

Friday 1 November 2019

Westpac Northland Business Excellence Awards 2019 - Results

The 2019 Westpac Northland Business Excellence Awards took place at Forum North on Friday 1st November. Businesses from throughout Northland submitted over 35 unique entries across 5 business categories, 8 ancillary categories; resulting in an overall supreme winner.

Westpac Northland Business Excellence Supreme Award

Winner

Maungatapere Berries Ltd

Judges comment

Diversity and innovation were the key factors making Maungatapere Berries this year's Supreme winner.

Dermott, Patrick, Linzi and Rebecca demonstrated a "berry" clear vision in diversifying their orchard into a state of the art, year-round berry producing business.

With a strong focus on their environmental impact and employee wellbeing, Maungatapere Berries demonstrates business excellence at all levels.

NorthTec Best Emerging Business Award

Finalist

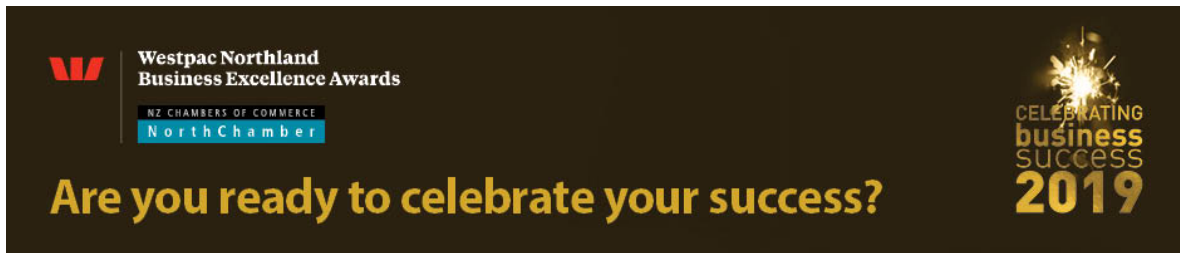
HeadsUp Adventures Ltd

Winner

Villa Chartered Accountants and Business Advisors Ltd

Judges comment

Villa Chartered Accountants and Business Advisors demonstrated an approach of flexibility and quality to their work supported by sound planning and processes. The judges were impressed with the enthusiasm and commitment of the Villa team to Northland businesses, helping and inspiring their clients to reach their goals.



Ricoh Northland Excellence in Business Micro Business Award

Finalists

Hone Heke Lodge Flashpackers Kerikeri
Sarahlee Studio

Winner

Whangarei Top 10 Holiday Park and Motels

Judges comment

Since entering the Business Awards last year Whangarei Top 10 Holiday Park and Motels have continued to enhance their business processes and the overall presentation of their facilities whilst caring for the natural environment with education and sustainability progress.

The aspects that stood out most to the judges included a strong focus on the relevant KPIs, very good internal communication and staff engagement practices, a full understanding of the target market, and sound financial management.

Nick and Claire are driven to be the best, and this is clearly evident in the results.

Henderson Reeves Excellence in Business Small Business Award

Finalists

Beachcomber Restaurant & Bar
Re-vive Beauty Therapy

Winner

Ruakaka Beach Holiday Park

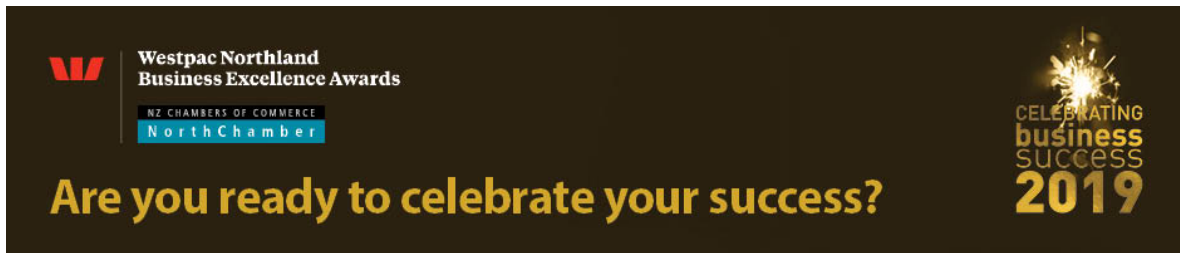
Judges comment

Ruakaka Beach Holiday Park is one of the largest camp sites in NZ located on the Ruakaka estuary. They offer 264 power sites, 80 non-powered sites and 9 cabins.

The management of the campsite demonstrated a great passion for caring for the park now and in the future. They have a detailed management plan and business plan in place outlining how they will achieve their goals.

Business processes were clear and well implemented. Governance structures were robust. The park were also working together with environmental groups to protect the nearby bird sanctuary.

The judges congratulate Ruakaka Beach Holiday Park for a strong entry and wish them every success for the future.



Marsden Maritime Holdings Excellence in Business Medium Business Award

Finalists

I have a Dream Charitable Trust
Whitelaw Weber

Winner

Bellingham Quarries Ltd

Judges comment

Bellingham Quarries Ltd is a successful third generation Northland family business. Their entry, and the judges' visit, showed clearly how well they juggle multiple sites, ever-changing customer demand, new industry requirements and volatile pricing with a clear vision and ruthless pragmatism.

Their encouragement and support of staff coming up through the ranks and the excellent use of available data were impressive features of their entry, taking them to a well-deserved win.

Vodafone Excellence in Business Large Business Award

Finalist

Educare

Winner

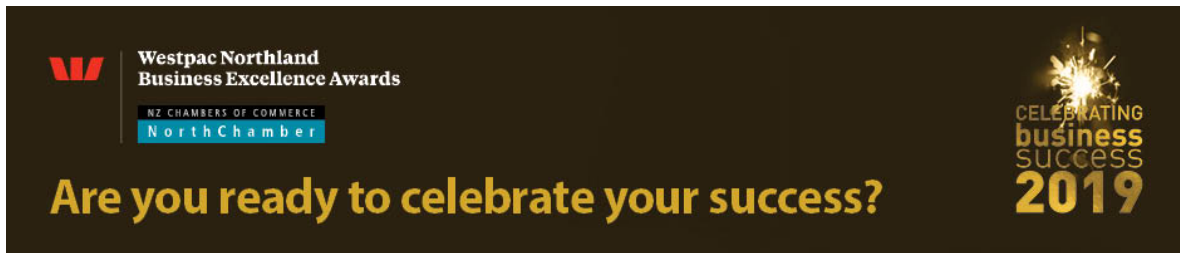
Maungatapere Berries Ltd

Judges comment

The judges were impressed by this entrant 5 years ago. Add a new vision, plenty of passion and some hard work by all, and the fruits of their labour are an innovative multi product operation.

As a significant employer in Northland the company is aware their workforce is key to their success and is designing industry leading training and share ownership schemes to help protect and grow this resource.

With a strong focus on diversity and innovation Maungatapere Berries Ltd demonstrates business excellence at all levels.



Accident Compensation Corporation Workplace Safety Award

Finalists

Tranznorth Ltd

Northcom Communications Group Ltd

ACC Special Commendation

Whitelaw Weber

Winner

Educare

Judges comment

Educare is a childcare business based in Northland operating nationally with 212 staff. Educare has robust processes for the identification and management of risks. It's great to see that the business tracks and reports on their incident trends including cause and time of day with learnings are shared across different worksites. The company has recognised the need to invest in the development of leadership within their organisation and in the face of exponential growth has maintained a hands on and compassionate approach to decision making.

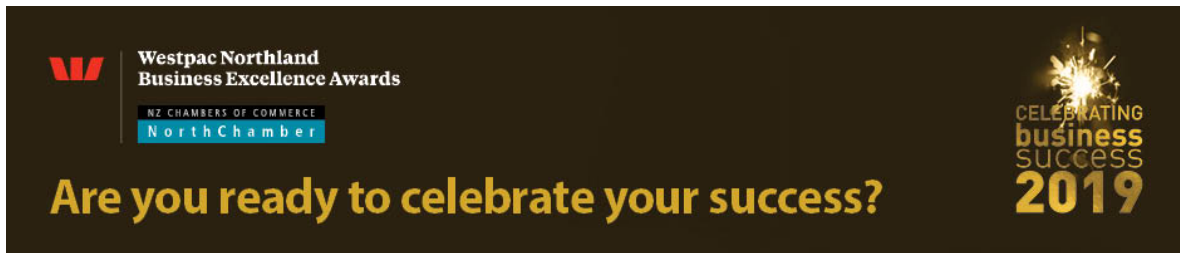
People Potential Judges Choice Award

Judges Choice

Northland Arts Centre

Judges comment

Julia and Jason and their team of volunteers at the Northland Arts Centre create a magic environment for therapeutic art and quality education. The judges loved the passion and creativity expressed within the Centre, and the genuine desire of Julia and Jason to make a difference to their community.



Northland Regional Council Environmental Excellence Award

Finalists

Maungatapere Berries Ltd
Whangarei Top 10 Holiday Park and Motels

Winner

HeadsUp Adventures Ltd

Judges comment

HeadsUp Adventures demonstrate a commitment to sustainable and environmental excellence. Their integrated approach includes the appropriate use of resources and water management, working closely with local iwi and hapu, as well as regulatory authorities and other experts. As a local, family owned business, their relationships with the surrounding community and schools are strong, providing a unique experience in understanding the natural forest and bush around them, as well as adventure.

Top Energy Best Not for Profit Organisation Award

Finalists

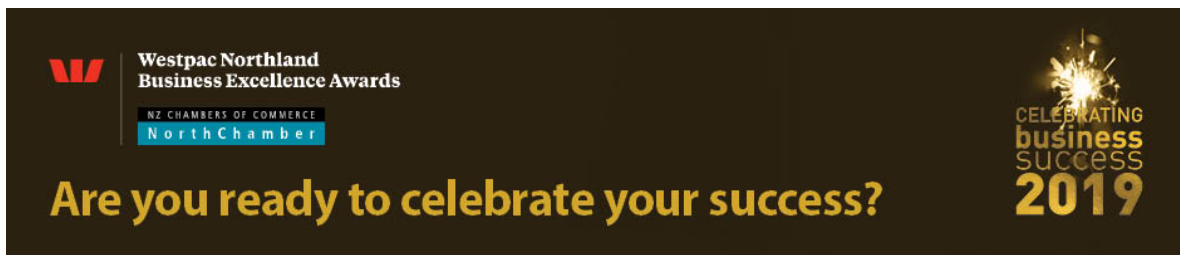
Multicultural Whangarei Incorporated
Ruakaka Beach Holiday Park

Winner

I have a Dream Charitable Trust

Judges comment

I Have a Dream Charitable Trust's entry combines a solid business foundation and attention to detail with very obvious commitment and engagement from people at all levels of the organisation - including the children on the program who are living proof of the results. Relying entirely on philanthropic support and charitable donations, I Have a Dream Charitable Trust reaches deep and wide into the communities it supports to improve educational and training outcomes for those who need it most.



Northland Inc Innovate Northland Award

Innovate Special Commendation

Wellkit Foods International Ltd

Winner

Olive and Ash

Judges comment

The judges were very impressed with this business, Olive and Ash. The owners have created a product that is tasty, and easy to ship - both throughout NZ and to potential export markets. Reduction of meat consumption is very topical, and the volume will only grow as global warming and land use concerns become more and more mainstream.

Having the product as a quick and easily prepared meal that are familiar to consumers is a clever strategy that will resonate with a broad range of consumers. They also felt that targeting “reductarians”, Millennials and busy lifestyles was astute and created opportunities such as partnering with heavy weights Beef & Lamb which would be prohibitive if the brand targeted the obvious vegan market.

The judges were also impressed with the branding and proposed packaging look and all agreed that printing limited runs of the recycle 7 was a good idea, as new and more environmentally friendly packaging was likely to come onto the market in the next year.

Creative Northland Excellence in Creative Industries Award

Finalist

Memory Lane

Creative Special Commendation

Northland Arts Centre

Winner

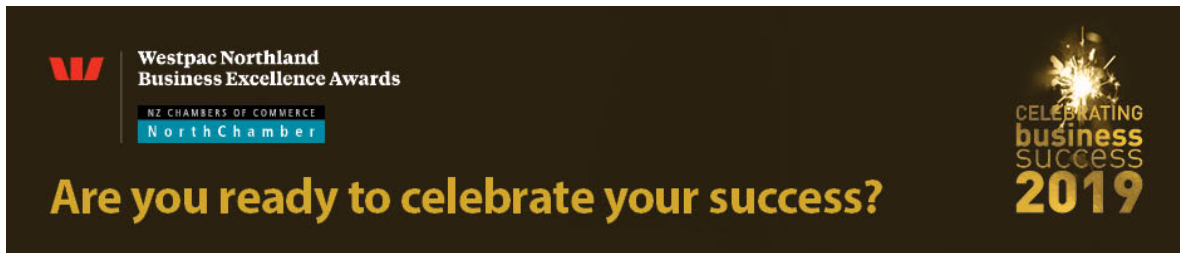
Sarahlee Studio

Judges comment

Sarahlee has proven that she is worthy of this award as a creative entrepreneur, using photography as a medium to bring something to life that only lives in the artist's mind.

This is evident in her written application, her understanding of her business, product lines, and her financial model has improved year upon year.

This is Sarahlee Studio's third time entering this category and the judges are delighted she is this year's recipient with strength in these three areas: growth, marketing and customer development.



More FM Customer Choice Award – Retail

Finalists

Eko Hub
Kiwi North

Winner

Taste & See NZ

Customer feedback

This cafe makes plant-based food, a welcome addition to the town for non-meat eaters in particular, but also as an alternative food experience for meat eaters.

What makes this place special are the two women who run the cafe, Sam and Hope Moorhead.

Sam and Hope bring a new concept in food to this area. They have great personalities and their friendliness makes everyone who walks in there to feel welcome.

More FM Customer Choice Award – Service

Finalists

Blush Beauty Therapy
Bellingham Quarries Ltd

Winner

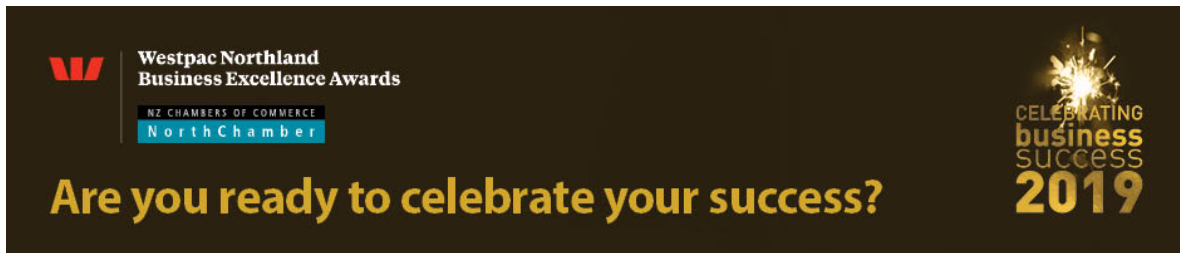
Memory Lane

Customer feedback

Memory Lane has amazing customer service. They're all very helpful and always willing to go the extra mile for tattoo designs. They are super friendly also!

They've also been a massive part in the painting and designing the murals around Whangarei. Memory Lane was also a big part of the Waka Hourua fundraiser back in July.

Memory Lane is always supportive towards the community, bringing positive vibes to uplift everyone around them. They're a fun bunch of hard-working individuals and I think that they deserve to win this award.



Ministry of Social Development He Poutama Taitamariki Award (Youth Employee of the Year)

Winner – Employee Trey Henry

Winner – Employer Ngati Kahu Social Services

This year's He Poutama Taitamariki (Youth Employee of the Year) award winner is someone who has not only overcome challenges in his life but has used them to his advantage.

Trey has tackled some of the common challenges our Te Taitokerau rangatahi face and has become a role model for his whānau.

Ultimately, Trey has had a complete change of worldview with an inspiring story to share with the world.

The Northern Advocate Business Hall of Fame Inductee

Inductee

Kaka Porowini

-Ends-

For further information contact

Steve Smith

(64) 9 4384771

ceo@northchamber.co.nz

www.northchamber.co.nz