



● Training chief Mark Chaston and Camilla Barker. Picture: SIMON GROVES

## Improving staff skills brings rewards for Border Express

By CHLOE BUGELLY

ALBURY-based transport company Border Express has won a national award for staff training.

The Australian Trucking Association presented the 2006 national training excellence award to general manager Geoff Luff at an awards ceremony held on the Gold Coast.

Since 2004, the company has implemented a training program where staff have been given the opportunity to expand their qualifications through certified online courses.

Mr Luff said the program had given both staff and the company numerous benefits.

"Over the past three years we have really focused on our people, our systems and processes with a view to setting the company up for the future," he said.

"We have tried to implement a cultural shift in the company and to date it seems to be working."

Border Express employs 600 people around the country.

Border Express began in 1981 and has continued to base its headquar-

ters in Albury for nearly 25 years, despite the fact the company has quadrupled in size since 1998 when the company expanded interstate.

"With the company's rapid growth we felt the need for our workers to upgrade their skills," national compliance manager Craig Olsson said.

"The transport industry has changed a lot to become more technologically driven.

"We have tried to give our staff the opportunity to learn as much as possible while aiming to be the employer of choice for those looking to enter the industry."

Border Express data entry operations assistant Camilla Barker completed her Certificate III in Transport Administration through the Wodonga TAFE.

"Career-wise it was excellent because it's given me an extra qualification that I otherwise wouldn't necessarily have," Ms Barker said.

"The course taught me a lot about the transport industry from occupational health and safety to trip times and driver break schedules while advancing my computer skills."