



David Jobe, managing director of Phillip Island based development company Southern Sustainable Developments, is congratulated by the Minister for Planning Justin Madden MLC (left). The award was presented by Sam Austin of Yarra Valley Water (right).

Local firms recognised for Seagrove development

LEONGATHA-based development consultancy firm, Beveridge Williams, and Phillip Island's Southern Sustainable Developments have been applauded for their work on 'Seagrove' at Cowes.

Achieving one of the industry's highest accolades, Beveridge Williams was awarded the Consultants Award at the recent Urban Development Institute of Australia - Victoria (UDIA VIC) annual awards presentation held recently.

Experts in land surveying, civil engineering, town planning, landscape architecture and environmental services, the UDIA (VIC) recognised the firm's excellence in delivering innovative and environmentally significant solutions from the ground up.

The 'Seagrove' residential development received a commendation in the category of Environmental Excellence where Beveridge Williams' Leongatha team helped lift the environmental and sustainable quality of the project enormously.

David Jobe, managing director of Southern Sustainable Developments said he is extremely proud of what has been achieved at Seagrove.

"It is a great honour to be recognised at this level, particularly in the category of Environmental Excellence," he said.

The UDIA judges commended Seagrove for "setting a new benchmark for sustainable residential development".

Seagrove is an environmentally sensitive residential estate in Cowes. The 36 hectare site is located less than 700m from the beach, and features rising land with views north across the bay, mature remnant eucalypts, and rich bird-life.

Seaberry Creek Park - the first of three planned parks at Seagrove - was completed this year, and features an extensive wetland, a feature bridge and 130m of elevated boardwalks.

"Already, the wetland plants are starting to establish themselves," David said.

The wetland has become home to native frogs such as the Eastern Pobblebonk (*Limnodynastes dumerilii*) and was recently visited by a Royal Spoonbill (*Platalea Regia*).

The next park to be constructed is Seagrove Park, which will include a barbecue and children's playground, and is designed around eucalypt woodland of high conservation significance.

"Seagrove Park is to be constructed as part of the Blue Wren Release," David said.

"Demand for this release has been very strong, with over 80 percent of the available home sites already sold."

Meanwhile, Beveridge Williams picked up other awards on the night for projects including a water management initiative at the Barwon Heads Golf Club to store and reuse the water.

Beveridge Williams joint director Grant Hailes, said all of the awards were testimony to the hard work and dedication of the firm's staff in producing award winning results that ensure the industry continues to strive for excellence in urban development.

"I am very proud the hard work taken on by Beveridge Williams and our amazing team of professionals has been recognized.

"Producing results that ultimately speak for themselves is imperative as time goes by, however awards such as those presented by the UDIA work to highlight great innovation within our industry.

"Urban development is no longer a simple case of carving blocks of land and selling them.

"There is a huge amount of engineering, science, planning and infrastructure solutions required to ensure these communities embrace our modern style of living while remaining sensitive to our environment," Mr Hailes said.

He said he was extremely humbled by the award in such honoured company.

"To be honoured in the company of so many great consultants I am extremely humbled and of course all of us at Beveridge Williams will endeavour to maintain our exacting standards and deliver even greater sustainable solutions in urban development as we look forward to 2008."