



WINNERS ARE GRINNERS:
Olympic and Commonwealth Games medal-winning swimmer Nicole Livingstone, right, presents Sally and Mick Devlin of Braeden Constructions with their national building awards in Canberra

NOOSA BUILDER BRINGS BACK GOLD

Sunshine Coast builder wins National Residential Master Builder of the Year

IN the imposing expanses of The Great Hall at Parliament House, Canberra, Noosa-based builder Braeden Constructions was awarded National House of the Year over \$2million category, for a home built on the slopes of Cooroy Mountain in the Noosa hinterland.

It was a very proud moment for Mick and Sally Devlin of Braeden Constructions and a huge recognition of the quality of workmanship, value for money, outstanding design and scope of the magnificent home.

"It is a credit to all the tradesmen and professionals who worked on the home, the majority coming from the Sunshine Coast," said Mick. "There were some 5000 entrants into the National Master Builders Association Awards this year. It goes to prove that Sunshine Coast trades are amongst the best in Australia."

The highlight of the night was the announcement of the National Residential Master Builder of the Year for 2010. After introducing the finalists from each state, Braeden Constructions was named the winner for 2010. It is the first time a Sunshine Coast

builder has won the prestigious award. The home was designed by SBT designs of Doonan.

In the top category we are pretty much up against the House of the Year from each state.

As each state's Master Builders Association is trying to come out on top, Mick Devlin said it becomes State of Origin for housing.

"So as winner of Queensland House of the Year, we basically don the maroon guersey, and represent Queensland. And Queensland won."

"The big one for us was being awarded the National Residential Master Builder of the Year. There were 5000 projects nominated nationally, and to be awarded top of all these was amazing."

"I believe the award is judged on the current year, but also takes your track record into account as well. I've been in the building industry for 27 years, and this is definitely the highlight."

"I wish my father was still alive to have seen this, he would have been very proud. He was an old fashioned builder who still had his

nail-bag on into his 60s.

"He taught me the value of hard work and honesty; and I dedicate this award to his memory."

The other award was for the house, an 1100sq m pavilion-style construction of modern Queensland design on 16ha which won National House of the Year over \$2million category.

"We were up against very stiff opposition from every state," Mick said. "Being the open category, there were some very expensive homes as our competitors."

"The award is judged on value for money, workmanship, design and technical difficulty. It is very satisfying that a Noosa builder, Noosa designer, Noosa engineer, Noosa contractors, and Noosa suppliers have been judged as the best in Australia."

It doesn't seem that long ago that Mick first drove up a rough cow paddock looking for a couple of pegs marking out the position of this new home.

"Whilst it looks nicely nestled on the hilltop now, it was quite steep and rocky to build on," he said. "The front door started at ground level, but quickly dropped away."

"The terrace area at the front is six metres off the natural ground level. You can walk underneath the bottom of the pool."

"We had hundreds of metres of fill brought

up from a big dam we dug below. This was to fill up the ground level to what it is today, a nice useable area at the front of the house."

"Once the structure was up to the floor level, the construction was much more straight forward - just on a larger scale than most homes."

The house is 1100sq m and has 16 roof areas. It is fully automated, using Dynalight technology installed by local company Ingenious. There are large curved timber bi-folds that open the house up.

The house was challenging and rewarding to build, Mick said.

"It's nice to come back and see it now; not as a building project but as a family home being lived in and enjoyed."

"I would like to thank the Lawson family for engaging us at the design stage of the project, and working together with us to achieve the outcome we have."

"Our thanks and congratulations to SBT Designs of Doonan, for designing such an amazing home. I would also like to thank all the contractors who worked on the project, especially my carpenters who have shown that the Sunshine Coast can produce as good or better built homes than anywhere in Australia."

"And I would like to thank my wife Sally, who runs the admin side of the business, for her hard work and support."

