

Top support for UNE's young entrepreneurs

OUTSTANDING support from the University of New England's management and staff has contributed to the success of a UNE team in a national competition for student entrepreneurs.

The UNE team of 10 students was runner-up in one league of the competition, while the university's Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ingrid Moses, was voted 'most supportive vice chancellor' (for the second consecutive year) and the team's academic mentor, Peter McClenaghan, was voted 'most outstanding mentor.'

Thirty two university teams took part in the fifth annual competition of Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) Australia last month at Melbourne's Hilton Hotel.

Last year (the first



INGRID MOSES

year of UNE's involvement in the competition), the UNE team was named the 'most outstanding rookie team.'

UNE presented two projects: 'Graduate Aware Outreach,' a student employment program aimed at breaking down traditional power barriers in the recruitment/employment interview process, and

'Armidale Markets Online,' a project that is helping stall-holders at Armidale's monthly markets to reach a wider range of customers by using the Internet and consolidating their marketing, finance, and e-commerce skills.

The judges were impressed by the amount of support the 'Markets Online' project had received from local businesses, and the links it had established throughout the community. They considered it 'a great initiative.'

President of SIFE UNE, Benita Wolfenden, said the competition in Melbourne had been 'a great team-building experience for SIFE UNE.'

The other members of the team are: Burton Yuen, Emma Falkenmire, Grant Johnston, Olivia



PETER MCCLENAGHAN

Thurling, Scott Finneran, Rowan McKeever, Karina Gill, Sheree Smith and Andrew Kapinga.

All the team members are students in UNE's New England Business School (NEBS).

"Melbourne was fantastic," Burton Yuen said.

"A great way to meet CEOs and find out about

career opportunities."

Their academic mentor, Peter McClenaghan, is a lecturer in NEBS. As 'most outstanding mentor' he received the Woolworths Leadership trophy and a cheque for \$2000.

He was one of four invited speakers at the SIFE Australia National Mentors' Forum in Melbourne the day after the competition.

The mission of SIFE, which was established in the United States in 1975, is to challenge university students to make a difference to their communities through learning, practising and teaching the principles of free enterprise.

In the process, the students develop their leadership, teamwork and communication skills.