



**PICK OF CROP:** Charley's Chocolate makers Lynn and Chris Jahnke proudly show some of the prize-winning produce from their Mission Beach property.

Picture: STEWART McLEAN

## Tasting sweet success in Paris

**ALICIA NALLY**

A MISSION Beach chocolate maker is calling for financial support to help expand after winning a prestigious French culinary award.

Australian Chocolate Pty Ltd, run by Lynn and Chris Jahnke, was named as one of 18 recipients of the Salon du Chocolat International Cocoa Awards in Paris on October 30.

The award is the latest in a swag of prizes the company,

which manufactures the Charley's Chocolate brand, has picked up since it began selling chocolate made from cacao grown on their Maria's Creek property three years ago.

"In January we sent over cocoa from our property and the judges picked the best 50 from more than 200 countries," Ms Jahnke said.

"In August, we made the top 50 which we were delighted about. It is all pretty exciting.

"We have been trying to ex-

pand for some time and applying for grants but there have been no funds forthcoming.

"We know we make a good quality product here in Far North Queensland, we just need to upscale the product."

Ms Jahnke said the company's next goal was to up production from 600 to 2000 bars per week.

There are also plans afoot to build the Australian Chocolate Centre to add to the region's tourist offerings.