



Ethnic Business Awards 2005
 :: The Winners and Sponsors

Winners and Sponsors: from left to right Mrs Mary and Mr Mehmet Karamemis (Nu - Door Pty Ltd, winners of the Initiative Award) Mr Cramer Ball (Gulf Air) Mr Brandon Ly (ABC Tissue) Mr Peter Chesworth (DITR) Mr David Moffatt (Telstra) Mr Peter Rock (Centrelink) Mr Alasdair Irvine, Mr Roger Green, Mr Barry O'Dwyer (Greensprouts, winner of Small Business Award), Mr Gary Turner (NAB), Mr Fred and Estela Ferreira (Wideform Group of Companies, winner of Large Business Award). In front Mr Joseph Assaf, Chairman of Ecom and founder of the EBA.



Winners Announced for the 2005 Ethnic Business Awards

Sydney, Australia, 26 October 2005 - **The 2005 Ethnic Business Award Winners were officially announced at an exclusive gathering in Sydney, Australia. The Awards were created 17 years ago by Mr Joseph Assaf, to recognise the contribution of migrants to Australian Business. They have since become one of the longest running awards in Australia, which is a testament to their success and prestige. This year's winners were migrants from Portugal, Zimbabwe and Turkey, who all now proudly call Australia home.**

The winners of the 2005 Ethnic Business Awards were announced during a gala dinner held at Le Montage, Sydney. This year, the following businesses were awarded:

- Large Business Award: Wideform Group of Companies – received by Mr Fred Ferreira, Managing Director, from Portugal.
- Small Business Award: Green Sprouts – received by Zimbabwean born owners Roger Green, Alasdair Irvine and Barry O'Dwyer.
- Special Initiative Award: Nu – Door Pty Ltd – received by Turkish born Mehmet Karamemis, Director.

An eclectic mix of prestigious guests attended, each one a leader in their own right. The Hon. John Cobb, Minister of Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs, represented the Prime Minister of Australia and joined corporate sponsors, Consul Generals, community officials and media owners, to celebrate multicultural Australia.

Attendees listened to the finalists inspiring tales of innovation and creativity and how they adapted their skills to achieve success. After arriving in Australia, these men and women conquered social and financial obstacles and battled for their voices to be heard in a language they could not speak. Their individual contributions have fuelled our economy and their collective contributions have helped create our country.

Mr. Joseph Assaf, Chairman of Ecom (Ethnic Communications), created the Ethnic Business Awards 17 years ago so that migrant success could be recognised and rewarded, and Ecom has staged all aspects of the Awards since their inception. They are the longest running Business Awards in Australia, a testament to their success and prestige.

"Australia was built on migration, and the Ethnic Business Awards are a continuous reminder and celebration of this fact. They allow each of us to recognise the great and positive contributions of migrants to our country," said Mr. Assaf.

Green Sprouts owners, Roger Green, Alasdair Irvine and Barry O'Dwyer, proudly accepted the Small Business Award, presented by Mr David Moffatt, Group Managing Director Consumer & Marketing of Telstra.

Having started as a backyard business in 1989, Green Sprouts today has 30 employees who work to supply safe, healthy salad ingredients to markets and chain stores from Darwin to Sydney. This tireless partnership consists of three families who emigrated from Zimbabwe - and for their latest venture, have started exporting to New Zealand.

"It is truly a proud moment for us to be recognised in our adopted country by the Ethnic Business Awards. To be nominated by the National was a huge honour, to win is truly the pinnacle. Whatever the imperative that has made us search for a new home, it can only be described as a true blessing that we landed in this wonderful, truly lucky, country. We will forever be grateful for the generosity, the inclusiveness and the encouragement of the Australian people and the Australian Government," said the owners of Green Sprouts. Mr Ahmed Fahour, Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer, National Australia Bank presented the Large Business Award to Mr Ferreira, Wideform Group of Companies.

Originally from Portugal, Fred Ferreira immigrated to Australia in 1970. With no experience in business or finance, he found work as a brick labourer. After 31 years of trading, the Wideform Group of Companies has grown to become Australia's largest formwork company and a leader in the building and construction industry, employing more than 500 people throughout NSW and Queensland.

"What an honour it is to win the 2005 Ethnic Business Awards and to be recognised for our contribution to the Australian community and economy. The Wideform Group of Companies has come a long way since I immigrated to Australia from Portugal and founded the company. I am very proud of the growth and success the Group has achieved over the past 31 years and appreciate the acknowledgement from the Ethnic Business Awards," said Mr. Ferreira.

This year's Initiative Award was presented to Turkish born Mehmet Karamemis, Director of Nu- Door Pty Ltd, by Gulf Air's General Manager, Australia and South Pacific, Mr Cramer Ball. The Initiative Award recognises outstanding determination, growth and potential.

Mr Karamemis started the company in 1996 with poor English skills, a very limited understanding of borrowing and a family to support. With diligence and adapting to the constantly changing needs of the market, Nu - Door Pty Ltd has become one of the premier manufacturers of vinyl wrap doors and post forming of laminates for bench tops. Exports to Turkey are expected to grow exponentially.

"I am very happy to have won this award. This will only make me stronger in being able to export Australian products around the world. These awards show Australia and the world that you can achieve what you want if you want it enough," said Mr Karamemis.

All winners received AUD\$5,000, two return business class tickets flying Gulf Air to anywhere on their network and a crystal trophy. Each winner also received a BlackBerry 7100g device from Telstra. All finalists received a certificate presented by Mr Joseph Assaf and a Motorola E378i handset generously donated by Telstra.

The distinguished panel of judges included Carla Zampatti, King Fong OAM, Arthur Sanderson and Eve Crestani. They overcame the difficult task of selecting the winners based on criteria of cultural and linguistic difficulties encountered, creativity and innovation, growth and potential, and creation of employment opportunities.

Ms Zampatti, on behalf of the judges, said, "It is wonderful to see the imagination of migrants, looking at the market with fresh eyes and discovering opportunities that we living here do not see. The strength and

size of the nominees seems to be getting larger and larger, creating exports and employment. It is very humbling for us all."

Integral to the success of the Awards is the ongoing support shown by the sponsors. Telstra, Gulf Air and The Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources again joined long time sponsor, the National Australia Bank. Centrelink and ABC Tissues, (winner of the 2004 Ethnic Business Awards in the Large Business category) also joined as sponsors this year. These businesses have developed a strong relationship with the Ethnic Business Awards, and are recognised for their support of multicultural Australia.

Representatives from leading ethnic media outlets also attended the Awards, playing an important role in relaying the results back to each respective community. The following media outlets show enormous support for the Ethnic Business Awards, and continue to contribute to their success: SBS, ABC Asia Pacific, TVB JadeWorld, Sing Tao, Chieu Duong, O Kosmos, El Telegraph and Weekly Korean Top.

The Ethnic Business Awards is now recognised, seen, read and heard from Tasmania to Darwin, Perth to Sydney, Indonesia to China, and India to French Polynesia. In a country where 1 in 4 Australian children were either born overseas or have one parent born overseas, the Ethnic Business Awards are a celebration of humanity as a whole, rather than the differences of its citizens.

For nearly two decades, through international conflict and varying political climates, these Awards have stood as a triumph for diversity and a celebration of success. The 2005 Ethnic Business Awards will be broadcast nationally on SBS Television on Sunday, 6 November at 10:30am. It will later air on the ABC Asia Pacific, 4th December, to an estimated audience of 10 million homes across 39 countries – aired twice.

The ABC broadcast times (local times) are as follows:

Mumbai, Delhi – 15:30
Bangkok – 14:00
Taiwan, Hong Kong and Singapore – 16:00
Kuala Lumpur – 15:00
Fiji – 20:00
Seoul/Tokyo – 17:00

Finalists in the Small Business Category were:

Australian Chemical Research Pty Ltd
Green Sprouts (winner)
Miracle Bookbinding
T.K Pacific Marketing

Finalists in the Medium – Large Business Category were:

Nu – Door Pty Ltd (winner)
Southerncross Rigging and Constructions Pty Ltd
Stambo's Group of Companies
Wideform Group of Companies (winner)



Visit <http://www.etcom.com.au/>

For more information, please contact:

Guadalupe Millan
PR Manager, Etcom, Australia
guadalupe.millan@etcom.com.au
+61 2 9568 8398

* Higher resolution images available upon request.

* Media Releases are available in Arabic, Chinese, Korean, Greek and Vietnamese.

Ethnic Business Awards Finalists 2005
:: originally from China, Greece, Lebanon, Portugal, Turkey and Zimbabwe.

