

It's their business to achieve

SUE OSBORNE

A bumper field attended the Western Sydney Industry Awards finalists presentation at the Joan Sutherland Performing Arts Centre, Penrith on Friday.

The annual awards, organised by the State Western Sydney Department, recognise excellence in business from companies as far apart as Lidcombe to the Blue Mountains.

There are six categories: Global Excellence, Excellence in Innovation; Excellence in Business Practice, Regional Excellence, Entrepreneur of the Year and a new Ministers' Award in 2007.

The awards are sponsored by Transurban, Cumberland Newspapers and others including nine councils.

"This year we saw tougher competition than ever before and many new faces with almost 60 per cent of entrants new to the awards program," Western Sydney Minister Diane Beamer said.

"It's no small achievement to be a finalist – the judging is vigorous.

"All of these diverse businesses demonstrate the depth of talent among Western Sydney's business community.

"They are competing and making home runs on a global scale and a great many are also giving back to the community with employment and social programs."

Greater Western Sydney Econ-



Western Sydney Minister Diane Beamer congratulates finalists from Penrith (above), the Blue Mountains (top right) and the Hawkesbury (right).

omic Development Development Board chairman and Blacktown Councillor Alan Pendleton said the awards provided business with a chance to "re-assess strategic direction; measure business success; check business strategies and to take a look at each company's systems and processes".

Ms Beamer said finalists such as O-I Sydney employed 376 people and operated 24 hours a day to meet demand for its glass con-

tainers used in the beer, food and soft drink and spirit industries.

"Club Marconi is developing and running the Youth Driver Safety program to educate and train young drivers," she said.

"One quarter of NSW's economic value is generated in Western Sydney so it is important that we encourage, promote and reward businesses that are leading the way."

■ Finalists from Penrith were:

Accoustica, Penrith – Excellence in Innovation

ASP Healthcare, St Marys – Excellence in Innovation/ Global Excellence

Lindsay Piemaking Equipment, Emu Plains – Regional Excellence, Entrepreneur of the Year

O-I Sydney, Penrith – Excellence in Business Practice, Excellence in Innovation.

■ Hawkesbury finalists were: Loxley on Bellbird, Kurrajong

Excellence in Business Practice, Regional Excellence.

Savvy Australia and New Zealand, Windsor – Regional Excellence

■ Blue Mountains finalists were:

Aussie Made Software, Blaxland – Regional Excellence

Clearwater Technology, Leura – Regional Excellence.