

From high school mates to business of the year



OLD MATES: Andrew Walker, left, and Glenn Keys have built a multimillion-dollar business.

By **BEN SMEE**

ASPEN Medical, the newly crowned *BRW* private business of the year, has its humble origins in the grounds of Whitebridge High School.

The men behind the company, Glenn Keys and Andrew Walker, were mates while growing up at Redhead and attended the school together about 25 years ago.

Now they run the Canberra-based company Aspen Medical, which has been recognised for its impressive growth and cutting-edge approach to providing medical services.

Dr Walker, a qualified

doctor and surgeon, and Mr Keys, an aeronautical engineer by trade, conceived Aspen in 2003.

The business, which was recognised by *BRW* as Australia's fastest-growing in 2007, now turns over about \$70 million each year.

Aspen's mobile surgery units, designed to bring medical services to remote areas and those of high demand, have been involved in some memorable projects.

The company was responsible for the treatment and evacuation of East Timorese President Jose Ramos-Horta when he was shot in Dili last year.

BRW recognised Aspen Medical as the private business of the year for businesses with a turnover of less than \$100 million a year.

Mr Keys, the general manager of the company, said it was an honour to win the award.

"We've had year upon year growth and have been focused on delivering a unique service to customers both here and overseas," Mr Keys said.

"Our clients realise the need to provide the best in health care to their staff and Aspen is the strategic partner capable of delivering this . . . service."