

Oswal bash is such a gas

Pankaj Oswal, the man behind the \$1 billion Burrup fertiliser plant, heard about Apache Energy's gas explosion on Varanus Island while travelling home from New York.

"It was 4am and I get this phone call and I said: 'What do you mean, like the whole thing blew up?'"

Mr Oswal's candid and humorous chat before party-goers at his company's annual party last weekend grabbed the crowd's attention as much as the fireworks, smouldering violin trio, awe-inspiring Las Vegas magic act, open cocktail bar and pop show by Australian band Human Nature.

The young Indian tycoon didn't seem at all stressed, despite his company being forced to bring forward a \$30 million planned shutdown to cope with the gas crisis, and the delay of his company's share-market float.

He told the crowd about his other big plans for aviation, property, developing solar energy and ammonium nitrate.

"All at the right price - the price I want," he laughed, alluding to the bargain deal he struck to secure gas for his Burrup plant for 25 years at between 86c and \$1.60 a gigajoule.

Pretty good, with world gas prices reaching about \$15.

And of course, he couldn't help mention plans for his new house, set to be Australia's most expensive at \$70 million.

"It's the thing they want to talk about the most," he said.

Confessing that his advisers keep telling him "no more press", Mr Oswal said he enjoyed talking about his projects and sharing his passion.

He said he believed his wife's plans for an international vegetarian fast-food chain could prove the family's most successful endeavour.

Radhika also took to the microphone, revealing how her young family had a very normal life, preferring to gather around the TV on a Saturday night to hitting the social scene.