

Geelong gadget Australia's best

KELVIN HEALEY

IT WAS born in a Highton backyard, cost \$4 million to make, is the size of large cigar — and was last night declared Australia's top invention.

It's the revolutionary green diesel injector, a brainchild of Geelong engineer Ron Kukler which is set to make diesel engines around the world environmentally friendly.

Last night the extraordinary innovation was announced joint winner of the prestigious Invention of the Year Award at the Australian Design Awards.

Speaking before last night's ceremony, Mr Kukler was blunt on the subject of why he came up with the device.

"I objected to standing on a street corner in Melbourne getting blasted with black s---," the 58-year-old, who has numerous other inventions to his name, said.

The incident Mr Kukler referred to occurred when a passing bus covered him in a cloud of choking black carcinogenic smog.

"I thought 'I should be



SMART MOVE: Ron Kukler with his award-winning green diesel fuel injector system.

Photo: MIKE DUGDALE

able to do something about that'," he said.

Mr Kukler, who gained engineering qualifications at Gordon TAFE and spent 30 years in the field of combustion, set about making diesel engines

green. Nine years, \$4 million and "tens of thousands of hours" later, his pocket-sized invention is now set to take the diesel world by storm.

"It is designed to be totally pollution free," he

said. "It borrows nothing from the past, it is purely the future."

The invention greatly reduces the size of diesel systems and can be installed on existing diesel motors in about an hour.

It also allows petrol engines to be converted to diesel.

Mr Kukler said tests revealed it would not wear, even over a million miles. It is expected to be for sale within two years.