

Killarney couple reap rewards of hard work

■ *By Janine Crawford*

Gary and Trudy Grant of Killarney View Cabins & Caravan Park are busy people.

In fact, it's hard to catch Gary, a former chef, and Trudy, a financial planner, sitting still at all. The keen horticulturalists are more likely to be out mowing, planting new gardens, doing maintenance work, cleaning or putting in new structures.

Having bought the run-down tourist park three years ago, together the couple have transformed the site into a neat, tidy and inviting 3 ½ star oasis nestled in Killarney's green valley.

They have extensively renovated the amenities block and laundry, the

office and residence and installed rock-lined pathways, a mixture of native and exotic gardens and five new cabins.

Then of course there are Gary's famous Sunday pancake breakfasts for park guests.

"It's good meeting the people coming in and it's really pleasing that we get so many nice comments about our park, especially since Gary's put in most of the hard physical labour, I have trouble getting him in before dark," Trudy explained.

Their efforts were recognised statewide last month when they won the prestigious Caravan Park Association of Queensland (CPAQ)'s "Turn-around Award" for 2009.



Southern Downs Divisional President of CPAQ, Majella Kahler, said the change of fortunes of this park was directly attributable to the personal efforts of Gary and Trudy.

"They have now attracted an entirely new tourist market and have increased occupancy by nearly 200 percent, much of it through repeat customers," Ms Kahler said.