



Previous Gold Scholarship winner Leigh Taggart tells us what it meant to him to receive a Middy’s Scholarship.

Middy’s: What is your current employment in the Electrical Trades industry?
Leigh: After working mainly in the commercial sector throughout and after my apprenticeship, I decided to take the plunge and start my own business 5 years ago. I took on every opportunity that came my way and have built up a steady flow of work. I put on a new apprentice to enable me to take on bigger projects whilst still attending to my existing clients’ needs. Using experienced sub contractors works well, however, I like to help and train a new apprentice, as it’s essential for me going forward. I have an A Grade license as well as the Open Cablers Registration and a Security Equipment Installer license. I work across all three sectors of commercial, residential and industrial.

M: How has the Middy’s Scholarship Award helped your business grow?
L: My aspirations for the business are to one day be in a position where I can be off the tools and in a permanent managing role. Winning the Middy’s Scholarship has already enabled me to get closer to this goal. I recently undertook my first C-Bus Automation project and it’s this high-end residential sector that I wish to target more. Specialising in Home Automation and Energy efficient technology is the future, and undertaking training in these areas helps me obtain and win this kind of work. I also quoted and won a big KNX automation job with DALI lighting control on a high end architecturally designed home. Homes such as this are more like small commercial projects, and the training in estimating and smart home automation has been a huge benefit. The training positions me well to combine traditional income streams with new opportunities and technologies.

M: How do you see these new business opportunities evolving?
L: Doing typical light and power work is still relevant, but working towards home automation makes sense as everything now works together, including the integration of renewables. Home control and automation are particularly relevant for in home care, which as our population ages is a huge growth market. There are also many applications in the disability sector. I believe automation will be in all homes in some capacity in the near future, as the majority of products we purchase these days are “connected”, or have the ability to be involved within our smart home network in some way. The ability to see the power consumption of household items, and which ones are drawing the most power via these new technologies is fantastic. It is one of the main factors why my clients are interested in these products, along with how they can control lights and appliances via an app or via voice control, plus the ease of which they can control their access, audio visual and security systems.

M: What courses have you undertaken with your Middy’s Scholarship?
L: In a marketplace that is always changing, I looked at courses that would help keep me up to date with the technologies needed for the tasks at hand. My Scholarship enabled me to complete several courses that have helped in this regard. The short EV intro course was completed at Middy’s Smart Centre in Mulgrave. The other courses I did were at NECA’s training centre in Carlton, including the pilot course for IOT which was great. I am looking at undertaking more. Most of the courses are a combination of face to face learning and online, which suits me well. They are:

- EV Electric Vehicle Charging
- Solar Grid Connect 5 day
- Battery Storage 6 day
- Estimating Electrotechnology Projects
- Application of the Internet of Things for Electrotechnology Workers

M: I notice you are a NECA member, do you think this is advantageous?
L: Yes, definitely. I received an additional discount on the NECA courses by being a NECA member, so this helped stretch my Scholarship funds even further. Anyone in the industry can join NECA, and they should. I’ve found the membership pays for itself as the access to regulations and industry OH&S requirements is invaluable. Also NECA broadcasts regular industry news which is good to keep up to date with.

M: When you submit a quote on a project do you think your training makes a difference to winning the work?
L: Yes, it gives me the confidence to know I am making a professional presentation, with sound skill sets to back me up. Having the training and a professional approach makes a difference and sets me apart, increasing my chances of winning a job.

M: How have you found the challenge of finding the time for additional training?
L: It’s never easy, but you just make the time. Completing an estimating course was paramount to utilising my time better in regards to quoting jobs, trying to find that work/life balance, especially as I’m now a father to a little girl. As our girl grows up, work life balance is an ongoing challenge, and having better skills means less time up late doing paper work. I’m also very blessed with my partner who does all the hard work. It takes a team to raise a child and run a business, having a supportive partner is so important.

M: How was the application process, would you recommend others to apply for a Middy’s Scholarship?
L: Yes for sure, this was my 2nd application and this time around I was lucky enough to win a Gold package. So don’t be discouraged if you are not successful on your first attempt. The application process is online and is straightforward. Just take your time and put some thought into your answers. I’d also like to give a big shout out to my local Middy’s branch in Thomastown, the crew of Manager Andrew Neave who always go the extra mile, which is why I use Middy’s. When I won the Scholarship I also heard directly from both directors, Nicholas and Anton Middendorp congratulating me, which was really nice.

2023 Key Dates

Put these important dates in your calendar...

- **APPLICATIONS OPEN**
Monday 7 August
- **APPLICATIONS CLOSE**
Friday 15 September
- **WINNERS NOTIFIED**
Friday 20 October
- **AWARDS FUNCTION**
November



Awards Function

Winners will be hosted at our awards function in Melbourne later in the year to celebrate in style at a gala presentation.

The awards presentation function recognises the Middy’s annual Scholarship winners with the Nick Middendorp Small Business Winner also being announced on the night.

Mingle alongside industry leaders, Middy’s directors and hear from keynote speakers at a night that celebrates industry excellence. Interstate winners and partners are flown into Melbourne with accommodation included, to attend the function.

Entry Information

Prerequisites:

- Applications are open to all Australian registered A grade electricians, 4th year electrical apprentices and data installers (with ACMA open cabling accreditation).

Application info & what to include in your application:

- Answer the simple questions in the online form
Applications can take one hour or more depending on how considered your answers are
- We are looking for honest responses and insights into our industry, your goals and aspirations
- Identify previous training you may have undertaken and how you believe further training can benefit you
- Discuss emerging industry themes and potential growth sectors
- Discuss current concerns within the industry and how you believe they could be addressed
- Discuss why you deserve a Scholarship and how it would benefit your business or career
- How you would use the Scholarship if you were successful
- Once you have submitted your application, you will receive email confirmation that your application has been received

Judging:

- Judging of applicants is by an independent panel comprising of industry professionals
- All short listed candidates will be invited to partake in a brief video interview with the judging panel
- Successful applicants will be personally notified on 20 October, and all applicants will be notified of results via email by 20 October
- The list of successful applicants will be posted on middys.com.au/scholarship and published in the Jan- Mar 2024 issue of the Middy’s MAG

Training Courses:

- **There are 7 x \$10,000 Gold Packages and 6 x \$5,000 Silver Packages to be awarded**
- Training courses can be chosen by the Scholarship recipient from any RTO within Australia approved for funding by Middy’s
- Tailored training packages will be discussed with successful applicants to an equal but not greater value than the total package

How to Enter:

- Apply online at middys.com.au/scholarship
- Applications open 7 August and close 15 September 2023

Good Luck



DON'T RISK IT
USE A LICENSED ELECTRICIAN
MIDDY'S

AMD 02449_07/23



Scholarship PROGRAM 2023



\$100,000 WORTH OF TRAINING TO BE WON

Give your career an edge and generate new income streams with a Middy’s Training Scholarship

2020 Gold Scholarship Winner
Leigh Taggart from Electract

MIDDY'S Offering you more...



What is the MIDDY'S Scholarship Program?

Middy's is Australia's largest independent electrical wholesaler, 100% Australian and family owned. Our Scholarship Program proudly supports local electrical contractors to help grow their careers and generate new income streams.

We value the future of the Australian Electrical Industry, which is why we created the Middy's Scholarship Program back in 2009 and have run it every year since, helping Australian electricians be the best they can be.

The Scholarship Program provides the funds for contractors to choose recognised training or skill enhancement courses nationwide to deliver the skill sets and competitive edge needed to succeed in today's challenging environment and give your career an edge.

How the Middy's Scholarship has helped past winners?



Scott Bailey - 2022 Gold Winner

As a mature aged apprentice, Scott didn't become fully qualified until age 36, proving age is no barrier when it comes to learning and forging a career in the electrical industry. Once qualified, Scott started Bailey Technologies with his wife Susan who works in the office. The business has grown immensely in six years and now has seven full time employees operating out of a factory space and office/showroom.

Since winning a Middy's Gold Scholarship Award in 2022, Scott has completed the following courses; Stand Alone Power Systems (Skill Build), Content & Social Media Marketing (RMIT), Implementing Digital Marketing Campaign (RMIT) and Working at Heights (Ace Training). The funds won by Scott have helped develop not only his electrical skills but also his marketing skills to better help him connect with his customers.

\$100,000 will be awarded across 7 Gold and 6 Silver Scholarships.

Scholarship Program applications are open to all A grade electricians, 4th year electrical apprentices and data installers (with ACMA open cabling accreditation) right across Australia

You can nominate yourself or, if you are a business owner, you can nominate an eligible applicant working within your business.



Kylie Slade - 2019 Gold Winner

Kylie runs her own electrical contracting business 'Livewire Electrical & Design'. The Scholarship has helped her grow her business and build a future for her daughters. With the funds, Kylie completed the Battery Storage course and can now offer clients a full solar solution. The training has allowed her to look for new opportunities and ensure her business stands out from competitors.



Matt Campbell - 2017 Gold Winner

A long time customer of Middy's, Matt won a Middy's Gold Scholarship Award back in 2017 and as a result made the transition from electrician to small business owner of his new company Accelerate Electrical. Matt then went on to win a 2021 Small Business Award and put the money towards further training and equipment for his new business.

Choose the courses you want to take, Australia wide.

The Scholarship Program enables you to choose any training you want, from any RTO, nationwide.

The Middy's Scholarship Program has been designed to tailor to the individual needs of each recipient according to their career goals and business needs.

Scholarship recipients can select from courses that are relevant to them from any Registered Training Organisation (RTO) in Australia.

Recipients can source and choose their own training at a time and location that suits them, to the value of the awarded package. Training is to be undertaken in the 2024 calendar year.

Move your business or job position forward in our rapidly changing industry environment by choosing what you want to learn to further your career.



7 x \$10,000 Gold & 6 x \$5,000 Silver Training Packages to be Awarded



Create Your Own Training Package

A sample of some of the courses you may choose to undertake...

Lifestyle Control / Automation Courses
Introduction to C-Bus Automation
Introduction Wireless Automation
Philips Dynalite System Design and System Builder
KNX Basic Certification
Introduction to Wiser™ Smart Home Automation
Fibaró Retrofit Home Automation
Industrial Courses
Certificate III in Instrumentation and Control – UEE31220
Certificate IV in Electrical - Instrumentation – UEE40420
Certificate IV in Hazardous Areas – Electrical - UEE42620
High Voltage Switching
Qualified Business Person
Business & Management Courses
Registered Electrical Contractors Business (RECB)
Estimating Electrotechnology Projects
Certificate IV in Project Management Practice
Diploma of Project Management
Data Comms Courses
Practical IP Networks for Contractors
Combined Cabling Endorsement Course SCS-OF-COAX
ACMA Open Registration Cabling Licence
Application of Internet of Things for Electrotechnology Workers Course
Certificate III in Telecommunications Technology ICT30519
Certificate IV in Telecommunications Engineering Technology ICT41219
CCTV & Intercom Courses
Dahua CCTV Certification Program Level 1
Combined Intruder Alarm & CCTV
MATV Courses
Digital Terrestrial Reception Systems
Safety Courses
CPR & Low Voltage Rescue
Solar & Battery Storage Courses
Solar Grid Connect
Solar Battery Storage for Grid Connect System
Energizer Homepower Technical Installation
Electric Vehicle Charging Courses
Electric Vehicle Charging Equipment Intro
Security Courses
NESS Alarm Panel
ECO-System Products introduction
Air Conditioning Courses
Air-conditioning and Heat Pump Systems
Lighting Control Courses
DALI-2 Room Lighting Solution
Quoting & Planning Tools Courses
Overview of EnergyTrust®
Electrical Specialisations Courses
Construction Wiring
Construction Wiring Refresher
Electrical Installation Testing

* Sample courses available through NECA and Middy's training

Message from the Middy's Directors

Never before has it been more important to focus on skills development to keep pace with the opportunities that our ever changing world continues to serve up.

Developing new skills and increasing your knowledge base are essential to provide new services to your customers, and vital to gain a competitive edge in our technologically advancing industry.

We are enormously proud that our Scholarship Program, now in its 15th year, has delivered well over \$1M worth of training to our industry, to over 150 electrical contractors and apprentices.



Middy's is proud to support the continual development and rewarding career paths of our Scholarship recipients, with the freedom of allowing contractors to select and customise their own industry courses, no matter where you are in Australia, from Hobart to Darwin and everywhere in between.

So if you want to be one of this year's 13 recipients all you need to do is complete the online application at middys.com.au/scholarship and tell us why you think you or one of your employees deserves a Middy's Scholarship.

Thank you for getting involved, the best of luck with your application.



Nicholas Middendorp



Anton Middendorp

Apply online, it's easy...

Go to middys.com.au/scholarship and fill in the online form telling us why you or one of your employees deserves a Middy's Training Scholarship.

Applications open 7 August and close 15 September.

See back page for additional entry info and what to include when you apply.



APPLY ONLINE
middys.com.au/scholarship

