

Awards boost to landscaper



BIG REWARDS: Travis Boyer with Ocean Road Landscaping owners Peter and Simone Shaw.

Photo: PETER RISTEVSKI

Nurturing a top business

CAMERON BEST

BUSINESS is blooming for Anglesea-based business Ocean Road Landscaping since winning a category in the *Geelong Advertiser* Business Excellence Awards last year.

"We didn't enter it expecting to be finalists, let alone a category winner so we were quite thrilled with that," office and account manager Simone Shaw said.

"It was a recognition of the hard work and the many unseen hours that goes into running a business."

Nearly 12 months later, the business has a Landscaping Victoria industry award also in the trophy cabinet and is ready to dive into the *Geelong Advertiser* Business Excellence Awards once again, hoping to repeat the dose.

"In a sense we've already won

because it's put us through the steps of assessing our business. You can get quite caught up in working in your business, that you forget to work on your business," Ms Shaw said.

"We've learned to be confident and have an assurance about what we do in our business and although it's not always smooth sailing, we are doing something right and have satisfied customers."

Ms Shaw said the big benefit from entering the awards was the sense of being a part of the local business community.

"It's really important to have those sounding boards to provide all sorts of advice and to know that you're not going through it alone, especially when you get the ebbs and flows in the financial sector hitting your business," she said.

A category winner at the first attempt last year, Ms Shaw said the

entry process was challenging, but worthwhile.

"The entry questions in themselves were easy enough, but detailing what we do as a business took more time than anticipated. This year, we will be able to springboard off what we put together last year."

Ocean Road Landscaping is now gaining a reputation across the state with work extending past the Geelong and Surf Coast regions.

Recent weather conditions have created further challenges for the company with landscapers recommending and installing drought-tolerant plants only to see them struggle in the deluge of the past 12 months.

The company tailors gardens to the clients' needs with a garden in Anglesea often differing considerably to a garden in Geelong.