

Pigs can now fly

By Claire Mitchell

The Southern Highlands has long been known for its award-winning wines but now it can add award-winning beer to the region's list of achievements.

The Bowral Brewing Company received second place for its Pigs Fly Pale Ale in the Pale and Golden Ales Class at the Sydney Royal Beer Show.

Steve Anderson, a partner in the Bowral Brewing Company, said the Sydney Royal Beer Show was rapidly becoming one of the most highly-regarded beer competitions in Australia with entries coming in from all over the country.

"It's a very conservative, impartial show, with internationally recognised judges. If you look at who enters it's pretty much the who's who of Australian beer," he said.

"It was a tough competition with over 100 entries. The only brewery to beat us was the Matilda Bay Brewing Company and they're the second biggest craft beer producer in the country," Mr Anderson said.

Head judge Grahame Latham said he was very impressed with the quality of the competition and said it represented the diversity of Australia's beer industry.

Pigs Fly Pale Ale was created by Bowral Brewing Company partner Joe Duncan, and has been in production for 18 months. "Joe was stoked when heard the news



CHEERS: Steve Anderson from the Bowral Brewing Company and Will Mathews from the Bowral Hotel Bottle Shop, toasting the success of Pigs Fly Pale Ale at the Sydney Royal Beer Show.

because Pigs Fly was his baby," Mr Anderson said.

The Bowral Hotel Bottle Shop was the first in the district to stock the ale and manager Will Mathews said the popularity of the product was steadily increasing.

"Craft beer [hand crafted beer made in small batches] is one of the fastest growing sectors of the beer market. People are actively seeking them out now," he said.

"And we love to support local products."

"It's a great beer made by great local people who we are very happy to promote."

"In fact, this weekend, we're going to have Pigs Fly Pale Ale on special for \$50 a carton and \$15.99 for a six pack."

Mr Anderson said success at the show had greatly increased the reputation of the Bowral Brewing Company and that they were now looking at interstate distribution, with widespread interest coming from as far away as Queensland, Victoria and South Australia.