



Gforce Employment Solutions Human Resources
WINNER: OCEAN ROAD LANDSCAPING

Business in bloom

OCEAN Road Landscaping owners Peter and Simone Shaw believe carefully tended relationships are vital to the growing success of their business.

From the husband-wife team, to their quality staff of 15 and wide client base, these strong respectful links tie together all aspects of the Anglesea-based company from landscape design and consultation to garden construction and maintenance.

"It comes down to relationships – with staff and with the people you're working for," Peter says. "You need to get to know them, to develop trust and work with them. A lot of them I now class as my friends. That's the value of relationships."

Ocean Road Landscaping is the winner of the Powercor Geelong Business Excellence Awards category of Human Resources, sponsored by Gforce Employment Solutions. It is the third time the landscaping business has collected a trophy at the annual gala night.

Ocean Road Landscaping is a leader in crafting beautiful, sustainable gardens and attracts clients from Apollo Bay to the Surf Coast, Geelong region and the Bellarine Peninsula. It tackles about 12 big garden projects a year, about 30 smaller ones, numerous ongoing garden projects and regularly maintains more than 150 gardens.

Peter says the Human Resources category win is a well-deserved pat on the back for his team, which is rich in skills and commitment.

The Shaws actively encourage their staff to embrace further education and training. They

value their employees' input and look for the right person – not necessarily the right skills – when hiring.

"Attitude is everything," Peter says. "It's about giving people opportunities. We've got a few people who have re-careered themselves, gone from 10 or 15 years cooking to becoming an apprentice gardener.

"You have to be prepared to be flexible. And you have to let people make mistakes. I call them stepping stones."

After nearly 20 years in the business, Peter still loves gardening. It's about relaxation, emotion and the environment, he says.

"You just don't keep going in the same business for more than 15 years unless you love it," Peter says, "Especially in these economic times, when you have to work really hard to make it work."

JUDGES' COMMENTS

"Ocean Road Landscaping displayed great passion for the support of their staff, the culture of their work environment and the provision of a sustainable future for themselves and their staff. Their passion and commitment to strive for improvement was evident. The business has achieved excellent industry award recognition through the time and effort involved in entering a wide range of awards."

FINAL SCORE: 416/500

Some of the successful team
from Ocean Road Landscaping.
Photo: Karen Dodd

