

Winners of the 2009 Ethnic Business Awards

Three brothers who came to Australia with nothing but the clothes on their backs have taken out the big prize at this year's Ethnic Business Awards. The prestigious ceremony was held last night at Sydney's Four Seasons Hotel, attended by the Governor-General, Her Excellency Ms. Quentin Bryce A.C.



In its 21st year, the Awards received more than 1500 nominations from every state and territory. The nominees originated from 102 dif-

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ferent countries.

Mr Joseph Assaf the Founder and Chairman of the Ethnic Business Awards, himself a migrant said:

“They all faced mountainous obstacles in dealing with the massive change that they encountered in the new land. But e-

quipped with the three qualities that characterise migrants in business that is resilience, enterprise and ingenuity, success was their guaranteed achievement.

Despite being housed in a detention camp on arrival in Australia, Marko

Franovic and his two brothers built the Boka Group, a property goliath turning over more than several million dollars.

The trio, who escaped the communist regime in the former Yugoslavia, won the award for Medium to Large Business. Giuseppe Giugni left school as a 15 year old after being taunted as a “wog” and a

“da-go” to create the Fyshwick Fresh Food Markets, now undergoing a multi million dollar redevelopment.

The Italian immigrant won the Small Business category.

The Initiative Award went to Manel and Ali Hammoud from Ella Rouge, Australia's most reputable beauty chain with more than 20 skin bars and stores.

This enterprising pair, who escaped the civil war in Lebanon, started the business while caring for two children under the age of two.

Each winner took home \$10,000 cash from the National Australia Bank, two return business class tickets to any of Eti-



hadh™s destinations in Europe, Africa or the Middle East, courtesy of Etihad and a hand crafted crystal trophy.

The Doric Group won a Special Recognition Award for its extraordinary growth and contribution to the community. Started 20 years ago by Cypriot immigrant Harry Xydas, the W.A. construction company has grown from two to 270 employees, with 2000 subcontractors on any given day.

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The judges decided to give The Doric Group special recognition for this magnanimous gesture. The judging panel comprised BHP Billiton Chairman Don Argus, Business Consultant Eve Crestani, Director General of the Office of National Assessments Allan Gyngell, Chairman

of the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation Dr. Ziggy Switkowski, and Fashion icon Carla Zampatti.

The 2009 Ethnic Business Awards gala ceremony, hosted by broadcaster Tracey Spicer, will be televised on S-B-S, the Aurora Community Channel, Australia Network and TVB Jadeworld.

It features performances by the cast of the musical Wicked, Circus Oz and famed French chanteuse Caroline Nin.

Sponsors include the National Australia Bank, Etihad Airways, Telstra and Austrade.



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