



**Manning River Times
(Taree)**

Wednesday 6/08/2014

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Manning Gloucester Great Lakes Business Awards 2014

Bruce Cowan Memorial Award for Outstanding Contribution



Finalists

- Doreen Raywood Wilson
- Eddie Loftus
- Graham Brown
- Neil Hannington

Winner - Graham Brown, presented by Bruce's widow Jan. Graham, an accountant in Taree, has been the driving force behind Tidy Up Taree and Change the View Change the Valley, which saw placemaker David Engwicht brought to Taree to inspire change in our CBD. Graham is also chairman and treasurer of Bushland Health Group. Graham said he was "awestruck". "I have been in business in Taree for 31 years and the importance of business in communities like Taree is to give back to the community. It is important to give time, time can make a difference in communities. Taree is on the precipice of big change - change our view, change the valley."



People's Choice

This award received the biggest ever response with 700 nominations.

Finalists

- 2 Love and 2 Honour
- JMK Business Solutions
- Linga Longa Farm
- L J Hooker Old Bar
- Photography by Linda

Winner - Photography by Linda, accepted by Danni Mashman, one of the team, and presented by Jo Mansell, Manning River Times group sales manager. "I'm honoured to work for her," Danni said (of Linda). "She's amazing."



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Excellence in Business Ethics



Finalists

Linga Longa Farm
Manning Support Services
The Resolution Network
Your Heritage Financial Planning

Winner - Your Heritage Financial Planning, accepted by Libby Johnson and Narelle Riley.

Workcover Small Business Work Health and Safety



Finalists

Bourkes Transport Industries
Accommodation Management
Services Gloucester
Life Skills 4 Kids
Midlands Motel Taree

Winner – Bourkes Transport Industries, accepted by Wayne Bourke. "All thanks go to our marvellous staff," he said, adding that Bourkes had been in business 69 years. The award was presented by Lisa Foley from Workcover.



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Excellence in Customer Service



Finalists

Ausmulch
Linga Longa Farm
LJ Hooker Forster
Lumpy's Nursery and Landscape
Yard
Your Heritage Financial Planning

Winner - Linga Longa Farm, accepted by Lauren Newell. Lauren and husband Greg operate the business from their farm at Wingham. Lauren said the farm was proud of its customer service. "Greg tells our customers he knows his product from conception to consumption."

Excellence in Professional Services



Finalists

Banks and Dade Family
Chiropractors
Inspire Life Strategies
Lillypilly Preschool
LJ Hooker Forster
Your Heritage Financial Planning

Winner - Lillypilly Preschool of Forster, accepted by directors Helen and Tim McCabe. Helen said the preschool had a dedicated team. "We put our heart and soul into our preschool."

Excellence in Tourism and Hospitality



Finalists

Bean Bar Cafe
Bon Appetite Cafe
Golf Club Motor Inn Wingham
Lakeside Resort Forster

Winner - Golf Club Motor Inn Wingham, accepted by Paula Schultz. Paula said the motor inn has had "a huge year, a wonderful year." At last year's awards, Paula told the audience her aim was to build her business and bring people to the Manning Valley. "We have 10 coach companies coming between now and the end of the year and most of them are five night stays," she said, gaining applause.

Paula thanked her "wonderful staff" and her mother. "I came from Cairns two years ago and I was blown away by this area," she said.



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Excellence in Small Business



Winner – Logan Leigh Benchtops, accepted by David Embury who said he was "shocked" by the win. David explained that two and a half years ago Logan Leigh introduced bamboo benchtops with sales across Australia. The business has also been working with the University of Newcastle to see the certification of the first bamboo structural beam in Australia.

Logan Leigh Benchtops also won the Excellence in Environmental Sustainability award. David and wife Gay started the business 32 years ago. He praised his "brilliant staff - I accept this award on behalf of them."

Finalists

Accommodation Management
Services Gloucester
Eddie's Fresh Chickens
Life Skills 4 Kids
L J Hooker Forster
Logan Leigh Benchtops
Manning Driving School



Highly commended - Eddie's Fresh Chickens, accepted by Eddie Loftus.



Highly commended - Manning Driving School, accepted by Penny Annetts.

Business Leader

Finalists

Eddie's Fresh Chickens
JMK Business Solutions
The Resolution Network



Winner - The Resolution Network, accepted by Megan Lewis and Rosemary Lembke.

Photographs from the 2014 business awards are featured on the Manning River Times website



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Excellence in Innovation



Winner – Steber International, accepted by Nick Heiniger and Wendy Dreyer.

Highly commended - The Resolution Network, represented by Rosemary Lembke, Megan Lewis and Richard O'Brien, presented by Aidan Banham of Southern Cross Austereo (right).





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Mixing business with pleasure



Peter Wilson, Doreen Rayward Wilson, Jan and Alf Irvine, Chris and Alex Matuszny, Joy and John Gillogly. Doreen Rayward Wilson was nominated for the Bruce Cowan memorial award by the Matusznys.



Ilan Turner, general manager of Saxby's Soft Drinks, gave a presentation covering the company's 150 year history. The business was founded by George Saxby in 1864 and now employs more than 50 staff, including the fifth generation of the Saxby family. Mr Batchelor said the company had many long-serving staff members including three with 40-plus years.



Left: Helen Knight from Up In Annies Room.



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Excellence in Health and Wellbeing



Winner - Life Skills for Kids, Debbie Hopper. Debbie couldn't attend Friday night's awards ceremony but sent her thanks via text message.



Finalists

Banks and Dade Family
Chiropractors (Great Lakes)
Life Skills 4 Kids
Taree Orthodontics

Highly commended – Taree
Orthodontics, accepted by Denise
Buckley.

Excellence in Environmental Sustainability

Finalists

Lillypilly Preschool
Logan Leigh Benchtops



Winner – Logan Leigh
Benchtops, accepted by David
Embury. David and wife Gay
started the business 32 years
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Master of ceremonies was professional performer, Nick Cain, assisted by his partner Rochelle.



Elaine Turner from the Wingham Chronicle, Joanne Mansell and Kelly Hammond from the Manning River Times.



Narelle and Eddie Loftus with awards for Eddie's Fresh Chickens. Eddie was also nominated for the Bruce Cowan memorial award.



Above: Anna Bell, Tracey Foley and Erryn Metcalf.
Right: Cristen and Kyle Brown.



Greater Taree City mayor Paul Hogan and wife Pattie. Several councillors and the general manager Gerard José attended the business awards.

