

# Award could be your business's cup of tea

by Shannon Willoughby  
business reporter

KENTON Campbell's coffee chain, Zaraffas, has had the 'stamp of approval'.

Last year, the business won the Gold Coast Business Excellence Awards.

"I felt like, after working on the Gold Coast in the small business industry for so many years, I had finally arrived," he said. "It was a stamp of approval."

Mr Kenton, who took home the prestigious award last year, this week encouraged other businesses to enter.

Speaking at the launch of the awards, the American-born businessman said nominating for the award gave the company greater awareness of the company's achievements.

"You really have to look at the things you have done, not the things you are going to do," he said.

Mr Campbell also said winning the award boosted his staff and franchisee-owners' belief in the company.

"They now know they are working on the right team," he said.

Gold Coast Business Excellence Awards president Ian Cousins said the awards provided companies with the opportunity to showcase themselves.

"The competition seeks companies which have a great culture, success and growth, and looks at how they fit into the Gold Coast," said Mr Cousins.

He said, despite many listed companies being hammered by the global credit crunch, there were many small businesses that continued to thrive.

"The Gold Coast is very resilient and while there is tightening in some sectors across the board, particularly surrounding some public companies, there is the right mix of businesses here to survive," he said.



Gold Coast Business Excellence Awards president Ian Cousins (left) and last year's winner Kenton Campbell



Cherrill McKay, Steve Sammes and Barry Jenkins

Mr Cousins said the awards, which are broken down into eight categories judged over six months, attracted hundreds of entries.

"The emerging market is IT and we are finding there are many businesses across this sector entering, but we still have many traditional-style businesses nominate."

He said this year the Gold

Coast City Council had backed a new award, the Excellence in Environmental Practices awards.

Like the main categories, a winner will be announced monthly and in November an overall winner will be revealed.

"The Gold Coast City Council has been very supportive in supporting businesses," said Mr Cousins.



Rachael Campbell and Maria Johnsen



Belinda Davidson and Madeline Coates



Richard Holt and Jennifer Davidson



Suzy and Jim Kinsel



Melissa Wood and Vicky Leary