



## manufacturing & fabrication

**CATEGORY**  
Manufacturing & Fabrication

**WINNER**  
Mecrus - Morwell

# Mecrus leads the way

Mecrus is an asset management, operation and maintenance company that is providing innovative business performance solutions to a range of industry customers throughout regional Victoria and NSW.

The company's operation at the Australian Briquette Production Facility in Morwell followed their efforts in reinstating the facility after a devastating fire on Boxing Day 2003 that closed the plant.

Their success in reinstating the plant and re-establishing supply of briquettes into the market place in a very short space of time was recognised when the business was named the winner of the Manufacturing and Fabrication section of the 2007 Bendigo Bank Gippsland Business Awards.

Business integration manager Ian Green said the situation at the briquette plant following the blaze was fairly unique and required effective management.

"After the fire the supply of

briquettes into industry ceased and Mecrus was instrumental in getting that supply going again," Mr Green said.

"Briquettes were still required by many industry sectors and we got supply back into the market and going again."

Mr Green said the company managed to get the briquette production facility up and running again in a short space of time though the dedication and teamwork of a highly motivated and flexible workforce.

Mecrus is an Australia-wide company that was established in 1999. It has been operating at the briquette factory in Morwell for three years.

Sixty staff are employed at the Morwell plant. The facility now produces in excess of 240,000 tonnes of briquettes per year for the industrial and commercial market.

Mr Green said with the world wide fuel crisis, briquettes were becoming an increasingly viable



Barry Richards and Chris Komen from Mecrus receive their Manufacturing & Fabrication Award from Latrobe City deputy mayor Cr David Wilson (centre).

export option and Mecrus was actively pursuing exporting opportunities.

Mecrus also operates and maintains a coal delivery plant that supplies coal to Energy Brix Power Station and operates and maintains two steam plants for Murray Goulburn in Leongatha and Cobram.

The company has four business streams - energy, mining and resources, food and beverage and the water industry.

Mr Green said the company had built its success on being innovative and offering effective, total asset management solutions based on a systems approach to operations and maintenance.

"Mecrus has developed and grown its business by assembling a highly skilled and diverse employee base that combines a positive, can-do attitude with their particular maintenance operation or management skill."