



## Westpac Northland Business Excellence Awards

NZ CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE  
N O R T H L A N D  
Business Vitality

For release: Saturday 24 October 2015

### **Media Release:**

#### **2015 Westpac Northland Business Excellence Awards - Winners announcement**

The Westpac Northland Business Excellence Awards for 2015 took place at the Forum North on Friday 23 October. There were entrants from 43 Northland businesses competing in 5 business categories, 7 ancillary categories and an overall supreme winner.

Donovan Group NZ Ltd was the Supreme 2015 Westpac Northland Business of the Year and was also the winner of the EROAD Excellence in Business Large Business Award and the Northland Inc Innovation Award.

The judges said...

*Donovan Group is a long standing Northland business which impressed the judges with their strong leadership and foresight, committed to take itself and the industry to the next level. Innovative products and processes have been achieved through strategic supplier partnerships, securing key personnel and intellectual property requirements. Efficient workshop manufacture and supply are aided by its national Coresteel franchise system and their bespoke IT planning and management system.*

Tony Collins from the Northland Chamber of Commerce said that the awards were a fantastic opportunity to celebrate the success of many Northland businesses. These enterprises were of varying size and often very different in structure and scale. The one thing they all had in common was their passion for what they were doing and their commitment to succeed.

The complete list of winners were

- New Zealand Honey Traders Ltd - winner of the Ricoh Excellence in Micro Business (1-3FTE) Category. (Finalists MAD Ideas, Cuppacakes Northland and Results Rule Ltd)

The judges said...

*Despite being a fledgling business, New Zealand Honey Traders has big plans with international potential. Yet the underlying philosophy is centred on a passion for the land, the desire to support the community and the development of quality standards to improve the beekeeping industry. Diversification of product has enabled the seasonality issues of honey extraction to be offset with hive sales. With the new Hive Management software coming on stream shortly, there is significant potential for New Zealand Honey Traders to put Northland and New Zealand honey on the international map.*

- Building & Fire Services (2008) Ltd winner of the Henderson Reeves Connell Rishworth Excellence in Business Small Business Awards (4-9FTE). (Finalists Justa Plumber NZ Ltd, Ringa Atawhai Trust and Kiwi Cake Supplies Ltd)

The judges said...

*Building & Fire Services exhibited sound planning and monitoring. There are clearly defined goals and strategies, which are well implemented and monitored to ensure success.*

*The business owner has complimented their skills by building around them a robust and balanced team. This has enhanced the business.*

*The judges were impressed by the level of planning and attention to the collection of little things that make up a strong overall business.*

- Far North REAP Society Incorporated - winner of the Golden Bay Cement Excellence in Business Medium Business Award (10-24FTE). (Finalist Northland Emergency Services Trust and The Rintoul Group Ltd)

The judges said...

*Far North REAP impressed the judges by the extent of their involvement in the community and collegial management and team culture. Inspired by its vision and mission, Far North REAP is working well towards its goals of boosting community development. They have well developed internal systems and processes to ensure that they are efficient providers of services and their intimate connection to the community means that they can continually refine their offering to ensure they achieve a very high level of impact*

- Donovan Group NZ Ltd - winner of the EROAD Excellence in Business Large Business Award (25 plus FTE) (Finalists Northland Kindergarten Association and Northpower Fibre Ltd)

The judges said...

*Donovan Group is a long standing Northland business which impressed the judges with their strong leadership and foresight, committed to take itself and the industry to the next level. Innovative products and processes have been achieved through strategic supplier partnerships, securing key personnel and intellectual property requirements. Efficient workshop manufacture and supply are aided by its national Coresteel franchise system and their bespoke IT planning and management system.*

- Pure Day Spa - winner of the Business Coaching New Zealand Best Emerging Business Award. (Finalist Cavern Home Systems, Ohaeawai Community Education Trust and Trident Technical Services t/a Whangarei Engineering)

The judges said...

*Pure Day Spa literally 'walks the talk' of business excellence, demonstrating effortlessly in their daily work that they meet the standards required. The judges were particularly impressed with the involvement of staff in the entry and interview process, and their obvious enthusiasm and commitment to the business as well as their respect and affection for the owner. Pure Day is financially successful, has sound repeatable processes in place, is a significant contributor to the local community and a very worthy winner.*

- Northland Kindergarten Association - winner of the Top Energy Best Not-For-Profit Organisation Award, Far North REAP Society Incorporated was a finalist in this category

The judges said...

*NKA have impressed by growing to and operating 22 kindergartens strategically, within government funding constraints. Highlights of this organisation include good vision and leadership, development of a specialist speech and language therapist and a close relationship with the communities. Operating all over Northland, NKA manage to provide a very comprehensive and tailored service to our tamariki.*

- Ohaeawai Community Education Trust – winner of the Northland Regional Council Sustainable Business Award (finalist New Zealand Honey Traders Ltd and Far North REAP Society Incorporated)

The judges said...

*Ohaeawai Community Education Trust has forged a strong bond with its local community, from the primary school next door which the younger children can see through toddler-height Perspex windows, to the involvement of Ngawha Prison inmates in repurposing the old Masonic Hall grounds, and the strong sustainable relationships it has with the children's whanau. Clever creation of safe natural child-friendly environments outdoors, the use of recycled driftwood as a building material and the overall attention to experience through environment coupled with the culture of RESPECT for every child, made this entry stand out to the judges.*

- Trident Technical Services t/a Whangarei Engineering – winner of the ACC Workplace Safety Award. (Finalist Pure Day Spa and The Rintoul Group Ltd)

The judges said...

*In the year since taking ownership of the business, Ian Hendrikse and Mairi Lachland have established their leadership in the activities of the workplace throughout the three work sites. This has had a positive influence both on the rented worksites and near neighbours, working towards ensuring the impact on the local environment is minimal.*

*WEL supports contractor and client wellbeing through an inclusive community focused ethic of collaboratively improving systems and performance.*

*Mairi has a strong background in both health and the disability sector that gives strength and sensitivity to the function of both the mobility equipment repair services and the occupational health focus of the organization. A local provider, with a work force that is informed and responsive to their particular needs, provides an essential resource for individuals requiring mobility services.*

*Ian also has a diverse history working internationally with large organisations. He has addressed his skills to both the establishment of effective systems and updating the arrangement and maintenance programmes of plant on each site.*

*Both Mairi and Ian have a strong desire to promote participation and effective management of health and safety within the business, and are leading by example through undertaking and providing organizationally funded health and safety certification for all their employees.*

*Systems have been established to identify hazards, create standard operating procedures (SOPs), job safety analyses (JSAs) and to engender a spirit of collaboration within the work team through regular monthly 'pie-day' meetings and training support.*

- Grinter Glass Ltd - winner of the Creative Northland in Excellence in Arts Business and Cuppacakes Northland were named as a finalist

The judges said...

*Keith has set himself the challenge to operate the Glass blowing studio in the town basin as a viable business and from our observations it seems he is achieving this goal. He has an excellent understanding of the drivers that make the business successful including a detailed understanding of the cost structures. Armed with this, he has focused on ways to achieve key performance metrics that will cover the costs and at the same time is producing some stunning art as well as utility glass pieces.*

- Donovan Group NZ Ltd took out the Northland Inc Innovation Award (Finalists, Northland Emergency Services Trust, New Zealand Honey Traders Ltd and Northpower Fibre Ltd).

The judges said...

*The innovation has developed the vertical integration of the company. The development of the NTBB ties into the Core Steel business and using their software design makes the product unique and very difficult to replicate. Strong governance within the organisation bringing in Directors with specific skills to enable the development and growth of the business. The NTBB will enable other "product line" developments Great savings for the customer using this design story.*

- Results Rule Ltd took out the NZ Chambers of Commerce Judges Choice Award while Villa Italia Ltd and Cicada Symphony Designer Jewellery were named as finalists

The judges said...

*Starting with a YES business at school, Jessica has put her ideas into practice through study and has created a top class facility in a private relaxed setting. She has sought advice from a range of mentors and is following this to develop her business to meet her vision. She is passionate, committed and demonstrates a genuine desire to lift the health and wellbeing, particularly those in rural communities. She is to be commended.*

- Hone Heke Lodge was voted More FM Customer's Choice Service Provider while Cuppacakes Northland was the More FM Customer's Choice Retail Provider.

This is what one client had to say about Hone Heke...

*Outstanding place to stay in New Zealand, I have worked in hospitality for 10+ years and the Lodge surpasses many high quality hotels, the Owners David and Victoria are great ambassadors for Keri Keri and have a true passion for what they do. Fantastic Place and fantastic people! My experience of New Zealand has been all the better for my visit!*

And a Cuppacakes Northland customer had this to say...

*Cuppacakes Northland deserves this award because they always exceed my expectations, they go above and beyond to help create customised orders just for you, no matter how crazy or detailed your needs may be. Ashley remembers your name every time you come in, and even remembers your favourite cupcake! Just to make you feel even more special. It's nice to be acknowledged personally when you come in. Best place in town.*

The Northern Advocate Business Hall of Fame inductee this year was Jeroen Jongejans in recognition of his contribution to Northland business.

**More Info**  
**Tony Collins**  
**Northland Chamber of Commerce**  
**09-4384771**  
**027-4441010**

