

Winning performance from EP businesses

19/11/2008 2:59:00 PM

Eastern Eyre businesses shone at the regional round of SA Great awards announced in Port Lincoln last week.

EP farmer cooperative FREE Eyre received the Department of Trade and Economic Development award for innovation on Thursday, November 13, 2008.

"We are quite humbled and shocked to receive the award for Innovation on behalf of our members" said Susi Tegen, Managing Director of Eyre Peninsula's FREE Eyre.

"The predominantly primary producer owned group has more than 350 shareholder members with a mandate to develop, incubate and build agribusiness opportunities which not only benefit FREE Eyre and its shareholders but the greater EP community.

"We accept the SA Great award on behalf of them and thank all the FREE Eyre farmers currently sitting on the harvester reaping and those supporting the harvest, who had the belief, foresight, the drive and commitment to take control of their future."

With their joint venture trading and marketing business EP Grain now in operation in Port Lincoln, FREE Eyre is focusing on setting up sheep meat, and carbon and biomass businesses on Eyre Peninsula.

Spencer Gulf ferry operators SeaSA also received an SA Great Award as winner of the SA Water Award for Sustainability.

This is the first year that the sustainability category has been introduced, replacing the science and sustainability category. It rewards environmentally sound practices and initiatives which provide sustainable outcomes for the human and natural environment at a local level.

"Sea SA is absolutely delighted to receive this accolade, in recognition of our environmental policies, innovations and initiatives, especially at a time when climate change is such a pressing issue for us all," Sea SA managing director Stephanie Dawson said.

Sea SA is currently undertaking steps to achieve Green Globe accreditation, the internationally recognized standard for sustainable tourism businesses. This has included the introduction of recycling waste at both the Lucky Bay and Wallaroo terminals and on board the ferry; the use of environmentally-friendly cleaning products at both terminal facilities and on the ferry; and the replacement of light bulbs in the office with energy efficient options.

A commendation for the Small Business section was awarded to Dental on Eyre.

Dental on Eyre provide services to communities in Cleve, Kimba and Wudinna, and looks after the teeth of several hundred children through the school dental scheme.

Other Eyre Peninsula winners included:

The Community Group Award went to the Cummins District Enterprise Committee. A commendation for Community Group was awarded to the Zonta Club of Port Lincoln.

The Individual Award for the region went to Elliston's Karen Burrows. Karen has assisted in activities such as the construction of new toilets in the Lock Hall that will use water collected from the hall roof, she was involved in the drawing up of landscaping plans for the front and side of the Lock Medical Centre, and initiated a Suicide Prevention Program for Eyre Peninsula with the use of key contacts in each council area.

The Cellar Folk Club took out the Arts section.

Keith Daniels Homes won Large Business of the Year.

The Small Business section went to Five Loaves Bakery, Cummins.

The Tourism award went to the Ceduna Foreshore Hotel Motel. This hotel is a community hotel that has undergone a big redevelopment on Ceduna's foreshore.

A commendation for Tourism was awarded to Andrew Wright from Calypso Star Charter.

Streaky Bay's dance group 'Instep Dance' won the Youth category

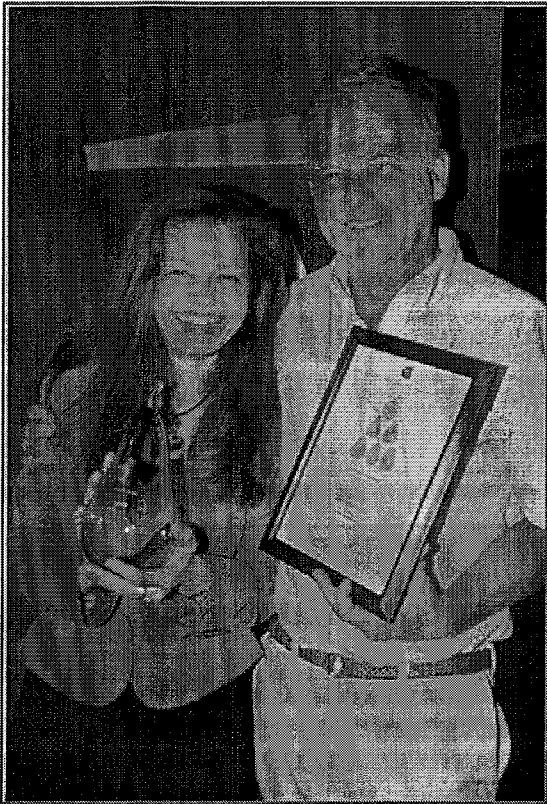
A Youth Commendation was awarded to Mitch Henderson from North Shields.

The Sport award went to the Port Lincoln Gymnastics Club.

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INNOVATIVE...Susi Tegen and Mike Wake, of FREE Eyre, accept the Innovation Award at last week's SA Great awards presentations in Port Lincoln.

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