



*Ben Ali Ong (second from left) with the Sharpe Brothers.*

## Sharpe Bros continues support for young artists

**Awards for young artists aged 18 to 30 years were presented at the “Emerging” exhibition at Gosford Regional Gallery prior to Easter.**

Gallery Curator, Tim Braham said the competition was designed to support and promote the work of young artists in New South Wales who find that opportunities to gain wide scale exposure in a mainstream setting are few and far between.

The Friends of the Gallery Emerging Artists’ prize went to Edward Duncan from Kempsey.

The event was sponsored again this year by Gosford road maintenance company, Sharpe Bros, whose \$2,000 prize went to Sydney photographic artist Ben Ali Ong, for a work the judge found to be “fresh and intriguing”.

In presenting the prize to Ben Ali Ong, Joint Managing Director of Sharpe Bros, Michael Sharpe said, “As a company in a world of grey and black, with bitumen,

asphalt and roads as our canvas, we are delighted to be involved with the art world which brings so much colour into our lives.

“We are very proud to share our success with our local community and to be involved with this award, which provides Australian artists with greater opportunities for career development and exposure for their work,” said Mr Sharpe.

While donations are down across the globe as the financial crisis takes its toll, Mr Sharpe said the company – a family-run civil contracting and road maintenance group – had pledged to continue its support of the Gosford Regional Gallery with sponsorship of several art prizes until 2012.

“It is important that successful businesses continue to support local community organisations which will start to feel the pinch as sponsorship dollars dry up during difficult economic times,” he said.