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Insurance professionals recognised

Australia's top insurance professionals were recognised at an award ceremony at NIBA's 23rd National Convention at the Gold Coast yesterday.

Widely recognised as the most prestigious industry awards in Australia, the awards presented included the General Insurer of the Year Award, the Warren Tickle Memorial Award – which recognises a young professional's excellence in broking – and the Lex McKeown Trophy which recognises an individual's commitment to broking and NIBA.

QBE took out the General Insurer of the Year Award for the fourth year running.

The award is highly renowned throughout the industry as being the only award which is voted for by the industry – not external judges.

South Australian broker Mike Donnelly won the Lex McKeown Trophy for his 20-year commitment to NIBA and industry professionalism.

Presenting the award, NIBA President Steve Ball said Mr Donnelly's tireless work within the industry was second to none.

“He's a winner because he's also achieved so much in his own broking career,” he said. “His ability to understand changing distribution dynamics and adapt to the needs of his business and clients through the use of innovative technologies have gained widespread recognition.”

The Warren Tickle Trophy was awarded to young Perth broker Clint Jeuring of Jardine Lloyd Thompson for his outstanding service to his clients.

Outgoing Insurance Council of Australia Executive Director Alan Mason was presented with a special certificate of commendation for his decade of service to the local industry.

“His commitment to the industry, which he has served through his long and successful career both here and overseas, is widely respected,” Mr Ball said. “Importantly, he will be remembered for guiding insurers through some of their darkest days, especially after the collapse of HIH in 2001 and the public liability crisis that followed.”

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NIBA is an independent industry association with 500 firms and more than 2600 intermediaries, who handle approximately 80% of the commercial insurance transacted in Australia. Brokers play a major role in insurance distribution, handling \$7 billion in premiums annually and placing around half of Australia's total insurance business.

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