

young guns take the leap...

Nathan Verri

Business: Verri Industries

Since laying the foundations of his career in construction, Nathan Verri, 26, has steadily developed his talents to become one of the best local builders around.

Nathan's building expertise was confirmed on Saturday when he beat hundreds of entries from around the state to take out the Queensland Master Builder Award in the category for an individual home priced between \$551,000 and \$700,000.

"It's good to be part of something like that in the industry to find out what's out there and what's happening because there's a lot of different things going on in construction," he said.

"I was very happy for the clients and sub-contractors because it's a big team effort, there's so many hands involved, it's not one person's prize.

"Building is all about having a good team. I feel we've got a pretty good reputation thus far and that's getting better as well, I hope."

Doing half his apprenticeship locally and half in Cairns gave Nathan a unique opportunity to gain skills and combine that knowledge, which he is now passing on to his own apprentice.

"On one side I learnt how to do quality stuff that's different and from the other I learnt how to work really quickly, which is important in this business - you can learn something from everybody," he said.

After working as a sole trader, demand for



Building master: Nathan Verri outside a Port Douglas home he built last year

his work began to grow, so Nathan started his own company in July this year.

"I've been interested in having my own business for a while," he said.

"I thought I'd have a lot of freedom when I started my own business but that's not the case, because you get busy, life gets serious and there's so much involved - bookkeeping, accounting and quoting.

"It's pretty hectic, you can go between up to five or six jobs a day then get home to do all the paperwork as well as constantly talking to people on the phone - I have a massive phone bill.

"Between six in the morning and six at night it's pretty much constant."

Although he says it's not an easy task to set up and manage a business, Nathan's advice to other young people is to go for it.

"Be honest and fair," he said. "If you're going to do something you may as well do it to the best of your ability."

Do you know a local person under 30 with their own business? Let us know so we can tell the world by emailing gazette@tpd.newsltd.com.au

Photo by HOLLY ROBERTSON

Dynamic idea defies global financial crisis



In the running: Cooya Beach businesswoman Phoebe Kitto

Photo by HOLLY ROBERTSON

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AFTER defying the downturn during the global financial crisis, a local woman has been named a finalist for the annual Cairns Business Woman of the Year award.

Phoebe Kitto, of Cooya Beach, successfully established a small business, HR Dynamics, while meeting the demands of motherhood and has since seen the company go from strength to strength.

Ms Kitto first came up with the concept for HR Dynamics 18 months ago after advising small business owners at social functions on the best ways to manage their staff.

"I've been building up clients in the local area and recently have been growing into the Tablelands and Cairns," she said.

Ms Kitto said she was honoured to have reached the finals of the awards, which recognise high achieving businesswomen in the Far North.

"I think I was chosen as a finalist because I was able to show we're filling a real need in the market and have been having success with it," she said

"Writing the submission and going through the interview process has been challenging and rewarding and has really helped me evaluate the business as well.

"It's really worthwhile and more people in the region should nominate businesswomen for the award."

The winner of the award, organised by the Cairns Business Women's Club, will be announced on Saturday, October 17 at a Gala Ball at the Hilton Hotel.

Bat breeding season



During the bat breeding season in North Queensland (September – November), Queensland Health is advising residents not to handle bats.

- Bats are part of Australia's unique wildlife heritage and play an important part in the ecology of North Queensland.
- However, some bats may be infected with lyssavirus, a rabies-like virus that is fatal to humans.
- You are advised not to touch any bats, especially if they seem distressed, injured or sick as you may be scratched by the bat. Do not attempt to free a bat caught in a fence. Contact an experienced animal handler to pick up distressed or injured bats.
- If you are bitten or scratched by a bat, wash the wound thoroughly with soap and water and seek medical advice immediately for preventive vaccinations.

For more information contact your local Tropical Population Health Service: Cairns 40503600, Townsville 47539000, Mackay 49686611, Mt Isa & Gulf 47444404

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IGA tallies up grocery bill



Shopping survey: Paul Scott from IGA with a trolley of goodies

Photo by NEIL WEAVERS

INDEPENDENT retailer IGA has come out on top in a grocery price survey it commissioned last week.

Port Douglas IGA owner Paul Scott said the supermarket commissioned the survey in response to July PriceWatch figures released by Leichardt MP Jim Turnour which showed IGA to be more expensive.

Woolworths Mossman was the most expensive in

the IGA survey, with a basket of household goods costing \$234.28, while Coles Port Douglas was \$2.41 cheaper and IGA Port Douglas \$10.75 cheaper than Woolies.

"As long as it's done properly that's all we want, you need to compare apples with apples not apples with oranges," he said.

"IGA is a very strong brand now so we compete very well with Coles and

Woolworths.

"We buy a lot from direct suppliers so all the savings are passed on to customers if we get a deal on a product."

In the latest grocery review, savings due to specials came in at \$29 for IGA, \$13 for Coles and \$10 for Woolworths, with 44 items recorded in the survey, including toiletries, cleaning products, dairy products, bread and tea.