

Trade & Trade Services Business Of The Year

Ovens & King Builders

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"QUALITY, integrity, innovation and leadership among our peers."

This is what Oven and King Builders - who took out the 2011 award for Trade and Trade Services Business of the Year - is all about, according to owner Lachie Gales.

A decade ago Lachie and his wife Beth Gales took over the custom building business in the residential market.

Mr Gales said the couple's business is all about energy efficiency, being unique and individual, and "being out of the ordinary".

"We are serious about our environmental impact and we are all about

sustainability and ensuring we recycle our waste," he explained.

Four years ago, the business undertook a restructure and it has gone from strength to strength since.

After putting a strategic plan in place, every part of the business, including staffing has "turned everything around" for the company.

"The staff has really risen to the challenge of the restructure...we gave them more responsibility and they have just excelled. We are just so proud of our team," Mr Gales said.

He believes communication has been a key to the company's overwhelming success.



JUDGE'S COMMENTS

"The judge found it very difficult to separate three companies and in the end looked to significant innovative practices, particularly those which had extensions beyond Wangaratta.

Since committing to a strategic business plan in 2008, Ovens & King Builders have installed a client interactive website and a financial management estimating and cost-tracking software system.

The interactive website allows clients to follow progress with construction, including photos and all costs, including variations.

This website system is currently unique on the Australian market and provides clients, and their architects, with ownership of their construction.

The site allows clients to provide feedback on progress and to request variations as the construction progresses."

The judge would also like to acknowledge the highly commendable achievements of A1 Tyrepower and Quickgas in this category.



TRADE & TRADE SERVICES BUSINESS OF THE YEAR:
Lachie Gales (centre) accepts the award from Andrew Withers and Christine Haddrick.



So gratifying for Business Wangaratta

As the chairman of Business Wangaratta, I am delighted to say this year's awards have been a huge success.

With more individual entries, more categories, and a sell-out crowd in attendance at the Quality Gateway Motel, this year's event surpassed all expectations.

These awards are many things to many people.

For all entrants, it is the opportunity to show how proud they are of their respective businesses. They are striving for excellence in their field and welcome being judged in the hope of taking out one of these prestigious awards.

For the winners, it is vindication of their hard work, or willingness to grow and improve.

Many businesses also use the awards as an opportunity to spend a night with their loyal staff in a formal setting away from the day-to-day pressures of work.

All rolled into one, this event creates a buzz of its own - a night of nights for the business community of Wangaratta.

For our organisation, Business Wangaratta, it is a fantastic forum to deliver on one of our key missions - to help business do business through networking.

On behalf of everyone involved at Business Wangaratta, we say thank-you to those who supported the awards this year, and trust there are even greater things in store for this concept in our vibrant town of Wangaratta.

Also a very warm thank-you to our category sponsors, your support is invaluable.

We were again fortunate to have the backing of The Wangaratta Chronicle as major sponsor - a great supporter of ours, and of Wangaratta in general.

The team at Nolan Media and Events also did another fantastic job in both the lead-up to the event and on the night itself.

To the independent judges - we thank you for undertaking the toughest job of all.

Finally, I urge all Wangaratta residents to support local businesses wherever possible.

If you would like to learn more about Business Wangaratta and its goals, please visit our website www.businesswangaratta.com.au.

- David Lowe, Chairman.



Business Wangaratta Awards 2011, Trade Business of the Year

MBAV Best Sustainable Energy Home 2009 & 2011

The Winning team at Ovens & King Builders!



www.ovensandkingbuilders.com.au

Established in 1988 servicing North East Victoria



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helping business do business through networking