



INDUSTRY ACCLAIM: This Central Coast building won Avoca-based Mitchell Constructions the top prize of Hunter Home of the Year Award and two other major categories.

Star turn for Avoca builder

AS building companies go, Avoca-based Mitchell Constructions admits it's only a small player on a very large field.

But the company proved to be giant among contestants, walking away with the Hunter Home of the Year Award when the 2010 HIA-CSR Hunter Housing Awards were announced last week.

On the way to collecting the night's major gong, Mitchell Constructions also won the categories Custom Built Home over \$1 million and Custom Built Home of the Year. Company principal Bill Mitchell describes the wins as "humbling".

The family's connection with the building trade goes back to the late 1940s when Bill's father Jack took up the tools after serving as a pilot in the RAAF during World War II.

"He started building in Queensland and the construction cost of his first home was £2870," Mr Mitchell said.

"Around 1955 he moved to Hornsby and in

the early 1970s he started building on the Central Coast."

All three Mitchell boys followed their father into the trade.

Bill Mitchell has been a licensed builder since 1985, in partnership with his wife Rachel, setting up W & R Mitchell on the Central Coast which, in 1995, became Mitchell Constructions.

"Not long ago we were renovating 30- to 40-year-old homes and now we're building homes worth a couple of million bucks.

"And we've been lucky. We've hardly had to leave the area at all. There's a lot of Sydney money coming into the Avoca area."

The family links remain strong.

Brother Jim – an electrician and a builder – works for Mitchell Constructions; nephew Dan is leading hand; and eldest son Pete is a third-year apprentice.

"Wins like these are nice recognition; a nice thing for all concerned."



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