

## SPECIAL FEATURE

### SAL news

- Improved appeal and nutritional value of processed fruit (juice and dried products).
- Quality, safety and sustainability, improved postharvest chain management.
- Preharvest
- Chain quality and sustainability.
- Genetics of fruit quality.
- Dissemination and knowledge transfer.
- Project coordination and management.

#### What's happening in Australia?

Horticulture Australia (HAL) has released an Across Industry Report 06/07 that outlines several outcomes covering many of the aims outlined in the UC Davis and Isafruit programs:

- Enhance the efficiency, transparency, responsiveness and integrity of the supply chain for the total industry to provide clear market signals.
- Maximise the health benefits of horticultural products in the eyes of consumers, influencers and government.
- Position horticulture to compete in a globalised environment.
- Achieve long-term viability and sustainability for Australian horticulture.

One project under consideration by HAL is to establish a "Horticulture for the Consumer Cooperative Research Centre" that would use genetic improvement processes to develop horticultural products that meet consumer demands. A survey of stakeholders was held in 2006 followed by a workshop in April 2007 involving participants in the horticultural supply chain to discuss the project.

If this Australian initiative proceeds it will enhance opportunities for collaboration with Isafruit researchers and the UC Davis programs since our research base for doing this sort of work is very small.

### Cutri Fruit takes out Achievement in Agriculture/Agri-Business Award

Stone fruit grower and packer, Cutri Fruit, has taken out top honours in the 2007 Swan Hill Region Business Excellence Awards, receiving the Achievement in Agriculture/Agri-Business Award at a gala ceremony held recently.

Cutri Fruit received the award after beating other Swan Hill agricultural success stories, standing out from the rest through its unique mix of fresh enthusiasm and age-old experience.

Cutri Fruit has been managed and operated by husband and wife team, Dom and Connie Cutri, who ran a highly successful operation for over thirty years, before they were joined by their son Gaethan and his wife Nicole just over three years ago.

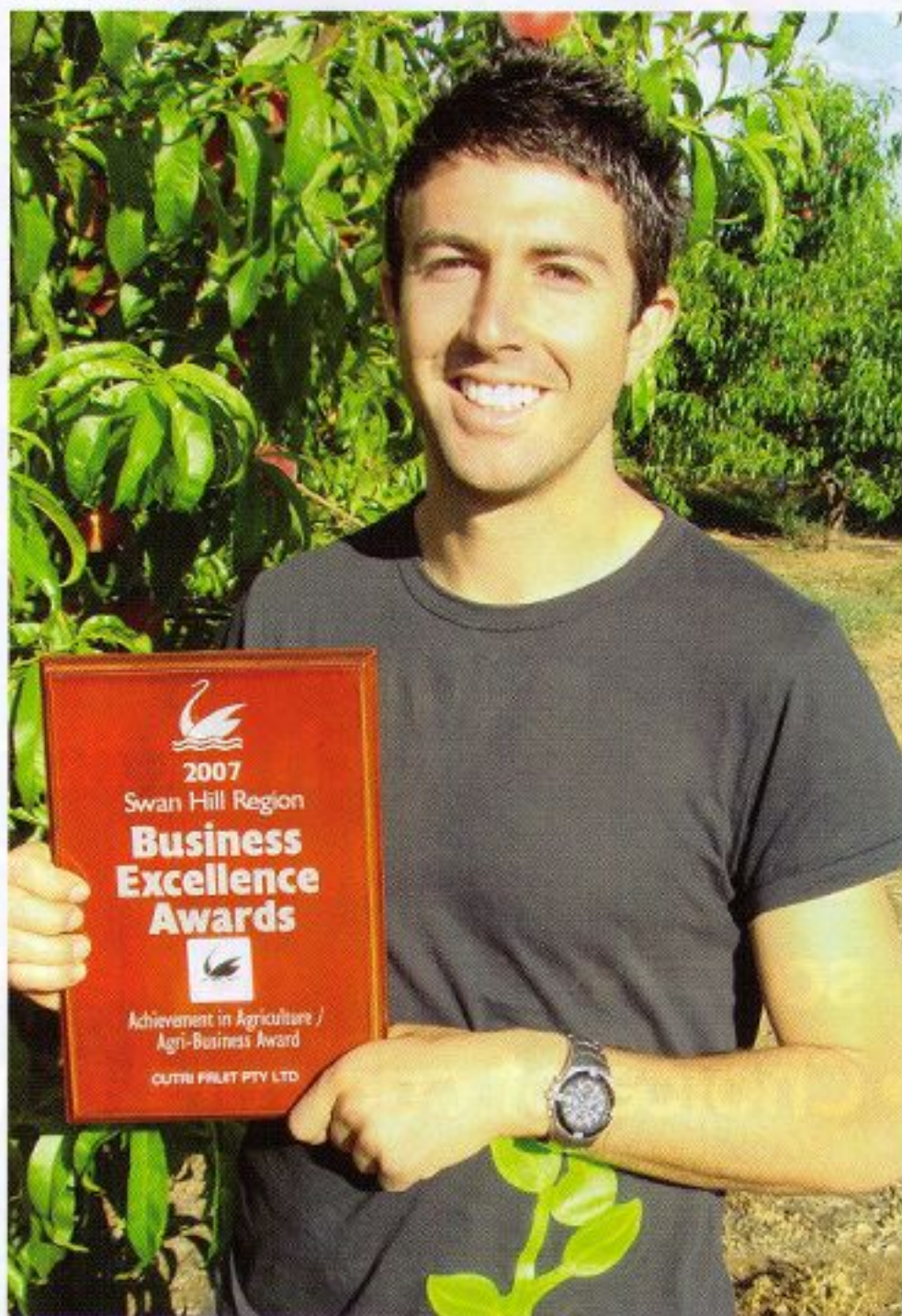
Cutri Fruit has in the last three years gone through a series of transformations, from a complete branding overhaul and name change, to a serious shift into systemisation and corporatisation. The business has planted more than 150 acres within this time, continuing to be one of the largest owner-operated stone fruit farms and packhouses in Australia.

Gaethan Cutri received the award on behalf of Cutri Fruit in front of 330 of the Swan Hill region's biggest names in business.

"Receiving this award is a huge honour for Cutri Fruit. We were hope-

ful we would receive the achievement, but we were up against such tough competition that it could have really gone against us. It's great to have all the hard work that we have put into the business recognised by our local industry and our peers."

For more information on Cutri Fruit and the Achievement in Agriculture/Agri-Business Award please:  
 email [nicole@cutrifruit.com.au](mailto:nicole@cutrifruit.com.au)  
 or call Nicole Cutri on 0411 0511 84.  
 Further information can also be obtained from [www.cutrifruit.com.au](http://www.cutrifruit.com.au). ■



Gaethan Cutri