

Diversity a hallmark of growing industry

DIVERSITY and ingenuity were celebrated at the 6th annual Central Coast Manufacturers' Association Innovation Awards at Terrigal's Crowne Plaza on Saturday night.

Greg Skinner, a regional manager for EnergyAustralia (the diamond sponsors of the event), said the diversity of this year's award nominees reflected the growing maturity of the manufacturing sector on the Coast.

"What I like about these awards is the

diversity it involves," Mr Skinner said.

"The contribution manufacturers make to the community is to be commended."

Mr Skinner said EnergyAustralia (EA) realised that access to key infrastructure was critical to the continued growth and success of manufacturing on the Central Coast.

For that reason EA was implementing a \$400 million capital expenditure program on the Coast to 2012.

"We hope to have a much more reliable service for all of our customers," he said.

"The Central Coast does present its challenges for EA, but we're trying to get the best bang for our buck."

Mr Skinner commended the contribution the local manufacturing industry made to the Central Coast.

"There's no losers when we're doing our bit for the community and the economy," he said.

THE WINNERS

WINNERS of the 6th annual Central Coast Manufacturers' Association Innovation Awards, presented at Crowne Plaza., Terrigal, on Saturday night.–

- Category 1: Sharpe Brothers, Gosford.
These leaders in the asphalt industry were recognised for their award-winning Sidewinder technology which provides fast and cost-effective road edge repair.
- Category 2: Sulo MGB Australia, Somersby.
Awarded for their Sulo Organics Collection System, or SOCS bin, for the collection of household organic waste.
- Category 3: Leda-Vannaclip, Chittaway Bay.
Manufacturers of perimeter security products such as retractable bollards and security gates.
- Category 4: E-Bisprint Pty Ltd, Tuggerah.
Developers of an online application to automatically generate press-ready artwork for publication.
- Category 5: Pacific Labels, North Wyong.
Awarded for its range of technical innovations aimed at providing labelling solutions throughout Australia.
- Category 6: ADC Krone, Berkeley Vale.
An international manufacturer of telecommunications equipment, and the holder of hundreds of patents in the field.

The award process

The CCMA board of directors sought nominations from local manufacturing firms. Each nominated firm was inspected by the board who formed a list of finalists, from which six winners were selected.

The CCMA board of directors comprises president John Harris, chief executive officer Ray Atkinson, and directors Barry McDonald, Edgar Adams and David Watts.



AWARDED: Vienna Spence of Sulo MGB Australia accepts an award from *The Sun Weekly's* general manager Jason King (left) as host James Moody looks on.



POWER UP: Greg Skinner of EnergyAustralia outlines his company's commitment to the Coast.

– Pictures by Phillip Iearne