



# Home-grown monsters grab excellence award

A MONSTROUSLY successful exhibition that has been seen by 250,000 people so far in the United States and Australia has claimed one of the honours at the Gold Coast Business Excellence Awards this month.

Academy Award-winning special effects creator John Cox and his company Creatures on Tour designed, created and ran the internationally successful travelling exhibition How To Make a Monster – The Art of Technology and Animatronics.

The show features life-like monsters created using the techniques employed by special effects experts in the movie industry.

The Creatures on Tour company was named as the winner of the tourism, hospitality and recreation category for August at the Gold Coast Business Excellence Awards.

Tour co-ordinator Julie Anderson said the show had proved enormously popular in the US and negotiations were under way to

take the show to Asia.

"We are also in the process of developing smaller versions of the show in Australia so we can visit regional cities," said Ms Anderson.

Another Gold Coast company enjoying international success, the San Diego Tortilla Factory, has taken out the retail, wholesale and distribution award.

Colin Thomson, who set up San Diego Tortilla Factory in 1995 with his wife Deann after realising there was a gap in the Australian market, said their products could now be bought in New Zealand, Vanuatu, Singapore, Malaysia and Australia.

Mr Thomson said the Burleigh Head-based business now employed 25 people and about 250 tonnes of flour of year.

Another Burleigh Heads-based business, Reynolds Soil Technologies has won the manufacturing and construction category.

Reynolds Soil Technologies provides environmentally friendly dust, earth and water control sol-

utions to the mining, construction, and agricultural industries globally.

Fast-growing Smartprint Fleet Management picked up the emerging business award.

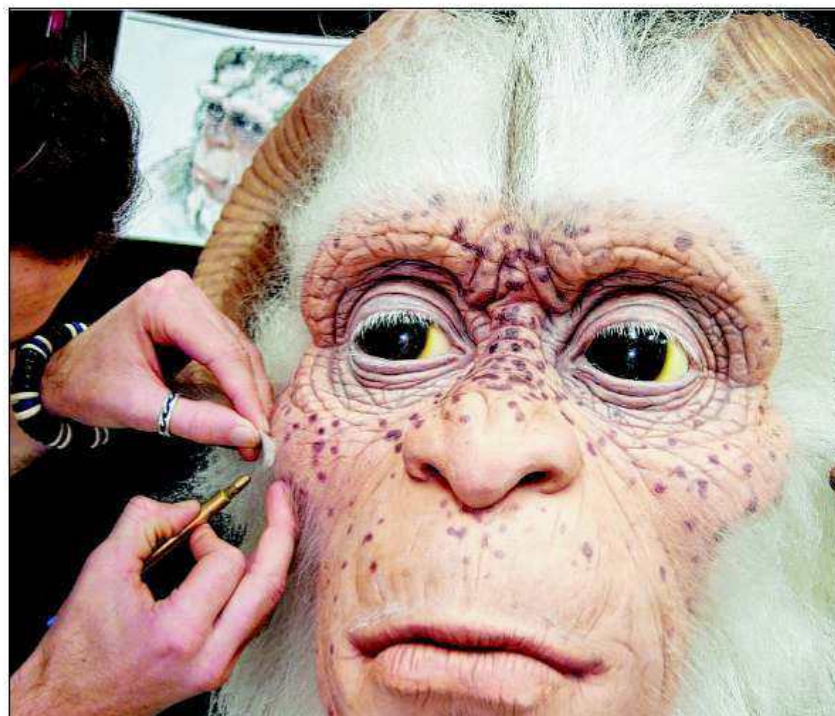
The company, which was set up in 2001 to create an independent servicer of printers and photocopiers, now has more than 1500 contractors in its national network.

Lucy Cole Prestige Properties collected the honours in the trades, services and professions category.

The company is celebrating its 10th birthday.

The family business award was won by Funky Foto Booths, the Mayor's Award was won by Lifestyle Panels, the environmental management category was cleaned up by Elco Solutions and In-Technology Distribution claimed the information, technology and multimedia category.

Monthly winners will vie for the annual awards at a gala presentation in November.



Movie monsters by Academy Award-winner John Cox won a Gold Coast Business Award this month