

# Best builders nail it despite tough times

## AND THE WINNERS ARE...

- President's Award for affordability, quality of workmanship and innovation – PJ Burns Builder
- Apprentice of the Year – Christopher Weaver
- Women in Building Award – Diana Henshall
- Rising Star Award – Samantha Sheppard

By NIKITA LEE

FINANCIAL crisis – where? Master Builders Sunshine Coast regional manager Stephen Robinson had to ask himself that question when he counted double the number of entries for this year's awards.

Mr Robinson said he initially had concerns about whether Coast builders would have houses to enter after the troubling financial year.

That was before he noticed a 50% increase in entries for last night's annual awards.

"I think it's a real testament to the resiliency of our industry," he said.

"I was thinking that because there has been some tough times, they may not either have the product to enter into the awards or they may not consider putting an entry in because of economic circumstances.

"We were absolutely thrilled to have so many entries, and so many quality entries, too."

The Sunshine Coast Region Housing and Construction Awards presentation was held last night to recognise the highest calibre of building in the region.

Mr Robinson said rather than feel deflated by the global economic troubles, Coast builders had seized the opportunity to promote their



**TOP OF THE CLASS: Braeden Constructions' House of the Year – the quintessential beach home, plus a reflection pond and island deck.**

PHOTOS: CONTRIBUTED

high-quality work through each award category.

"You have two choices – you can sit there and just hope things will turn around, or you can take some productive measures to get out there and promote yourself," he said.

Braeden Constructions won the House of the Year with a quintessential beach

home, complete with a reflection pond and island deck and even a purpose-built yoga room. The house also won in the Individual Home over \$2 million category.

Mr Robinson said the house was of innovative design with "fantastic features". These included an outdoor entertaining area and wet-edge pool over-

looking the ocean.

RCQ Pty Ltd was honoured with the Project of the Year award, as well as the Tourism and Hospitality Facilities \$8 million-\$30 million category for Plantations Rainbow Beach.

Regional winners will go on to be judged in the state finals, with winners announced in October.



Check out more than 180 properties in Property Week

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Mountain king bus

AN additional bus service has been arranged to cater for spectators and competitors at the annual King of the Mountain competition in Pomona next Sunday. The late-afternoon service will utilise the 632 trial bus route, which connects the Coast and Hinterland. "The late service we've added departs Pomona at 4.45pm just after the presentations have finished, meaning people won't have to wait until the normally scheduled 6.30pm bus arrives," TravelSmart Project Officer Kari Porter said. "We're delighted to partner the King of the Mountain event, showing that bus travel can be the easier solution. Hopefully, the extra service, cheap travel and no parking hassles should make the bus a great option."

### Roadworks finished

MAIN Roads has finished work on the upgrade of the Mooloolaba Road roundabout at Dixon Road. Queensland Main Roads minister Craig Wallace said the trip between Buderim and Sippy Downs would now be quicker. Mr Wallace said 45 people were employed during the project, which started in October, last year. "More than 14,000 vehicles use this intersection daily, with the number expected to grow by 3% during the next five years," Mr Wallace said. "The new dual-lane roundabout will improve safety and traffic movements and give greater flexibility to cater for changes in future traffic demands."

### Protest shooting

AUSTRALIANS should be "marching the streets" to protest about the shooting death of a mine employee in Indonesia's Papua province, a former federal Liberal leader says. John Hewson has criticised the lack of media coverage of Drew Grant, 29, of Melbourne, who was shot dead last weekend. – AAP

New release brand new 'house & land' from \$457,900\*



**Ready to move into now!** If you've always dreamed of living the resort lifestyle, Villa World Homes can deliver that right now at Kingsmill in Peregian Springs with its own golf course, parklands, dining and shopping!

A range of 3 & 4 bedroom designs are available featuring • Open plan living with quality carpets and tiling • A designer kitchen with stone benchtops • Stylish outdoor entertaining areas • Fully landscaped gardens

**Fully Furnished Display open 10am – 5pm Thurs – Tues, Kingsmill Circuit** (off Peregian Springs Dr), Peregian Springs. 2008 Sunshine Coast UBD Map 28 P14

Phone Michelle Gibson 1800 669 319



Whilst care has been taken in the preparation of this advertisement, the particulars are not to be construed as containing any representation of the facts upon which any interested party is entitled to rely. All interested parties should make their own enquiries. Information contained is correct as at the time of publication. \*Prices correct at time of printing. Photography is indicative of finished homes only. Homes depicted here are completed 'like designs', not the actual lot for sale.

