

GC business remains positive

Image: Aldwyn Altuney, AA Xposed Media



The latest Gold Coast Business Excellence Award winners celebrate ahead of the major annual awards event at Conrad Jupiters on November 22.

By Aldwyn Altuney

The gloom in the economic climate has not impacted entries in this year's Gold Coast Business Excellence Awards (GCBEA).

GCBEA president Ian Cousins said business people on the Gold Coast were still enthusiastic about the awards and were "not allowing negative media hype" to deter them from succeeding in their businesses.

"No doubt reality tells us the economy is tough but there are still many

positive stories of businesses that have adjusted to suit those times," Mr Cousins said. "It's not as if people have stopped spending. Give people a reason to spend and they will. Businesses need to be flexible, redefine their approach to business and the way they look after their customers. You have to do something different in different climates and the businesses that do will survive and survive well."

The October winners, all now in the running for the supreme award, are Aqualuma Underwater Lighting

(Emerging Business), La Rocca Marble and Granite (Family Business), Clancy's Pies (Manufacturing and Construction), Wright Innovation (Mayor's Innovation GC), Zarraffa's Coffee (Retail Wholesale & Distribution), Sanctuary Cove International Boat Show (Tourism Hospitality & Recreation), Unispan Australia (Trades Professions & Services), GCOMM (Information Technology & Multimedia) and Ecosure (Environmental Management).

The first winner of the new annual Mayor's Corporate Social Responsibility Award will be announced at the GCBEA gala event at Conrad Jupiters on November 22. The winning business will receive \$5000 to be passed on to their community partner.

There will also be a new inductee into the Hall of Fame and winner announced for the Bob Scott Encouragement Award.

"It's one of the most positive events in the business calendar that will help people forget that times are tough. It's a night to celebrate," Mr Cousins said.

The 2008 Gold Coast Business Excellence Awards are sponsored by the Gold Coast City Council, Department of Tourism Regional Development and Industry, Griffith University, AusIndustry, Suncorp, MSL and Telstra Gold Coast. Major supporters include Staging Connections, Corrs Chambers Westgarth Lawyers, Surfers Inkspot Printing, AA Xposed Media, SmartSands, Conrad Jupiters and Bond University. www.goldcoastbusinessawards.com.au

2009 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY Sustainable Industries Awards

Is your business a leader in sustainable business practices? Tell us about it.

The EPA is calling for nominations for the 2009 Environmental Protection Agency Sustainable Industries Awards. The Awards recognise Queensland's best and most innovative sustainability practices in business and industry. Categories are:

	Industrial Eco-efficiency Award		Sustainability Partnerships Award
	Corporate Sustainability Award		Sustainability in the Built Environment Award
	Innovation in Sustainable Technologies Award		Rural Sustainability Award
	Resource Industries Sustainability Award		ClimateSmart Leadership Award

Entries close 27 February 2009.
 For more information visit www.epa.qld.gov.au/siawards or call (07) 3225 1524.



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