



# Recognition for successful local businesses

## EDITORIAL

**F**AMILY owned and managed businesses received due recognition at last Friday's Singleton Outstanding Business Awards – a night where the awards themselves were celebrating a 30th birthday.

Lancaster Motor Group, founded and still owned and managed, by the Lancaster family has notched up 100 years in business. It all started back in 1918 when Harold Earl Lancaster went into business repairing milking equipment before quickly establishing a motor vehicle retail outlet. In 1927 Lancaster were appointed the General Motors dealership in Singleton selling Pontiac, Chevrolet and Oakland vehicles.

Lancasters moved to their current site at the southern entrance to Singleton on the New England Highway in 2006 with Holden, Mitsubishi and Hyundai motor vehicles.

One hundred years in business is very impressive and the history of their enterprise shows the family were prepared to take risks and adopt to changing times and customer needs.

In 1918 dairying would have been big business around the district with hundreds of farms in operation and each one required skilled repairers to maintain their equipment.

That is not the case today with only a few dairyfarms left in the district. Fortunately for the Lancasters the founders moved into motor vehicles and through good management have survived and grown over the years.

Many other family motor dealerships have been taken over by larger conglomerates especially in metropolitan areas.

Similarly for the Bloomfield Group who have operated in the Valley for 80 years. They would be the only locally owned mining company in our region if not the state.

Their success and longevity was also recognised on Friday. Bloomfield are so family orientated that they pride themselves on employing family members of existing employees.

The youngest organisation to be recognised was Witmore Enterprises with 60 years of success in assisting people with disabilities.

Like the other three Witmore has evolved and grown over the years and is now located in a purpose built facility at McDougalls Hill.

It is always a pleasure and a privilege to visit and report on the activities at Witmore – so a very special congratulations from the Singleton Argus to the staff and management of Witmore for what you have all achieved.

