

# Our champion entrepreneur

By GREG ELLIS

CORRIMAL businesswoman Wendy Fogarty and her family are celebrating her being named champion entrepreneur of all small business in NSW and the ACT.

The Important and Imperative Business Solutions founder and Illawarra Business Chamber director was recognised for her entrepreneurial endeavours at the 2009 NSW-ACT Small Business Champion Awards in Sydney on Saturday.

The awards were created by Precedent Productions' managing director Steve Loe to encourage and promote excellence in small business.

When evaluating submissions, Mr Loe said the judges took into account all aspects of a business person's enterprise, including strategies, customer service, vision, community support and growth.

Mrs Fogarty said it was particularly rewarding to be named the best in the state in such a strong field.

The Champion Entrepreneur category had more than 200 entries, so to be recognised and acknowl-



**Winner:** Wendy Fogarty received a top award.

edged as a Champion Entrepreneur for NSW and ACT was a great honour and a highlight of her career to date.

"The entrepreneur category is a comfortable fit for me as I now have an official title that gives me permission to be different," she said.

"I've been a finalist in numerous awards over the years and my children have been waiting patiently to see me actually win one. They told me they were no longer impressed with cer-

tificates, they wanted to see a trophy, so now I have one that I'm sure they'll claim as theirs too.

"As someone who's very passionate about inspiring and mentoring our youth on their career journeys, I hope winning this award inspires many to follow in my footsteps and reach for success."

Commonwealth Bank local business banking executive general manager Symon Brewis-Weston said the Australian Small Business Champion Awards were extremely important because they recognised the invaluable contribution that small businesses make to their local communities and the national economy.

Mrs Fogarty will now represent NSW and the ACT at the Australian Small Business Champion Awards in Sydney on November 14.

Two other local winners were Society Streetware of Dapto in the specialised retail small business category, and South Coast Gymnastics Academy took out the education category.

The same night, the academy claimed the NSW Boys Country Gymnastics Championships.