

It's spring gleaming

by Stephanie Bedo

BETWEEN designing jewellery for their own wedding, a Southport couple have landed an international jewellery design award.

Andrew and Libby Want, of Want Jewellery, won first place in the prestige professional category of the International Opal Jewellery Design Awards.

Libby designed the spring-inspired 'Sunburst' necklace after local opal wholesalers Col and Sherry Edwards approached them with a black crystal stone from Lightning Ridge.

Andrew finished the necklace was complete a week before the competition's deadline.

The floral pendant features 14 carats of opal and is worth more than \$85,000, with sapphires, diamonds and spessartite garnets surrounding it.

Mr Edwards went to the couple with the idea of them creating a map of Australia and having the stone as Uluru but Libby had other ideas.

"It was coming spring and all the flowers were about to bloom so we wanted to make it as beautiful as we possibly could," she said.



Jeweller Andrew Want with the award-winning \$85,000 necklace he and partner Libby called Sunburst

● **Picture: David Clark**