

## Business champions



Gold Coast Business Excellence Awards winners for July celebrate.

By Aldwyn Altuney

The Gold Coast Business Excellence Awards (GCBEA) July and August 2008 winners have been announced and judges continue to be impressed by the quality and number of entries so far this year.

GCBEA president Ian Cousins praised the calibre and diversity of the July and August winners.

"Each and every one of them is doing exceptional things on the local, interstate and international stages," Mr Cousins said. "It's something the whole of the Gold Coast should be proud of, exposing these success stories is why we're here."

The July winners were announced at Griffith University in Southport on July 23. The winners, all now in the running for the supreme award, are

Roam Interactive (Emerging Business), Gold Coast City Marina (Family Business), CNE Constructions (Manufacturing & Construction), Sea Pen (Mayor's Innovation GC), Gaby Cool Transport (Retail Wholesale & Distribution), Our Spirit (Tourism Hospitality & Recreation), SSKB Body Corporate Management (Trades Professions & Services), Allotz.com Limited (Information Technology & Multimedia) and Neweys Drive Thru Dry Cleaners (Environmental Management).

August winners were: Health Protect International (Emerging Business), Holliday Group (Family Business), Durahub Bearing Protectors (Manufacturing), Renegade Motors International (Mayor's Innovation), Tamborine Mountain Distillery (Retail), Gold Coast Convention & Exhibition Centre (Tourism), Business News Publications (Services), MaxSoft (Information Technology & Multimedia) and EcoVision Solutions (Environmental Management).

[www.goldcoastbusinessawards.com.au](http://www.goldcoastbusinessawards.com.au) ■

## South African investors pan for gold

Western Australia may have traditionally been the preferred haven for cashed-up South African investors, but lately their attention has shifted to commercial property opportunities in South East Queensland – especially the Gold Coast.

It is a trend that caught the attention of Gold Coast property group, MC Commercial. To gauge the level of interest and how best to cater for it, MC Commercial recently undertook a fact-finding visit to the major South African cities, joining leading Gold Coast-based migration group Australian Migration Lawyers – part of Michael Sing's MSL Legal Solutions group – in participating in an expo and roadshow on Australian migration and investment opportunities.

MC Commercial business development manager, Cheryl Callanan said most of the prospects she encountered there spoke of their concerns about South Africa's political and economic stability.

"This feedback supports the recent survey by Synovate, a global market

research company, that found that 20 percent of South Africans were planning to move to another country or were seriously considering it," Ms Callanan said.

"Many young, ambitious and highly skilled people are reluctant to start a career as well as a family in South Africa."

Ms Callanan said South Africa is the sixth most important source of migration to Australia – with most seeking Perth because of proximity – in 2006-7 South Africans formed 4.1 percent of migrants to Queensland.

In addition, Australia recently increased the number of places allocated for skilled migrants by 31,000 for the 2008-09 year for a total of 133,500 places – a 30 percent increase over the previous year.

"However, there are concerns about Perth's housing prices which are now on par with those of Sydney and unlikely to grow for some time. Also, many feel that Western Australia's prosperity is over-reliant on the minerals boom and thus vulnerable to any fall-off in demand from China,"



Australian Migration Lawyers see GC's strong appeal for skilled South Africans.

said Ms Callanan.

"By contrast, South East Queensland's impressive growth has a much broader base.

Ms Callanan hopes to further assist in relocation issues such as visas and jobs through a joint venture between MC Commercial and AML-Australian Migration Lawyers.

[www.migrationlawyers.com.au](http://www.migrationlawyers.com.au)  
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