

Avko the big winners at business awards

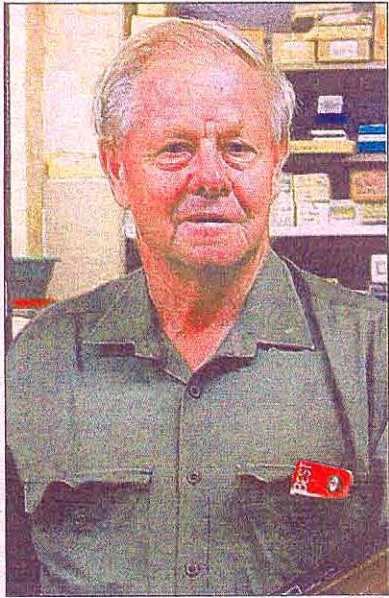
By Alana Buckley-Carr

AVKO Mining and Engineering were the big winners at last night's Goldfields Business Awards.

Avko won several categories, including Business of the Year and business with 30 or more employees.

Co-owner Paul Hurley was named business person of the year.

A record number of more than 300 people attended the annual presentation dinner at the WMC Graduates Hall last night.



Citizen of the Year Merv Neve

Kalgoorlie-Boulder Chamber of Commerce and Industry president Kitty Prodonovich said the standard of businesses which applied for the awards was exceptional.

She said 51 nominations were received for 13 categories.

Ms Prodonovich was one of the judges of the awards.

"The quality of the nominees was exceptional and everyone in their own right is a winner," Ms Prodonovich said.

She said the awards was one of the pinnacle events of the Goldfields business community, with numerous award winners not being chamber members, including Avko.

"(Avko owners) Coralie and Paul (Hurley) have really put everything on the line for this business," Ms Prodonovich said.

"They really are a business to aspire to."

She said the couple had a good partnership and ran a great business together while raising four children.

The Young Achiever of the Year award was won by Ahead of Time co-owner Annemarie Ryan while colleague Julie Ring was named Apprentice of the Year.

"Annemarie is an inspiration to other young people," Ms Prodonovich said.

"Speaking as a previous winner of the category, she is an example that if you want something bad enough you can work to get there."

The inaugural winner of the Community Event of the Year was the 2004 State Touch Championships.

Ms Prodonovich applauded the initiative to link every visiting team to the region with a local resident who could answer their questions and help them with anything they needed.

WINNERS

Business with 1 to 5 employees
RAG Auto Electrical

Business with 6 to 10 employees
Echo

Business with 11 to 29 employees
Formation

Business with 30+ employee
Avko Mining and Drilling

Business of the Year
Avko Mining and Drilling

Business Person Of The Year
Paul Hurley - Avko Mining and Drilling

Young Achiever of the Year
Annemarie Ryan - Ahead of Time

Tourism Award
Kalgoorlie Consolidated Gold Mines

Event of the Year
2004 State Touch Championships

Encouragement Award
House of Purple Lily

Employers Supporting People with Disabilities
Goldfields Toyota

Apprentice of the Year
Julie Ring - Ahead of Time

Trainee of the Year
Jailin Sambo - Placer Dome Asia Pacific

Citizen of the Year
Merv Neve

AVKO MINING

AVKO Mining is proud to be associated with Highlands Pacific Limited and the Kainantu Mine Site development in PNG

One of the longest completed Alimak Raises in Australasia

Length 303 metres

70 Degree raise

Hours worked 3,855

LTI's - 0

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