and management of construction challenges.
Functionality & Performance	The pool and spa function effectively and are fit for purpose.	Ease of use, circulation, heating, jets, access, safety considerations, controls, and how well the pool and spa operate together as a combined system.
Finishing, Detailing & Presentation	The completed project demonstrates strong finishing quality and visual presentation.	Tiling, coping, edges, transitions between pool and spa, surrounds, visual balance, and overall presentation at completion.

15. Concrete Lap Pool

The pool shall have a minimum length of 9 metres and be designed primarily for exercise swimming. The maximum width to length ratio for pools 9-15 metres in length shall be 0.25 and for pools over 15 metres in length shall be 0.20. The pool may have a limited widened area for use other than exercise swimming provided such area does not extend for more than 30% of the overall pool area.

Criterion	Statement	Clarification
Design for Exercise & Performance	The pool is purpose designed to support effective lap swimming and exercise.	Lane proportions, swim length clarity, water flow, turns, wall alignment, depth suitability, and any features that support uninterrupted exercise swimming.
Construction Quality & Workmanship	The pool demonstrates a high standard of concrete construction and workmanship.	Structural integrity, concrete quality, finishes, detailing, durability, accuracy, and adherence to industry best practice.
Functionality & Usability	The pool is functional, practical, and easy to use for regular exercise swimming.	Entry and exit points, safety features, lighting, circulation, heating, and suitability for ongoing use and maintenance.
Finishing, Detailing & Presentation	The completed project demonstrates strong finishing quality and presentation.	Tiling, coping, edges, visual consistency, cleanliness of finish, and overall presentation of the completed pool.

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Fibreglass Pools

The winner of each fibreglass pool category competes for the 'Fibreglass Pool of the Year' major award.

16. Fibreglass Pool up to \$60,000

17. Fibreglass Pool up to \$120,000

18. Fibreglass Pool over \$120,000

Open to any residential pool constructed of fibreglass; can be any depth, width or length. The total contract value must be within the specified category dollar values and represent the completed construction price in accordance with the project price definition.

Criterion	Statement	Clarification
Design & Client Brief	The pool design clearly meets the client's brief and is appropriate to the site and budget.	Understanding of client requirements, suitability of pool size and shape, positioning on site, integration with surrounding space, and effective use of the allocated budget.
Installation & Site Works	The fibreglass pool has been installed with a high level of technical skill and site management.	Excavation accuracy, base preparation, shell placement, levelling, backfilling, plumbing and electrical coordination, site constraints, and overall installation quality.
Construction Quality & Workmanship	The project demonstrates a high standard of workmanship across all construction elements.	Quality of finishes, connections, equipment installation, detailing, durability, and adherence to industry standards and manufacturer requirements.
Functionality & Usability	The completed pool is fit for purpose and practical for ongoing residential use.	Ease of use, access points, safety considerations, circulation, equipment selection, heating readiness, and ease of maintenance.
Finishing, Detailing & Presentation	The project demonstrates strong finishing quality and overall presentation.	Coping, surrounds, visual consistency, cleanliness of finish, and overall appearance at completion.

19. Fibreglass Pool & Spa Combination

The pool and spa must be built together and can be any depth, width or length. May include an acrylic self-contained spa as the spa component within the overall pool structure.

Criterion	Statement	Clarification
Design Integration & Client Brief	The pool and spa are well integrated and clearly meet the client's brief.	Cohesive design of pool and spa as a combined installation, proportional layout, relationship between pool and spa elements, suitability for residential use, and response to client requirements.
Installation & Site Works	The pool and spa installation demonstrates a high standard of technical skill and site management.	Excavation, base preparation, placement and levelling of the fibreglass shell, installation of spa components (including acrylic spa where applicable), plumbing and electrical coordination, and management of site constraints.
Construction Quality & Workmanship	The project demonstrates a high level of workmanship across all construction elements.	Quality of finishes, connection details, integration between pool and spa, durability, accuracy, and compliance with manufacturer guidelines and industry standards.
Functionality & Performance	The pool and spa function effectively as a combined system and are fit for purpose.	Ease of use, circulation, heating, jet performance, access and safety, control systems, and how well the pool and spa operate together for private residential use.
Finishing, Detailing & Presentation	The completed project demonstrates strong finishing quality and visual presentation.	Coping, surrounds, transitions between pool and spa, consistency of finishes, cleanliness of workmanship, and overall completed appearance.

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20. Fibreglass Lap Pool

The pool shall have a minimum length of 9 metres and be designed primarily for exercise swimming. The maximum width to length ratio for pools 9-15 metres in length shall be 0.25 and for pools over 15 metres in length shall be 0.20. The pool may have a limited widened area for use other than exercise swimming provided such area does not extend for more than 30% of the overall pool area.

Criterion	Statement	Clarification
Installation & Site Works	The fibreglass lap pool installation demonstrates a high standard of technical skill and site management.	Excavation accuracy, base preparation, shell placement and levelling, plumbing and electrical coordination, site constraints, and overall installation quality.
Construction Quality & Workmanship	The project demonstrates a high level of workmanship across all construction elements.	Quality of finishes, shell installation accuracy, durability, detailing, integration with surrounds, and compliance with manufacturer guidelines and industry standards.
Functionality & Performance	The pool performs effectively as a lap pool and is fit for purpose.	Swim performance, wall alignment and turns, circulation, depth suitability, access and safety, heating readiness, and ease of ongoing use for exercise swimming.
Finishing, Detailing & Presentation	The completed pool demonstrates strong finishing quality and visual presentation.	Coping, surrounds, transitions, consistency of finishes, cleanliness of workmanship, and overall completed appearance.

Freeform Pools

The winner of each freeform pool category competes for the 'Freeform Pool of the Year' major award.

21. Freeform Pool up to \$120,000

22. Freeform Pool over \$120,000

Open to any residential freeform pool. The pool must be constructed predominantly of smooth flowing lines or curves to produce an uneven, natural look. This award is open to any type of construction – concrete, fibreglass, vinyl. The total contract value must be within the specified category dollar values and represent the completed construction price in accordance with the project price definition.

Criterion	Statement	Clarification
Installation & Site Works	The pool installation demonstrates a high standard of technical skill and site management.	Excavation accuracy, base preparation, shell placement (if applicable) and levelling, plumbing and electrical coordination, site constraints, and overall installation quality.
Construction Quality & Workmanship	The project demonstrates a high level of workmanship across all construction elements.	Quality of finishes, shell installation accuracy, durability, detailing, integration with surrounds, and compliance with manufacturer guidelines and industry standards.
Functionality & Performance	The pool performs effectively and is fit for purpose.	Swim performance, wall alignment and turns, circulation, depth suitability, access and safety, heating readiness, and ease of ongoing use for exercise swimming.
Finishing, Detailing & Presentation	The completed pool demonstrates strong finishing quality and visual presentation.	Coping, surrounds, transitions, consistency of finishes, cleanliness of workmanship, and overall completed appearance.

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Prefabricated Pools

The winner of each prefabricated pool category competes for the 'Prefabricated Pool of the Year' major award.

23. Prefabricated Pool up to \$60,000

24. Prefabricated Pool over \$60,000

Open to any residential pool that is free standing and pre-fabricated, using materials such as, but not limited to, concrete, shipping containers, fibreglass, etc. The total contract value must be within the specified category dollar values and represent the completed construction price in accordance with the project price definition. Note: Inground fibreglass pools not eligible.

Criterion	Statement	Clarification
Design & Suitability	The prefabricated pool design is well considered and suitable for residential use within the category and budget constraints.	Design intent, suitability of form and scale, response to site conditions, visual appeal, and how effectively the prefabricated solution meets client needs.
Installation & Site Works	The pool installation demonstrates a high level of technical skill and effective site management.	Site preparation, foundations or supports, placement and securing of the prefabricated structure, coordination of services, access challenges, and overall installation execution.
Construction Quality & Workmanship	The project demonstrates a high standard of workmanship in the prefabricated structure and associated works.	Quality of fabrication, finishes, detailing, durability, structural integrity, accuracy, and compliance with relevant standards and manufacturer specifications.
Functionality & Usability	The completed pool is fit for purpose and practical for ongoing residential use.	Ease of access, safety considerations, circulation, equipment selection, usability, comfort, and ease of maintenance.
Finishing, Detailing & Presentation	The finished project demonstrates strong presentation and attention to detail.	Surrounds, external finishes, connections to landscaping or decking, visual coherence, cleanliness of finish, and overall appearance at completion.

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Vinyl Lined In-ground Pools

The winner of each vinyl-lined pool category competes for the 'Vinyl Lined Pool of the Year' major award.

25. Vinyl Lined In-ground Pool

Open to any vinyl lined pool that has been engineered and designed for inground application only. Can be any depth, width or length.

Criterion	Statement	Clarification
Design & Client Brief	The pool design meets the client's brief and is well suited to residential in-ground application.	Understanding of client needs, pool layout and proportions, suitability of design to the site, and effective use of space for private residential use.
Installation & Structural Execution	The pool installation demonstrates a high standard of technical skill and structural execution.	Excavation accuracy, wall and base preparation, liner installation, alignment and stability of structural components, site management, and coordination of trades.
Construction Quality & Workmanship	The project demonstrates a high level of workmanship across all construction elements.	Quality of liner fit and finish, detailing, durability, accuracy, compliance with manufacturer specifications, and adherence to industry standards.
Functionality & Usability	The completed pool is functional, safe, and suitable for ongoing residential use.	Ease of access, circulation, safety considerations, equipment selection, comfort, and practicality for everyday private use and maintenance.
Finishing, Detailing & Presentation	The completed project demonstrates strong finishing quality and overall presentation.	Coping, surrounds, liner finish, transitions, visual consistency, cleanliness of workmanship, and overall appearance at completion.

26. Vinyl Lined Modular Pool

Open to any vinyl lined pool constructed using a modular system. Can be any depth, width or length, and in-ground, above ground or in-ground.

Criterion	Statement	Clarification
Design & Client Brief	The pool design meets the client's brief and is well suited to a modular vinyl lined system.	Appropriateness of design for a modular system, layout and proportions, alignment with client requirements, and suitability for residential private use.
Installation & Modular Execution	The pool installation demonstrates a high standard of technical skill in the assembly and installation of the modular system.	Accuracy of modular assembly, wall alignment, base preparation, structural stability, liner installation process, site management, and coordination of trades.
Construction Quality & Workmanship	The project demonstrates a high level of workmanship across all construction elements.	Quality of liner fit and finish, detailing at joints and connections, durability, accuracy, and compliance with manufacturer specifications and relevant industry standards.
Functionality & Usability	The completed pool is functional, safe, and suitable for ongoing residential use.	Ease of access, circulation, safety features, equipment installation, comfort, and practicality for everyday use and maintenance.
Finishing, Detailing & Presentation	The completed project demonstrates strong finishing quality and overall presentation.	Coping, surrounds, liner presentation, transitions between structural elements, visual consistency, cleanliness of workmanship, and final presentation.

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Courtyard / Small Pool

The winner of each small pool category competes for the 'Small Pool of the Year' major award.

27. Enclosed / Indoor Pool

Open to an indoor pool that is located in an enclosed or partly enclosed area associated with a residential building. The pool may be constructed of any material. Entrants are eligible to enter other pool type categories.

Criterion	Statement	Clarification
Design Integration & Client Brief	The pool design integrates effectively within the enclosed or indoor environment and meets the client's brief.	Relationship between the pool and surrounding structure, spatial integration, functionality of the enclosed environment, alignment with client requirements, and suitability for residential use.
Construction & Environmental Execution	The project demonstrates a high standard of construction and execution appropriate for an enclosed or indoor pool setting.	Structural performance, moisture and condensation management, ventilation, materials selection, finishes suitable for indoor environments, and coordination between pool construction and building elements.
Installation Quality & Workmanship	The project demonstrates a high level of workmanship across pool installation and associated elements.	Accuracy of installation, detailing, liner or surface finishes, compliance with manufacturer guidelines and industry standards, and long term durability in an enclosed environment.
Functionality & Usability	The pool is functional, safe, and practical for ongoing indoor residential use.	Access, safety features, circulation, heating, lighting, ease of operation, comfort, and usability within an enclosed or partially enclosed space.
Finishing, Detailing & Presentation	The completed project demonstrates strong finishing quality and overall presentation.	Visual cohesion, detailing, cleanliness of finish, transitions between pool and building, and overall aesthetic presentation on completion.

28. Courtyard / Small Pool up to \$80,000

29. Courtyard / Small Pool over \$80,000

This award recognises any residential pool in a courtyard or similar setting that complements and enhances that setting. The pool must not exceed 16 sqm in surface area. The pool may be constructed of any material. Entrants are eligible to enter other pool type categories based on their construction material.

Criterion	Statement	Clarification
Design Integration & Setting Enhancement	The pool design complements and enhances the courtyard or small space setting.	How effectively the pool integrates with the surrounding architecture and landscape, sense of proportion, spatial efficiency, visual impact, and enhancement of the courtyard environment.
Design Response to Constraints & Client Brief	The pool design responds creatively and effectively to space constraints while meeting the client's brief.	Efficient use of limited space, design ingenuity, functionality within a small footprint, and alignment with client requirements for private residential use.
Construction Quality & Workmanship	The project demonstrates a high standard of construction quality and workmanship.	Build quality, finishes, detailing, durability, accuracy, and adherence to industry best practice for the selected construction method.
Functionality & Usability	The pool is functional, safe, and practical for residential use despite its compact size.	Access, circulation, safety considerations, comfort, usability, and ease of operation and maintenance within a confined setting.
Finishing, Detailing & Presentation	The completed project demonstrates strong finishing quality and presentation.	Detailing, transitions to surrounding surfaces, material consistency, cleanliness of finish, and overall visual presentation at completion.

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Spas

The winner of each spa category competes for the “Spa of the Year” major award.

30. In-ground Spa

This award recognises a spa permanently installed or constructed on site of concrete, fibreglass or vinyl material. The spa may be installed as part of a pool or as a stand alone spa.

Criterion	Statement	Clarification
Design Integration & Client Brief	The spa design clearly meets the client’s brief and integrates effectively within the surrounding environment.	Suitability of design, relationship to any adjoining pool or landscape, proportions, positioning, accessibility, and alignment with client requirements for private residential use.
Construction & Installation Quality	The spa demonstrates a high standard of construction and installation.	Structural integrity, excavation and base preparation, installation accuracy, waterproofing, services integration, and adherence to industry standards for the selected material.
Functionality & Performance	The spa functions effectively and delivers a strong user experience.	Heating performance, jet placement and operation, circulation, comfort, controls, safety features, and overall performance for relaxation or therapeutic use.
Workmanship & Detailing	The project demonstrates high quality workmanship and attention to detail.	Quality of finishes, detailing, durability, consistency of construction, joints and edges, and compliance with manufacturer and industry requirements.
Finishing & Presentation	The completed spa demonstrates strong finishing quality and overall presentation.	Visual appeal, integration with surrounds, material transitions, cleanliness of finish, and overall completed appearance.

31. Portable Spa

This award recognises a pre-engineered self-contained spa, that can be installed inground or above ground, in any location where approval may be granted.

Criterion	Statement	Clarification
Product Design & Features	The spa demonstrates strong product design and appropriate features for its intended use.	Quality of design, layout, seating ergonomics, control systems, materials used, build quality of the pre-engineered unit, and overall design suitability.
Installation & Site Integration	The spa has been installed appropriately and integrates well with its surroundings.	Positioning (above or in-ground), site preparation, access, compliance with approvals, integration with decking or surrounds, and overall suitability for the location.
Performance & User Experience	The spa performs effectively and delivers a high-quality user experience.	Heating performance, jet operation, circulation, comfort, ease of operation, noise levels, and reliability of performance.
Workmanship & Presentation	The spa installation demonstrates good workmanship and presentation.	Accuracy of installation, detailing, finishes, cleanliness of work, alignment, and overall presentation of the completed installation.
Safety, Compliance & Reliability	The spa installation demonstrates appropriate safety, compliance, and reliability.	Compliance with relevant standards, safety features, electrical and structural considerations, documentation, and overall confidence in long term reliability.

AWARDS JUDGING CRITERIA

2026 

32. Swim Spa

This award recognises a pre-engineered self-contained swim spa, either dual or single zone, that includes spa seating and has a water capacity of no less than 4,000L, in any location where approval may be granted.

Criterion	Statement	Clarification
Product Design & Configuration	The swim spa demonstrates a well designed configuration suited to both swimming and spa use.	Overall layout, single vs dual zone effectiveness, seating design, swim area proportions, ergonomics, controls, and suitability for combined exercise and relaxation.
Swim Performance & Water Movement	The swim spa delivers strong and effective swimming performance.	Quality and consistency of swim current, adjustability, turbulence control, suitability for different fitness levels, and overall swim experience.
Installation & Site Integration	The swim spa is appropriately installed and integrates well with its surroundings.	Positioning (above or in-ground), access, site preparation, approvals, integration with decking or landscaping, and overall suitability for the installation location.
User Experience & Functionality	The swim spa provides a high quality and intuitive user experience.	Ease of operation, controls, comfort, heating performance, seating usability, transitions between swim and spa zones, and practicality for regular use.
Workmanship, Safety & Presentation	The swim spa installation demonstrates strong workmanship, safety, and presentation.	Quality of installation, finishes, safety features, compliance, reliability, detailing, and overall presentation of the completed installation.

AWARDS JUDGING CRITERIA

2026 

Renovations

The winner of each renovation category competes for the 'Renovation of the Year' major award.

33. Renovation up to \$40,000

34. Renovation up to \$80,000

35. Renovation over \$80,000

This award recognises the renovation of an existing pool which has undergone significant alterations, including additions or alterations of the structure or the primary shape of the existing pool.

The original installation must be in some existence. The total contract value must be within the specified category dollar values.

Criterion	Statement	Clarification
Customer Brief & Project Intent	The renovation clearly meets the customer brief and successfully delivers the client's vision.	How well the project was designed and installed to meet the client's requirements; challenges or problems encountered and how they were resolved to achieve the desired outcome.
Design & Aesthetic Outcome	The renovation demonstrates a strong, fit for purpose design with outstanding visual appeal.	Functionality, ease of use, incorporation of complex design elements, unique features, and the overall aesthetic quality and relationship to the surrounding environment.
Construction Complexity & Problem Solving	The builder effectively managed and overcame construction complexities associated with the renovation.	Difficulties such as site access, sloping sites, working around existing structures, sequencing, and how construction challenges were successfully resolved.
Materials & Construction Techniques	The project demonstrates effective use of materials or construction techniques appropriate to a major renovation.	Use of new or improved construction techniques, incorporation of unique or upgraded materials, and suitability of material selection for the renovated pool.
Quality of Workmanship	The renovation demonstrates a high standard of workmanship across all aspects of the project.	Quality of finishes and detailing, structural integrity, tiling, paving, landscaping, safety barriers, and workmanship of associated trades.
Renovation Images (Before & After)	Before and after imagery clearly demonstrates the transformation achieved through the renovation.	Quality, consistency, and clarity of images taken from the same or similar angles, showing the extent and impact of the renovation.

AWARDS JUDGING CRITERIA

2026

ENHANCEMENTS

The winner of each enhancement category competes for the “Enhancement of the Year” major award.

The following categories open to either Residential or Commercial Projects that meet the relevant criteria.

36. Residential or Commercial Water Feature

This award recognises the installation of water features that add to the visual appeal or functionality of a swimming pool and can include features such as waterfalls, ponds and fountains, either stand-alone items or part of a pool and/or spa.

Entries will be judged based on the visual appeal or functionality of the water feature. The entry should include plans and supporting information that outlines the value the water feature brings to the pool or spa overall installation. Entries submitted by the builder must list the name of the trade contractor who completed the installation of the water feature.

Criterion	Statement	Clarification
Customer Brief	The water feature has been designed and installed to meet the customer’s brief and vision.	Alignment with client requirements, understanding of the brief, challenges encountered by the designer/installer, and how issues were resolved to achieve the desired outcome.
Design (Aesthetics & Functionality)	The water feature is fit for purpose and achieves outstanding visual appeal.	Aesthetic quality, relationship to the pool/spa and surrounding environment, ease of use, functionality, scale, proportion, and overall contribution to the space.
Construction	Installation challenges were effectively managed and overcome during construction.	Site access difficulties, sloping sites, proximity to structures, technical complexity, coordination with pool or spa works, and problem solving during installation.
Quality of Workmanship	The project demonstrates a high standard of workmanship across all associated trades.	Build quality, finishes, detailing, durability, accuracy, and workmanship by trades such as tiling, landscaping, paving, safety barriers, or finishing works.
Documentation & Attribution	Supporting documentation clearly explains the value of the water feature and identifies the installing contractor.	Quality and clarity of plans, supporting information, and correct identification of the trade contractor responsible for installation.

37. Residential or Commercial Lighting Feature

This award recognises the installation of lighting features that add to the visual appeal or functionality of a swimming pool or spa.

Entries will be judged on the visual appeal, functionality and innovation that the lighting installation achieves. The entry should include plans and supporting information that outlines the value of the lighting design for the pool or spa installation.

Criterion	Statement	Clarification
Customer Brief	The lighting feature has been designed and installed to meet the customer’s brief and vision.	How well the lighting design responds to the client’s requirements; challenges or constraints encountered and how these were resolved to achieve the intended outcome.
Design (Aesthetics & Functionality)	The lighting design is fit for purpose, functional, and achieves outstanding visual appeal.	Ease of use, functionality, illumination quality, aesthetic impact, atmosphere created, and relationship of the lighting to the pool, spa, and surrounding environment.
Quality of Workmanship	The project demonstrates a high standard of workmanship across all associated trades.	Quality of installation, finishes, detailing, durability, fixing methods, and workmanship by electrical and associated trades.
Innovation & Value Add	The lighting feature demonstrates innovation and adds clear value to the pool or spa installation.	Creative lighting solutions, use of technology or controls, originality of approach, and the extent to which the lighting enhances the overall project.

AWARDS JUDGING CRITERIA

2026 

38. Safety Barrier

This award recognises the design and installation of a compliant pool and/or spa safety barrier associated with any type of pool construction.

Eligible entrants – Pool Barrier designers and installers

Criterion	Statement	Clarification
Customer Brief	The safety barrier has been designed and installed to fully meet the customer's brief and vision.	How well the project aligns with customer requirements; challenges or constraints encountered and how these were resolved to meet the customer's expectations.
Construction	The entrant demonstrates effective coordination and execution throughout the construction process.	Site access, sloping or uneven terrain, proximity to existing structures, coordination with surrounding elements, and the quality of problem-solving applied during construction.
Quality of Workmanship	The project demonstrates a high standard of workmanship across all associated trades.	Evidence of quality installation, finishes, fixing methods, durability, accuracy, and workmanship involving , gates, hinges, spigots, fencing materials, etc.
Design	The safety barrier is fit for purpose, functional, and aesthetically well integrated with its environment.	Ease of use, gate operation, functionality, visual appeal, proportionality, and how well the barrier relates to the pool, spa, and surrounding environment.

39. Pool Landscape Design

This award recognises the design and installation of landscaping which enhances and compliments the pool and or spa.

Eligible entrants – Landscape designers, landscaping contractors.

Criterion	Statement	Clarification
Customer Brief & Project Intent	The landscape design and installation clearly meet the customer's brief and vision.	How well the project responds to the client's requirements; understanding of the brief; challenges or problems encountered and how they were resolved to achieve the intended outcome.
Design & Aesthetic Outcome	The landscape design achieves outstanding aesthetics and complements the pool or spa and its environment.	Overall visual impact, relationship between landscaping and pool/spa, fit for purpose, ease of use, spatial layout, and harmony with the surrounding environment.
Quality of Workmanship	The project demonstrates a high standard of workmanship across all landscaping elements.	Quality of finishes, planting, paving, tiling, safety barriers, detailing, durability, and workmanship by all associated trades involved.

AWARDS JUDGING CRITERIA

2026

COMMERCIAL PROJECTS

These categories recognise excellence in the construction of a purpose-built swimming pool in a commercial setting.

The winner of each commercial category competes for the 'Commercial Pool of the Year' major award.

Commercial Pools

A commercial pool has the primary purpose of public or communal use by unrelated persons. The pool can be located at a commercial premises as defined by the Health Department of the relevant state and constructed of the specified material. The total contract value must be within the specified category dollar values and represent the completed construction price including all enhancements, safety barrier and landscaping.

40. Hotel/Resort Pool up to \$1,000,000

41. Hotel/Resort Pool over \$1,000,000

Criterion	Statement	Clarification
Customer Brief & Project Outcomes	The project has been designed and installed to clearly meet the customer's brief and vision.	Alignment with client requirements; understanding of hotel/resort operational needs; challenges encountered and how they were resolved to achieve the intended outcome.
Construction Complexity & Delivery	The project demonstrates effective management and if required, delivery of complex construction requirements.	Site access constraints, sloping sites, proximity to existing structures, coordination in an operating hotel or resort environment, sequencing, and problem resolution.
Quality of Workmanship	The entry demonstrates a high standard of workmanship across all associated trades.	Quality of construction, finishes, tiling, landscaping, safety barriers, paving, detailing, durability, and consistency of workmanship across trades.
Design, Functionality & Usability	The project is fit for purpose and provides ease of use and functionality in a commercial hospitality environment.	Pool operation, user flow, safety, accessibility, capacity, maintenance considerations, and suitability for frequent public use.
Design Features & Aesthetic Outcome	The project demonstrates strong aesthetic quality and design interest appropriate to a hotel or resort setting.	Complex or distinctive design elements, unique features, visual appeal, and how the pool relates to its architectural, landscape, and environmental context.

AWARDS JUDGING CRITERIA

2026 

42. Commercial Pool or Spa (Aquatic) up to \$1,000,000

43. Commercial Pool or Spa (Aquatic) over \$1,000,000

This award recognises any commercial pool or spa located at a commercial premises as defined by the Health Department of the relevant state. The pool and spa can be any type, materials, be portable or permanent with no limitations on price or size.

Criterion	Statement	Clarification
Customer Brief & Project Outcomes	The project has been designed and installed to clearly meet the customer's brief and vision.	Alignment with client requirements; understanding of hotel/resort operational needs; challenges encountered and how they were resolved to achieve the intended outcome.
Construction Complexity & Delivery	The project demonstrates effective management and if required, delivery of complex construction requirements.	Site access constraints, sloping sites, proximity to existing structures, coordination in an operating hotel or resort environment, sequencing, and problem resolution.
Quality of Workmanship	The entry demonstrates a high standard of workmanship across all associated trades.	Quality of construction, finishes, tiling, landscaping, safety barriers, paving, detailing, durability, and consistency of workmanship across trades.
Design, Functionality & Usability	The project is fit for purpose and provides ease of use and functionality in a commercial hospitality environment.	Pool operation, user flow, safety, accessibility, capacity, maintenance considerations, and suitability for frequent public use.
Design Features & Aesthetic Outcome	The project demonstrates strong aesthetic quality and design interest appropriate to a hotel or resort setting.	Complex or distinctive design elements, unique features, visual appeal, and how the pool relates to its architectural, landscape, and environmental context.

AWARDS JUDGING CRITERIA

2026

44. Commercial Renovation

This award recognises a commercial pool or spa installation that has undergone significant alterations from the original pool/spa, including additions or alterations of the structure or the shape of the existing pool or spa.

Details of the original installation must be provided (before & after plans and images) and details of the retained elements of the original pool installation must be outlined.

Criterion	Statement	Clarification
Customer Brief & Renovation Intent	The renovation has been designed and delivered to clearly meet the customer's brief and vision.	How effectively the project meets the client's objectives; improvements over the original installation; challenges encountered and how they were resolved to achieve the desired outcome.
Construction Complexity & Problem Solving	The project demonstrates strong capability in managing and overcoming construction challenges.	Difficulties such as working with existing structures, site access limitations, sloping sites, proximity to other structures, live environments, sequencing of works, and technical problem solving.
Quality of Workmanship	The renovation demonstrates a high standard of workmanship across all associated trades.	Evidence of quality workmanship in tiling, finishes, paving, landscaping, safety barriers, detailing, durability, and consistency across all trades involved.
Design, Functionality & Fitness for Purpose	The renovated pool or spa is fit for purpose, functional, and easy to use in a commercial setting.	Ease of use, safety, operational efficiency, circulation, accessibility, maintenance considerations, complex design elements, and suitability for public or communal use.
Renovation Images & Transformation Evidence	Before and after images clearly demonstrate the extent and success of the renovation.	Quality and clarity of plans and images, preferably taken from the same or similar angles, showing the transformation achieved and the relationship between old and new elements.

45. Commercial Aquatic System

This award recognises the design and installation of a commercial aquatic system connected to a commercial pool, spa or swimming facility. Examples might include water treatment systems, hydraulic/filtration systems and automation.

Criterion	Statement	Clarification
Customer Brief & System Design Response	The aquatic system has been designed and installed to clearly meet the customer's brief and facility requirements.	Alignment with customer and operational needs, clarity of system purpose, and how the design responds to site specific challenges or performance requirements.
System Design, Functionality & Fitness for Purpose	The aquatic system is fit for purpose and provides ease of use, reliability, and effective functionality.	Simplicity of operation, system usability, maintenance considerations, performance outcomes, integration with the broader facility, and suitability for ongoing commercial use.
Unique Systems, Materials & Techniques	The project incorporates unique, innovative, or improved aquatic system solutions compared to standard practice.	New or enhanced system designs, improved construction or installation methods, specialised materials, automation, or technical innovation that addresses facility specific needs.
Quality of Workmanship	The project demonstrates a high standard of workmanship across all associated trades and components.	Quality of installation, equipment mounting and finishing, integration with surrounding works (tiling, finishes, safety barriers, landscaping where applicable), durability, accuracy, and attention to detail.

AWARDS JUDGING CRITERIA

2026 

POOL STORES

46. Display Pool / Centre

This award recognises a pool builder or manufacturer's display area, where the primary purpose of the display centre is for the exhibition of their pool designs and construction to potential customers.

47. New Pool Store

This award recognises any new retail/service business that operates from a retail premises and has achieved excellence in customer service, staffing, sales growth, marketing and the like.

The business must have been operating between 1 and 3 years of the nomination deadline.

48. Single Location Pool Store

This award recognises any single location retail/service business that operates from a retail premises and has achieved excellence in customer service, staffing, sales growth, marketing and the like.

The business must have been operating for more than 3 years of the nomination deadline.

49. Multi-Location Pool Store

This award recognises any multi-location retail/service business that operates from retail premises that has achieved excellence in customer service, staffing, sales growth, marketing and the like.

The business must have been operating for more than 3 years of the nomination deadline.

50. Online Pool Store

This award recognises any retail/service business that operates an online store that has achieved excellence in customer service, sales growth, marketing and the like. Entrants can have a retail site that also has an online store.

The business must have been operating for more than 1 year of the nomination deadline.

Criterion	Statement	Clarification
Details of Store Excellence	The business demonstrates outstanding achievements and overall excellence.	Evidence of sales growth, awards, business milestones, market position, and overall success of the display centre.
Marketing & Promotion	The business has implemented effective marketing strategies to drive customer engagement and sales growth.	Marketing initiatives, promotional examples, brand consistency, market visibility, and evidence demonstrating marketing effectiveness.
Business, Display & Staff Presentation	The business, its display environments, and its staff are professionally presented, engaging, and demonstrate capability appropriate to the business.	Presentation of showroom and display areas, cleanliness, organisation, professionalism, staff product knowledge, customer interaction, communication skills, and overall customer experience.
Range of Products & Services	The business clearly presents a comprehensive range of products and services.	Breadth of designs, finishes, construction options, services, and clarity in communicating offerings.
Service & Customer Support	The business provides high-quality customer service and ongoing support.	Customer care systems, aftersales support, responsiveness, service standards, and customer satisfaction.
New Technology & Innovation Adoption	The business demonstrates adaptation to new technologies or industry innovations.	Use of new technologies, digital tools, construction methods, and systems that enhance efficiency, customer experience, or product quality.
Professional Standards, Compliance & Credibility	The business demonstrates strong industry knowledge, compliance with standards, and evidence of credibility through testimonials or third-party validation.	Staff qualifications, continuing education, adherence to regulations and quality systems, business practices, relevance and quality of testimonials, and consistency with claims in the submission.

AWARDS JUDGING CRITERIA

2026 

BEST BUSINESS CATEGORIES

51. Best Spa Retailer

This award recognises an individual retail spa outlet that stocks and displays on premise a comprehensive range of spas and associated products. The individual outlet will demonstrate excellence in customer service, sales growth, marketing and the like.

52. Best Mobile Service Business

This award recognises any pool or spa service technician that operates a single or multivan service business providing on-site support to customers. The business will demonstrate excellence in customer services, sales growth, marketing and the like.

53. Best Professional Service Business

This award recognises any business that provides professional services to the industry, e.g. building certification, pool barrier inspections, engineering design or inspection, financial services, legal services, etc. The business will demonstrate excellence in customer services to the pool and spa industry. NOTE: This does not include retail or service technician businesses.

54. Best Supplier

This award recognises any supplier member who provides products and services in the industry. Suppliers may offer pool or spa equipment, materials, additives, software business solutions, and the like. The business will demonstrate excellence in customer services to the pool and spa industry through the provision of quality products or materials, innovation in product development and customer service.

Criterion	Statement	Clarification
Range of Products/Services & Service Delivery/Support	The business offers a clear, relevant range of products/services and demonstrates strong customer service and after-sales support.	Breadth and clarity of offerings; relevance to industry needs; examples of customer service processes; responsiveness; after-sales support; evidence of customer satisfaction.
Business & Staff Presentation	The business presents a professional, organised and appealing presence, and staff demonstrate professionalism aligned with the brand.	Presentation quality of showroom/store/vehicles/offices; organisation and cleanliness; branding consistency; staff professionalism; quality of supplied images or evidence.
Industry Knowledge & Training	The business maintains strong industry knowledge and invests in staff development and training.	Staff qualifications; training programs; industry involvement; participation in education; commitment to staying up-to-date with standards and best practice.
Compliance	The business complies with all relevant regulations, standards, and industry best practice.	Required licences; regulatory adherence; documentation of safety or compliance systems; certifications or audit evidence.
Marketing	The business applies effective marketing strategies to improve visibility, sales, and market presence.	Campaign examples; digital activity; brand strategy; promotional materials; evidence of market impact; innovation in marketing.
Details of Achievements	The business demonstrates notable achievements, innovation, or measurable progress.	Awards; growth metrics; milestones; project outcomes; innovation; evidence of exceeding expectations or delivering standout results.
New Technology	The business adopts and applies new technologies to improve operations or customer experience.	Recently implemented tools/systems; impact on efficiency, customer experience, safety or compliance; demonstration of technological innovation.
Client Testimonials	The business provides examples of strong, credible customer testimonials demonstrating satisfaction and trust.	Quality, detail and authenticity of testimonials; relevance to services/products; diversity of clients; depth of customer insight and satisfaction.

AWARDS JUDGING CRITERIA

2026 

55. Best Concrete Pool Builder

56. Best Fibreglass Pool Builder

57. Best Prefabricated Pool Builder

58. Best Vinyl-Lined Pool Builder

The pool builder categories are open to a pool building or pool installation business that demonstrates excellence in design, workmanship, customer service, installation and professionalism.

Businesses must have been operating for a minimum of 5 years

Criterion	Statement	Clarification
Workmanship (Design & Installation)	The business demonstrates excellence in pool design, construction quality, and installation workmanship.	Quality of completed pools; accuracy and precision; adherence to specifications; design effectiveness; durability; onsite professionalism; demonstrated excellence across design and installation.
Industry Knowledge & Training	Staff demonstrate strong industry expertise, ongoing professional development, and up-to-date knowledge of best practice.	Staff qualifications; training programs; ongoing upskilling; familiarity with industry standards; ability to explain technical aspects of pool design, construction, and equipment; demonstrated leadership in industry knowledge.
Service, Support & Staff/Contractors	The business provides high-quality customer service, strong project support, and consistently professional staff and contractors.	Communication systems; complaint management; guided project journey; project management processes; after-completion support; professionalism and reliability of staff and contractors.
Compliance	The business complies fully with all relevant regulations, standards, and best-practice requirements.	Licensing; WHS systems; building code adherence; safety documentation; compliance processes; evidence of regulatory alignment.
Business Presentation & Marketing	The business presents a polished customer-facing environment and strengthens visibility through effective marketing.	Showroom/store/vehicle presentation; cleanliness and layout; finishes displayed; brand consistency; marketing campaigns; promotional collateral; measurable engagement or reach.
Achievements, Reputation & Customer Service (Testimonials)	Customer testimonials confirm strong satisfaction and positive project outcomes.	Minimum 5 testimonials; relevance to recent work; depth and authenticity of feedback; diversity of client experiences; evidence of consistent positive outcomes.
Projects (Submitted Examples)	Submitted projects demonstrate high standards of design, workmanship, and overall quality.	Complexity; craftsmanship; creativity; innovation; photo quality; documentation detail; representation of project diversity and excellence.
New Technology	The business adopts new technologies that enhance pool design, construction, or customer experience.	Smart-pool systems; automated equipment; innovative materials; digital tools (AR/VR, modelling); energy-efficient solutions; modern construction techniques.

AWARDS JUDGING CRITERIA

2026 

INDIVIDUAL/EMPLOYEE CATEGORIES

The winner of each professional category competes for the “Professional of the Year” major award. Entrants in these categories can be nominated by their employer, peers or be self-nominated.

59. Pool & Spa Barrier Inspector Award

This award recognises an individual working as a Certifier or Pool & Spa Barrier Inspector who exemplifies all that is best in their technical and service dealings with customers (consumers and industry).

60. Retail Service Technician Award

This award recognises an individual working as a service technician who deals with consumers in the retail space (i.e. does not visit customer’s premises) who exemplifies all that is best in their technical and service dealings with customers (consumers and industry).

61. In-Field Service Technician Award

This award recognises an employee working as a service technician dealing with customers on site who exemplifies all that is best in their technical and service dealings with customers (consumers and industry).

62. Pool Sales Representative Award

This award recognises an individual working as a salesperson for a pool builder who exemplifies all that is best in their dealings with customers to sell pools in a showroom or on site.

63. Spa Sales Representative Award

This award recognises an individual working as a salesperson for a spa retailer who exemplifies all that is best in their dealings with customers to sell spas in a showroom or onsite.

64. Supplier Salesperson Award

This award recognises an individual working as a salesperson for a business that sells products, equipment and supplies for the construction or maintenance of pools and spas who exemplifies all that is best in their dealings within the industry.

65. Rising Star Award

This award recognises an employee of a SPASA member who has been employed in the industry for no longer than 3 years from the nomination deadline and exemplifies all that is best in their dealings with customers. The proprietors of the member business must nominate the employee and should provide written examples of the employee’s excellence.

66. Construction Tradesperson Award

This award recognises an employee or sub-contractor of a SPASA member who has demonstrated a very high level of skill together with exceptional quality control, overall professionalism, and holds a sound knowledge of relevant Australian Standards, Acts, regulations and codes that apply to the work they perform.

67. Pool Designer Award

This award recognises an individual working in a role that provides design services to clients for pools and spas and who exemplifies all that is best in their dealings within the customers.

68. Operational Excellence Award

This award recognises an individual working for any type of business in the pool and spa industry in an operations/administration role who exemplifies all that is best in their dealings within the industry.

AWARDS JUDGING CRITERIA

2026 

INDIVIDUAL/EMPLOYEE CATEGORIES

Criterion	Statement	Clarification
Role & Responsibilities	The entrant demonstrates clarity, accountability, and effectiveness in their role.	What is the entrant's role? How long have they been in the position? What responsibilities do they manage? Do they show ownership and reliability within their role?
Details of Achievements	The entrant has achieved significant outcomes that demonstrate excellence.	Sales growth, awards, standout contributions, personal development, improvements in performance or efficiency, achievements within the last 2 years.
Training or Qualifications	The entrant holds relevant qualifications and demonstrates commitment to developing their skills.	Completed training programs, licenses/certifications, role-specific qualifications, proactive approach to learning.
Service & Support	The entrant consistently demonstrates excellence in customer service and support.	Evidence of exceptional customer interactions; reliability; service consistency; customer-focused behaviours; examples of above-and-beyond service.
Problem Solving	The entrant effectively resolves challenges and applies strong problem-solving skills.	Clear examples of problem resolution; initiative; adaptability; critical thinking in real workplace situations.
Communication Skills	The entrant communicates clearly, professionally and effectively.	Verbal and written communication quality; clarity; professionalism; ability to explain technical or complex concepts.
Knowledge of Industry & Personal Presentation	The entrant demonstrates sound industry knowledge and maintains a professional standard of presentation.	Understanding of products/services; keeping current with industry trends; accurate technical knowledge; professional presentation; condition of vehicle/tools if applicable.
Client Testimonials	Customer testimonials validate the entrant's performance and service quality.	Minimum of 5 testimonials; specificity and depth of feedback; credibility; evidence of strong customer relationships and satisfaction.
Management Testimonial	The Manager/CEO/Owner strongly endorses the entrant's excellence.	Strength of endorsement; examples of dependability, professionalism, performance and contribution to the business.

AWARDS JUDGING CRITERIA

2026 

69. Master Pool Builder Project

This prestigious category is exclusively open to current MPB members and celebrates excellence in pool and spa craftsmanship. Entrants are invited to showcase a project completed within the past three years that exemplifies superior design, construction, and innovation. To qualify, the project must be delivered by a Master Pool Builder member who demonstrates exceptional skill, rigorous quality control, and the highest standards of professionalism.

This award category evaluates the technical intricacies of the scoping, design, and construction phases of a pool or spa project. The journey will culminate in the selection of the Master Pool Builder Project of the Year, honouring the pinnacle of pool-building achievement.

Exclusively Judged by MPB Committee Members

Only current Master Pool Builder committee members will have the honour of judging the Master Pool Builder Project of the year.

Criterion	Statement	Clarification
Project Scope & Complexity	The project demonstrates an appropriate level of scope and technical complexity consistent with Master Pool Builder standards.	Project scale, site constraints, engineering challenges, design ambition, and degree of difficulty across all stages of delivery.
Design Excellence	The project exemplifies superior pool and/or spa design.	Visual appeal, proportions, integration with surroundings, functionality, innovation, creativity, and overall design intent.
Construction Quality & Craftsmanship	The project demonstrates exceptional construction quality and craftsmanship.	Construction methodology, materials used, finishes, attention to detail, accuracy of execution, and overall build quality.
Technical Execution	The project demonstrates outstanding technical execution across all construction phases.	Structural integrity, hydraulics, electrical integration, compliance engineering, and resolution of complex technical requirements.
Innovation	The project incorporates innovative design, construction techniques, or technologies.	Use of new materials, systems, sustainable solutions, unique construction methods, or innovative problem-solving.
Quality Control & Compliance	The project demonstrates rigorous quality control and compliance with relevant standards.	Adherence to relevant Australian Standards, Acts, regulations, codes of practice, documentation quality, and inspection processes.
Professionalism & Project Management	The project reflects the highest standards of professionalism throughout delivery.	Planning, coordination, communication, timeline management, client engagement, and overall project execution.
Overall Impact & Excellence	The project represents a benchmark of excellence in pool and spa construction.	Final presentation, client outcome, industry impact, and suitability as a Master Pool Builder Project of the Year finalist.