

Tavern is simply the best

Named top gaming, Keno venue in state

By **MIKE DERRY**

A BUNDABERG venue has fought off a challenge from its big-city rivals to take out two major awards.

The Sugarland Tavern was recently awarded Queensland Hotel Industry Awards for excellence by being named the best gaming venue and the best Keno facility in the state.

Manager Rory O'Connor said venues across the state were judged on aspects such as presentation and service.

"We nominated ourselves, and then someone comes in and judges us without our knowing about it," he said.

Mr O'Connor said while they were pleased with the award, they would not make any big changes to any aspect of the tavern.

"We'll just carry on doing what we're doing right," he said. "We'll probably nominate for a few more awards next time."

He said the Sugarland Tavern was one of the few regional venues to win awards this year.

Mr O'Connor said the awards were particularly pleasing because the Sugarland Tavern would have been up against the major pubs in Brisbane in the competition.

However, the Sugarland

Tavern was a major regional venue, with 8000sq m under its roof and 45 people on the staff. Mr O'Connor said while the tavern was trading strongly, the industry was still apprehensive about the impact of the Federal Government's proposed poker machine pre-commitment legislation.

Prime Minister Julia Gillard has promised to bring in the laws by May next year, meaning punters will have to set a total spend before they can spend more than a \$1 a spin on pokies.

"It's going to hurt the whole hotel industry," Mr O'Connor said.

"The costs alone are going to be enormous.

"To install the equipment required will cost about \$6000 per machine.

"Some venues will also still be operating the older machines that cannot be modified the way they need to be."

The Sugarland Tavern has 40 poker machines on site, but Mr O'Connor said they had nowhere near as many as the Brothers Sports Club or the RSL.

TOP GONGS: Sugarland Tavern manager Rory O'Connor with the QHA awards for excellence.

Mike Knott BUN071011QHA3



A Grand Wine Tasting

Featuring superb wines and delicious hors d'oeuvres

Guest Speakers Nigel Brennan & Nicole Bonney
Authors of "The Price of Life"

FRIDAY 14th OCTOBER 2011
7PM TO 9PM

REGISTER YOUR POSITION ON 4132 7555

PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE
ST LUKE'S ANGLICAN SCHOOL, 4 MEZGER STREET

\$15 INCLUDES ENTRY, TASTING & HORS D'OEUVRES
HOSTED BY ST LUKE'S ANGLICAN SCHOOL P&F

NewsMail
Connecting Our Community

4293121aa

Robberies Are On the Rise

Get a Security Team that Will Rise to the Challenge

FNQ Security offers world class security services. Ask yourself: is your business safe? Robberies are on the rise, but FNQ can offer you peace of mind.

- Static Guards
- ATM Breakdowns (First Line)
- Armed Guards
- Alarm Responses
- Mobile Patrols
- Alarm Monitoring
- Cash Escorts/ Cash Moves
- Alarm & Camera Installations with new Facial Recognition

Protecting your business is FNQ's business

FNQ PTY LTD 65 Verdant Siding Rd, Thabeban
 P (07) 4152 7227 F (07) 4153 3779
 E lloyd@fnqsecurity.com.au
 W www.fnqsecurity.com.au

4205463ag

Odds stacked with funeral insurance

RECENTLY a reader told me she had received a brochure for a funeral plan. You paid a premium of \$87 a month, which would provide a cash sum of \$10,000 for your funeral, or any other expenses, when you died.

Applicants could not be over 70 and there was no payment available in the first two years unless the policyholder died from accidental death.

A "feature" of the policy was that no further premiums were payable once the total premiums paid reached \$10,000. That is almost 10 years from taking out the policy.

A product like this is basically a bet between you and the insurance company. If you die in the first five years you have won – if you last 10 years or more all you have done is got your capital back

SAVING MONEY
with Noel Whittaker

with no interest.

As always the odds are stacked in favour of the insurance company. Nobody over 70 can take out this policy, yet the life expectancy for a 70-year-old man is 14.76 years, and 17.42 years for a woman.

Most senior citizens can utilise high interest bank accounts without the fear of interest being eroded by tax. Suppose a 70-year-old placed \$87 every month into a bank account. If it earned 6%, they would have \$10,000 in eight years and \$14,000 after 10 years. If no more contributions were made it would be worth \$19,000 in five more years.