



PICTURE: MIKE DUGDALE

Cutting edge: Geelong inventor Ron Kukler with his award-winning device.

Ron injects powerful thinking to cut pollution

DARREN McLEAN

HIGHTON engineer Ron Kukler has been named joint winner of the Australian Design Awards Invention of the Year for a new diesel injector which boosts power and dramatically cuts pollution.

Mr Kukler's Green Diesel Injection System, which has already attracted interest from Perth-based Orbital Engines, is a pump-less, hydraulically operated, super high pressure injection system which provides 30 per cent higher power, 30 per cent less fuel consumption and a big cut in pollution.

The invention, developed in Mr Kukler's back yard over nine years and at an estimated cost of \$4 mil-

lion, shared the top award with the 'Coconet', a net-like device from Queensland which stops the potentially lethal consequences of falling coconuts.

Mr Kukler said he worked on the injector with Professor Eric Milkens of Melbourne University's Department of Mechanical Engineering, coming up with a system which they believe is about 10 years ahead of the latest fuel injection system on the market.

The 58-year-old, who studied engineering at the then Gordon Institute of Technology, spent 30 years working in the field of combustion, but developed the injector in his own back yard.

Mr Kukler said the device basi-

cally looked like a fat cigar and would probably retail for about \$1000 each.

Mr Kukler already has several other inventions to his credit, including a boat construction method, a foundation-less brick veneering system and a roof truss system.

He plans to launch his boat building method, which will produce 90-foot luxury diesel cruisers, in America soon.

And while he is happy with his award, Mr Kukler said continually coming up with ideas was "painful".

"I just like to problem solve," he said. "If people have got a problem I like to think how I can solve it."