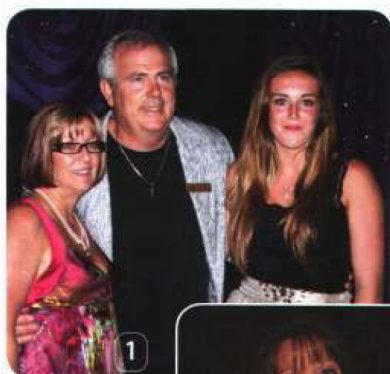


Central Coast businesses shine



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- 1 2009 Gosford City Citizen of the Year – Ken Duncan, with wife Pam and daughter Jessica.
- 2 Winner of the Community Event category – The Brisbane Water Oyster Festival, represented by Sue Fowler.
- 3 Winner of the Business category – Sharpe Bros [Michael and Richard Sharpe].

A well known local and international photographer, a Central Coast construction company, and a major annual event were the worthy recipients of Australia Day Awards last month.

Gosford City resident and NSW Business Chamber member Ken Duncan received the city's highest civic award, the Gosford City's Citizen of the Year. He was also a recipient of an OAM in the Queen's Honours List.

Ken's award was about celebrating the contributions he has given to his art and the local community. He effectively put the Central Coast artistically on the map in 1993 when he published *From Forest to Sea*, a collection of images exclusively shot on the Central Coast.

His newly opened gallery at Erina Heights has also become a major tourist icon for the Central Coast, attracting visitors from all corners of the globe to the region, helping to stimulate the local economy and create jobs.

Ken ensures that he gives back to the community in many ways with his diligent work with up and coming photographers to his support of Indigenous Australians and children who are disadvantaged. He is also an ongoing supporter of World Vision with profits from the sales of his Giant Panographs donated to World Vision, generating awareness for Indigenous Help Projects.

In the business arena, NSW Business Chamber member, the Sharpe Bros (who featured as a business profile in the February/March 2008 edition of Business

Connect magazine) were awarded for their involvement with local community charities and chambers of commerce across the Central Coast as well as their use of environmentally beneficial technologies which has led to the employment of local people.

The Brisbane Water Oyster Festival, a member of the Peninsular Chamber of Commerce (an affiliate of NSW Business Chamber) received the Community Event award.

In its ninth year of operation the festival attracts thousands of families, businesses and local charities with its organisation of the Oyster Queen entries and coordination of the fundraising and the Oyster Ball. The event not only raises funds for the Cancer Council, it also injects money into the local community.

NSW Business Chamber's, regional manager for the Central Coast, Mary Doherty said the awards were a celebration of the achievements of local residents, business owners and organisations.

"Given the tough times many people are experiencing it's great to see individuals and groups knuckle down and getting on with sustaining their business growth, and generating incomes, wealth and more importantly jobs.

"Many of these business owners are also giving back into the community.

"The Central Coast is a beacon to other regions within NSW and I congratulate all the nominees and winners in this year's Australia Day awards."