



Local identity & leading businessman Dennis O'Connor & WHK Business Services Manager Chris Sharman officially opening the new office.

## Birchip Opening

Thursday October 11th saw many members of the Birchip and extended community join together to celebrate the official launch of the new WHK Thomsons office.

Business Services Manager Chris Sharman welcomed all and thanked those who had been involved in the process. "It truly was a massive effort and great to see so many local people contribute" he said.

"We are very fortunate to be part of a community that supports local businesses and WHK Thomsons looks forward to a long and proud association with Birchip and the surrounding districts. Chris spoke of the passion and belief that WHK Thomsons has in regional towns, and the importance of strong partnerships and long standing relationships within the community. "We really want WHK Thomsons to be an integral part of Birchip" he said.

"Whilst our office is new, WHK Thomsons has a long and proud association with many local agriculture businesses in the community, and it was a pleasure to have Dennis O'Connor officially launch the building". Chris Sharman also welcomed back Nullawil boy, Dale Poyner who will be based in the Birchip office full time, together with Bern and Tara.

## News from within

### Mo-vember:

If you noticed a bit of fuzz on your male WHK advisers top lip in November, don't despair, we have not gone 'alternative'. The men from our Mildura, Broken Hill and Loxton offices were simply participating in the fundraising event of "Movember".

Our "mo brothers" were raising funds from friends and family members for the Beyondblue and Prostate Cancer Foundation charities as well increasing awareness of men's health issues.

The ladies of the office were also involved as "mo sisters" and were there to lend encouragement and advice with growing the mo and raising funds. At the end of the month a special award was presented to the "Man of Movember" which went to the individual who raised the most money.

### Renovations:

Many that have visited our Mildura office over the last few months will have noticed some renovations occurring. As we continue to grow it has been necessary to create additional work stations and remodel one entire area of the office to remove the many smaller and outdated changes that have taken place over the years. This will provide our staff with a much more user friendly environment from which to work. All going well all renovations should be completed by Christmas.

### Great place to work:

WHK Thomsons are proud of a recent survey of over 3000 WHK employees where we rank #1 as being a great place to work.

# Gifts & FBT

It's the festive season again and for many that means Christmas functions and gifts. One tax issue that always raises itself at this time of year is Fringe Benefits Tax (FBT). The rules can be quite confusing, but following are some tips to consider when planning this years function or giving gifts. Generally, gifts to employees are tax deductible and exempt from FBT as a "minor benefit" provided the value is less than \$300. If you are providing a Christmas function and a gift keep them separate otherwise the combined cost will go towards the \$300 limit.

- Finger food and drink (without alcohol) provided to employees, on a working day on business premises, is exempt from FBT and is tax deductible.
- Gifts to clients, customers or contractors are generally tax deductible provided there is a business reason for giving the gift is not entertainment in nature.
- If the cost of a Christmas function is less than \$300 per employee, then it is exempt from FBT as a minor benefit.
- If clients, customers or contractors attend a Christmas function, their portion of the cost is non-deductible.
- Where a taxi fare is provided in connection with the Christmas party the cost of the taxi fare must be counted in the \$300.



## Christmas Closing

As is our custom we will not be sending Christmas cards again this year, preferring to have our own **WHK Wishing Tree** with contributions going to local charities. Our office will be closing from the 21st of December and reopening on January 7, 2008.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish all our valued clients and customers a very Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year. We hope 2008 delivers all that you wish for.

## Video Conferencing

With offices located in Mildura, Broken Hill, Loxton, Birchip, Robinvale, Ouyen and Berri the use of the latest in video technology allows us to communicate with each other face to face without the need for long periods of travel.

This technology allows all offices to participate in management meetings, our weekly professional development and other technical training. Conference calls are made over the internet with real time voice and picture quality.

Clients are welcome to use this technology if the receiver point is able to communicate over the internet.

Please contact our IT Manager Brian White of the Mildura office for booking arrangements.



## Client Achievements

Congratulations to Simon Bowen and Erika Burg from 'Pipers of Penola' who were recently awarded the best regional restaurant in South Australia for 2007 at the Restaurant and Catering South Australia Awards of Excellence. Congratulations to Adrian Channing of Broken Hill who came third in the motor bike section of the across Australia safari.

Congratulations to Don and Damien Matthews of GTS Freight Management Pty Ltd who were awarded the 'Best Design for Workplace Safety' at the annual Work Safe Victoria Awards. A record 160 entries were received for this years awards with eight winners announced.

Congratulations to Andy and Mandy Williams of Mildura who recently won the Best Steak Restaurant in Victoria, at The new Spanish Bar & Grill, situated at the Grand. The award was presented at a gala evening held at the Crown Casino Melbourne by the Victorian Restaurant Catering Association Awards for Excellence.



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