

# AVKO MINING

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Onwards and upwards: Avko Mining has won another award, just months after purchasing a Queensland company. Owners Paul (front, with silver bar and award) and Coralie (far right) Hurley celebrated with some of their staff.

## Busy half-year ends on winning note

MINING services company Avko Mining has capped off a busy half-year with a win at the Australian Mining Prospect Awards.

The company, which doubled its staff and operations in July, won Contractor of the Year at an awards ceremony in Perth last month.

"We were really thrilled when we saw the competition we were up against - Byrnes, Thiess and Macmahon," Avko co-owner Coralie Hurley said.

"This throws us out there now, from a medium-sized company, to play with the

big guys." Started by Coralie and her husband Paul in 1994, Avko had already begun expanding their horizons before their contract manager Steve Durkin entered them in the awards.

Not known to sit in their comfort zone for too long, the Hurleys purchased Gympie-based company Ian Kidd Mining four months ago, catapulting them immediately into the Papua New Guinea market.

"We are now working in PNG and will operate all over Australia," Mrs Hurley said.

"These are exciting times for everybody and also overwhelming.

"But we have an amazing team, who are all keen to throw in their ideas."

Avko Mining won the 2004 Goldfields Business of the Year award and Mr Hurley was honoured as 2004 Goldfields Businessman of the Year.

The Australian Mining Prospect Awards also honoured AngloGold Ashanti Sunrise Dam mine manager Graham Ehm.

Mr Ehm was highly commended in the Mine Manager of the Year category.

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