

National honour for green project

FLOYD Industries has won national praise for delivering an innovative 'green' project for the Rural City of Wangaratta, which has cut energy use and greenhouse gas emissions at the Wangaratta Indoor Sports and Aquatic Centre (WISAC).

The Wangaratta-based family company which Robert Floyd and his wife started back in 1973, managed to knock off some of Australia's biggest electrical contractors to triumph in Brisbane on Thursday night.

"I'm still quite shocked," Mr Floyd told the *Wangaratta Chronicle* on Friday.

"Looking at the quality of the competition we were just thankful to be among them... and I couldn't believe it when we were announced the winner."

Mr Floyd and his daughter Penny, accepted the Energy Efficiency and Environment Award in front of 350 people at the National Electrical and Communications Association's (NECA) annual electrical and communications industry's Excellence Awards.

The Business Wangaratta board member, who is in his 52nd year as an electrician, said the national honour was not only recognition of the professionalism of his 26 work colleagues, but also the outstanding collaboration with council, Optimal Energy Solutions and others to deliver the Capstone cogenerator project at WISAC.



The project involved replacing the centre's traditional electricity supply with one gas powered generator, which makes electricity and uses the by-product heat to meet all WISAC's requirements.

The environmentally friendly cogenerator has been operational for a year and is saving ratepayers about \$35,000 annually in energy costs, while also reducing greenhouse gas emissions by four tonnes a year.

The entire project is worth \$602,000, with \$307,000 contributed by a Federal Government grant, and the projected energy use savings are expected to pay for council's contribution in nine years.

Mr Floyd said some attempts at cogenerator projects in other parts of the country had failed because of the complications of pre-planning and engagement with authorities.

He said the work done by council's assets manager Allan Thrum related to gas, power and light energy consumption at the centre and early engagement with SP Ausnet, were key facets in the success of the project.

NECA chief executive officer Suresh Manickam said the cogenerator project was among "the best and most innovative" the industry had seen over the past 12 months.

And he said it was also among the most coveted of the awards.



NATIONAL HONOUR: Robert Floyd and his daughter Penny with the NECA award received in Brisbane last week.

PHOTO: Adorn Photography