

Working hard to have fun at work a winner

JOSHUA LEVI

A NORTH SHORE business says it strives to work extra hard to make work easier for its 35 employees.

"We work hard on having fun here," Ezy pay chief executive officer Trent Brown said. "If we have an expectation that the people contribute then we try to make it so that they enjoy what they do."

And employees say Mr Brown backs up his words with action.

All employees attended this year's My Business Awards, when Ezy pay was named Australian Medium-Sized Business of the Year.

"Most businesses take one or two people but we wanted to go as a team," Mr Brown said.

"The award is a good recognition of all the hard work the team puts in.

"It's an acknowledgement of the people as much as the business.

"The awards night wasn't just about winning, it was

about everyone enjoying and celebrating together."

Ezy pay was the first non-bank to provide direct debit for other businesses in Australia when it started in 1996.

The company now processes re-occurring payments from customers for businesses, such as monthly gym memberships.

Marketing employee Shimon Hall said there was no big secret to having a good time in the workplace.

"We just have fun with projects, like the current one which is called Project Pursuit, based on the board game Trivial Pursuit," Mr Hall said.

"The idea is that we have a formal project that we have to complete and, to help, the staff is split into four teams.

"Each of those teams plays Trivial Pursuit on a Friday afternoon while we chat about the project, to get a bit of an update on where we're at.

"We come to work nine to five and, as in most jobs, not all days are brilliant. But everyone is in it together so we try to have fun with it."



WORKPLACE WITH CHARACTER: Trent Brown.

Picture: DANIELLE BUTTERS - FR24/09/09

Bradfield Q&A

WILLOUGHBY West Ward Progress Association is hosting Meet the Bradfield Candidates tonight, where candidates will speak before answering questions from the floor. All 22 by-election candidates have been invited. The meeting will be from 8pm at the Dougherty Centre, 7 Victor St, Chatswood. The by-election is on Saturday, December 5. **Battle for Bradfield: Pages 8, 9**

Trusty worker

A NATIONAL Trust volunteer will be honoured in recognition and celebration of his work. Ronald Bottrill, of Northbridge, will receive the voluntary services award for 12 years' work. Mr Bottrill has been involved in organising more than 80 events, inner city tours and bush walks. The awards ceremony will be on November 28 at the trust's AGM at S.H. Ervin Gallery, Observatory Hill.

Pink in black

NORTH Shore restaurants have raised more than \$115,000 for breast cancer. More than 500 people attended Pink Ribbon breakfasts at Aqua Dining and ripples restaurants, including the Milsons Point and Chowder Bay locations. The restaurants donated all of the ticket cost and all other money raised.