



**Family Business  
Australia**

**MEDIA RELEASE  
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***WINNERS OF 2009 SOUTH AUSTRALIAN  
FAMILY BUSINESS AWARDS ANNOUNCED***

South Australia's family business sector took time out this afternoon (May 20) to raise a glass to three of their finest – when the winners of the *2009 South Australian Family Business of the Year Awards* were announced at the SA Chapter of Family Business Australia's State Conference at Adelaide's Sebel Playford Hotel.

Local companies **Era Publications**, **Beerenberg Farm** and **A. Noble & Son Ltd** were announced as award winners in their respective categories:

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| 1st Generation Category:                        | Era Publications (based at Flinders Park) |
| 2nd Generation Category:                        | Beerenberg Farm (based in Hahndorf)       |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> Generation and beyond Category: | A. Noble & Son Ltd (based at Kilburn)     |

The awards celebrate the achievements of SA family businesses which aspire to family business best practice by professionalising their systems, structures & processes and contribute to the prosperity and culture of SA and the nation.

"The family business sector employs over half of SA's private sector workforce and in tough economic times, it's important to stop and acknowledge genuine success stories," says Mr Chris Johnston - Chairman of the SA Chapter of Family Business Australia's Major Events Committee. "FBA strongly advocates implementing family business best practice because research both here and internationally has shown that it is important to a family firm's continued success and longevity and their ability to manage the difficult times we're experiencing now."

The winning companies represent a diverse cross section of the local business community. Era Publications, owned by Rodney and Sandra Martin, enjoys a reputation for excellence in the field of publishing literacy materials for primary schools, exporting Australian culture and educational expertise to the rest of the world. Its publications have been translated into 19 non-English languages and been distributed or published in over 30 countries.

Beerenberg Farm is one of SA's iconic businesses and a household name around Australia. The Beerenberg range of quality products - including home-style jams, sauces, marmalades and condiments - are sold globally in 24 countries, on major airlines and in 300 hotels. Founded by Grant and Carol Paech, Beerenberg is today run by their three children, Anthony (Managing Director), Robert (Farm Manager) and Sally (Marketing Coordinator).

A. Noble & Son Ltd provides world class lifting solutions to the mining, construction, oil and gas industries. The company was founded by George Adie Noble and his father Andrew in 1911 – trading in foundry supplies and services to the printing industry. George's son, George Grant Noble took over in 1939 and was succeeded by his nephew, Jeffrey Noble Rogers in 1973. Today, the company is run by non-family Managing Director, Kevin Essing, who has overseen massive growth in the business – expanding from 10 to 14 branches around Australia. Andrew Noble's great, great grandson Michael Golley is Noble's SA and NT Manager.

The Family Business Australia Awards were created to enable family businesses to benchmark themselves against a set of criteria identified as the most important characteristics of successful family businesses. Criteria examples include: documented policies dealing with the terms on which family members may work in the business, remuneration policies and guidelines for promotion. Family business communication strategies and governance structures are also examined - along with strategic planning and succession planning. Corporate citizenship is another consideration.

SA's three award winners are now automatically entered into the 2009 Australian Family Business of the Year Awards – to be presented at Family Business Australia's National Conference in Darwin on August 15, 2009.

***Issued for FBA-SA by Foster Hill PR & Marketing. For more information, interviews or images – contact Skye Murtagh on 08 8231 3555.***