



SMALL BUSINESSES AWARDED FOR EXCELLENCE

THE 2005 Australia Post NSW/ACT Small Business Awards were presented at a Gala Dinner held at the Sofitel Wentworth Sydney on 15 October 2005.

MC Peter Berner, introduced Mark Warren, Leonie Eaton and David McGuigan from Australia Post and sponsors Scott Lorson (Optus), Elia Eliopoulou (NRMA Business Insurance) as well as Peter Switzer and the Hon David Campbell MP, NSW Minister for Small Business, to announce the Awards. A video appearance by NSW Premier Morris Iemma was a highlight of what proved to be an evening to remember.

A special *Judges Commendation* was awarded to a business that stood out from the rest for its philanthropic activities. Seven other awards were presented to the winners in the following categories;

Business Growth & Management, Marketing, Import and Export, Technology, Customer Service, Your Choice and Getting Started.

From a shared prize pool of \$290,000 in cash and prizes, finalists received a promotional pack valued at \$9,000; the seven category winners received a cash prize of \$5,000 each, the Judges Commendation winner received \$3,000 cash, with overall winner receiving an additional \$15,000 cash.

The annual Awards were sponsored by NRMA Business Insurance and Optus and supported by the NSW Department of State and Regional Development and the NSW State Chamber of Commerce, and are Australia Post's way of recognising excellence in small business and the vital role they play in their local communities.

BUSINESS GROWTH AND MANAGEMENT – SPONSORED BY EXPRESS POST AND THE 2005 AUSTRALIA POST NSW/ACT SMALL BUSINESS OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNER

Young Sparkies Take Out Top Honours



PLATINUM Electrical Contractors was named the awards 2005 Australia Post NSW/ACT Small Business of the Year after winning the *Business Growth and Management* category, which recognises businesses that demonstrate strategies to achieve outstanding growth, combined with effective management practices.

Managing Director Joshua Nicholls said, "I am totally blown away. To win an award of this calibre, up against so many amazing businesses, is unbelievable. I thank my team from the bottom of my heart. It really boosts my confidence and belief in myself as a leader to have this recognition."

"Thanks to Australia Post and sponsors NRMA Business Insurance, Optus, NSW Department of State and Regional Development and the NSW Chamber of Commerce for the recognition they give small businesses, acknowledging their hard work and dedication."

Platinum Electrical Contractors was started by the then 22-year-old, Joshua Nicholls, in 2001. Now three and a half years later, it has 22 staff, with four more joining the team in November 2005.

Platinum Electrical Contractors operates throughout Sydney and specialises in electrical maintenance, installations and break-down repairs in the industrial and commercial markets.

Platinum Electrical Contractors has experienced rapid growth and attributes this to its customer service philosophy of consistent delivery of professionalism, attention to detail and striving for excellence in all areas of the business.

By adhering to this philosophy, Platinum Electrical Contractors has experienced a revenue growth of 789% with a turnover in excess of \$2,000,000.

Guided by Joshua Nicholls' entrepreneurial, fresh and energetic approach to business, Platinum Electrical Contractors is implementing cutting-edge technology to further its point of difference and enhance growth.

Before the end of 2005, Platinum Electrical Contractors will be a completely web-based company, with its road crew equipped with PDA's live on line, so that customers will have even more control of the service process, as it will be totally interactive.



(Top) Front row: Platinum Electrical Managing Director Joshua Nicholls and wife Alaina winners of the Business Growth and Management category and 2005 Australia Post NSW/ACT Small Business of the Year Second Row: NSW Minister for Small Business the Hon David Campbell, Australia Post Retail Manager NSW/ACT and sponsor Optus Managing Director, Small and Medium Business Scott Lorson Top row: sponsor NRMA Business Insurance Australia Group Marketing Manager Elia Eliopoulou, Australia Post Customer Segments Manager Marketing Department NSW/ACT David McGuigan and Australia Post Commercial Manager NSW/ACT Mark Warren (Left) The Platinum Electrical Contractors team receiving the Small Business of the Year trophy from NSW Minister for Small Business the Hon David Campbell MP and Mark Warren Australia Post Commercial Manager NSW/ACT