

Awards prized

NEW machinery exhibitors will be in the running for major awards at the Elmore field days next week.

The *Weekly Times* Elmore Machine of the Year awards recognise excellence in two categories — imported and Australian machines.

An independent judging panel with engineering expertise is drawn from Dookie College to select the winners.

The group checks each machine before fixing on its choices from an ever-growing list of innovative contenders.

Winners' names are added to perpetual shields.

Inscribed silver cups are also presented to the winning individual or company.

The winner of last year's Australian Machine of the Year award was Geelong inventor Ron Kukler, who was showing his Green Diesel fuel injection system.

Ron said his system could save up to 30 per cent of the fuel used by a similar powered diesel engine, while producing up to 30 per cent more power from the same fuel.

The *Weekly Times* Imported Machine of the Year award went to John Bird, for the Italian-made Turbo 4 commercial mower from Gianni Ferrari.

The judges said this mower was neat, well designed and incorporated advanced systems to ensure operator safety and simplicity of maintenance.

Runners-up were the SmartSpray udder washing system for dairies in the Australian section and the Seara 1000 anti-frost wind machine in the imported category.

The Tractor and Machinery Association of Australia's Elmore Machine of the Year award went to the new Hodgco grader scraper built by Numurkah father-and-son team John and Ben Hodge.

Runner-up was Horwood Bagshaw's new precision seeding system for its cultivator bars.



Ron Kukler