



GLADSTONE HONOURS Local company wins four categories and House of Year

Builder blitzes HIA gongs

Lot of hard work by many people: boss

NICKY MOFFAT
Business

BUILDING company Gladstone Coastal Homes has blitzed the HIA Central Queensland Awards, winning four categories and taking out the coveted overall Home of the Year award.

Owner and builder Craig Price said he was overwhelmed at the news, and very proud of his team, including subcontractors and building suppliers who he said were integral to the home-making process.

"It was a lot of hard work by a lot of people," he said.

The Kirkwood home won best bathroom design, best custom-built home in the \$400,000 to \$500,000 range, as well as overall best custom-built home. The garden is an integral feature of the award-winning home.

"I've always loved to bring the outside in," he said.

"I've always liked to be able to look outside the house from inside.

"Everyone who's come though it has loved it, and now the judges too. It's a

massive sense of pride we all have now."

A builder of 38 years experience, Mr Price said the design of the winning entry had evolved over time.

"It started with a simple design we put together and we slowly worked on it and advanced it until it is what it is today," he said.

"It's very tastefully decorated, and no matter where you walk you can see outside." HIA regional manager Mick McGeown said it had been a tough year in the building game, but he was pleasantly surprised with the number of homes put up for awards.

"Considering the conditions and economic factors, the responses were good," Mr McGeown said.

Mr McGeown said the night was a perfect showcase for builders from Bowen to Gladstone.

"The quality was excellent overall," he said.

"The whole process was a real positive for the building industry."

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PROUD MOMENT: Patricia Gibbison and Lionel Lueilel accepted the Home of the Year Award on behalf of Gladstone Coastal Homes. PHOTO: DAILY MERCURY

\$600 fine for drug charge

EBONY BATTERSBY
Magistrates court

CRYSTAL Page was in muddy water on September 9 when she faced two drug charges in the Gladstone Magistrates Court.

The defendant's home in Mirrin St was the location of a search warrant executed by police on September 4.

The search uncovered several home made utensils used for the ingestion of cannabis, as well as 17 cannabis seeds found on top of her bedroom dresser.

Thirty-nine-year-old Page entered an early plea of guilty for both charges, saying she used cannabis to "relax".

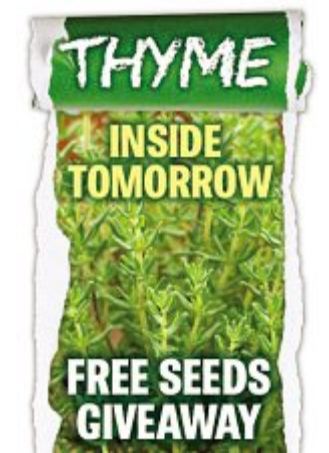
Magistrate Penelope Hay recorded a conviction and fined Page \$600.

Holiday care places

CHILD care provider Camp Australia is urging Gladstone families to book now for school holiday care.

It will be hosted by Gladstone Central State School, but places are limited.

Go to www.campaustralia.com.au.



Servicemen still suffering after traumatic events

ANDREW BACKHOUSE
Community

RETIRED Gladstone servicemen are suffering the effects of post-traumatic stress disorder, as RSL president Russell Tidd knows too well.

"There's quite a few of us suffering from PTSD, and I'm one of them," he said.

Following the article Veteran Eddie combats demons of Afghanistan, The Observer was contacted by other residents who are suffering from

PTSD. A South Gladstone resident who spent 18 years in the New Zealand Defence Force fighting in Iraq, East Timor and DRC Congo said he still suffered night terrors.

"If you've had a stressful week it appears. We bottle it

up," he said.

Mr Tidd said he lived with the consequences every day after an incident during the Tet Offensive left him struggling to be in large crowds.

Mr Tidd said the RSL's drop-in centre was there to

help people deal with the issue.

"We try to encourage people to come in to talk about their issues, that's what we're all about," he said.

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