


 dwyer**building**services
 A Standard Advertising Feature

# Innovative and creative

By MARY ALEXANDER

DWYER Building Services has been highlighted as one of Australia's most innovative contractors by a national research centre.

The Co-operative Research Centre (CRC) for Construction Innovation, based at the Queensland University of Technology, researched the learning behaviours of 20 Australian contractors as part of a project titled BRITE.

DBS was named last year for its innovation in safety with the Chateau Rideau development of four modern townhouses in Kielli Drive, Warrnambool.

The double-storey buildings have been constructed on a large block in the growing residential area.

Tight timeframes, restricted site space and the need to limit occupational health and safety risks led DBS to devise a construction plan that included partial pre-fabrication of the buildings.

The upper storey of each townhouse was built on the ground and then lifted into place using a crane. Each module included steel and timber floor framing, braced wall frames, a trussed roof and Colorbond steel roof.

The process eliminated the need for tradespeople to work on the second-storey rooflines, so heavy full-height scaffolding was not required and construction time was reduced by four weeks.

Extra-strength bracing, required for the crane-lift, also created a structurally stronger building better able to withstand extreme weather.

DBS manager John Dwyer is one of two Australian builders selected to speak at research symposiums in Brisbane and Melbourne this month and present a case-study on the townhouses.



Dwyer Building Services used innovative techniques for the Chateau Rideau development on Kielli Drive.

0706273450. Pictures: Jemma Wallace.

The symposiums, organised by the CRC, will concentrate on safety and innovation in construction. "It's just fantastic," Mr Dwyer said this week. "You work your heart out and to get some recognition is just great." The CRC invitation had proved the company was "doing something outside the square", he said.

Dr Karen Manley, of the university's school of urban development and leader of the BRITE project, said clients valued firms with a history in innovation. "If a construction contractor can suggest an idea that improves quality or offers cost savings, it helps them gain an innovative reputation which is increasingly recognised as part of best practice," Dr Manley said.

Benefits that flowed from innovating, or adopting other company's product or process innovations, had significant effects on the economy, she said.

"If Australia's small and medium-sized enterprises in the construction sector — which make up 90 per cent of the industry — raised their productivity by as little as five per cent, it would have an enormous impact on industry productivity," Dr Manley explained.

"Because the construction industry has strong connections with other industries, it has an impact on GDP that is much greater than that which can be offered by most other industries for the same improvement in productivity. Innovation is the driver."

