

# night & day

Events, people and gossip

## National win for AVKO

THEY'VE done it again.

Capping off a fantastic year of recognition for its efforts to build a Kalgoorlie-based business into a nationwide force, AVKO Mining was this weekend awarded the National Regional Award in the 2007 Telstra Business Awards.

On the phone from Sydney, managing director Paul Hurley said receiving the award in front of about 500 guests on Friday night at an event hosted by Roye McManus had been "excellent" and admitted the partying had continued late into the night.

He said the company had managed to squeeze eleven people from branches in WA, Queensland and Victoria on to their table to share in the experience.

"Everyone had a great time," Mr Hurley said.

"The calibre of some of the people and businesses there was

quite inspiring – there was a lot of networking with different companies.

"Everyone sort of had similar issues in business across the board – it was just interesting that it doesn't matter what you're in, it's always the same issues that come up."

As usual, Mr Hurley was quick to point out it was the people working for the company, its suppliers and supporters who had all contributed to its growth and success.

The underground mining specialists won the prestigious title of 2007 Telstra Western Australian Business of the Year last month after first winning the category for businesses with 50 to 100 employees.

Established 13 years ago by Mr Hurley, the company now has 75 employees around Australia and specialises in all aspects of

underground mining, including shaft sinking, bulk sample excavations and ground support.

As well as operations in WA the company has recently expanded its operations to Queensland, Victoria and NSW, has excavated a significant ore pass in Papua New Guinea and is now exploring its options in New Zealand.

AVKO Mining also provides labour and machinery hire services to mine sites around Australia, and encourages hands-on training of student engineers, having introduced a work experience training program for students to enhance their skills in underground mining.

Telstra Business Group managing director Deena Shiff said Telstra was committed to supporting the growth and development of small business through the awards.

PHILLIPA PRIOR



**Winning streak: Paul and Coralie Hurley (centre and right) of AVKO Mining with Telstra Group Managing Director, Telstra Business, and Telstra Business Awards Ambassador, Deena Shiff (left).**