



Entries Open to Celebrate Northland Business

The New Zealand Chambers of Commerce Northland is calling for entrants for the 2013 Westpac Northland Business Excellence Awards. There is no cost to enter the awards, you do not need to be a member of the Chamber and there are significant benefits to entering.

“We are celebrating business success in Northland and believe that all entrants benefit from participating in the awards. The awards allow businesses to examine themselves, identify their strengths and weaknesses and develop plans to further improve their businesses. It is also an invaluable tool to raise your businesses regional profile,” says New Zealand Chambers of Commerce Northland CEO Tony Collins. “It’s really all about recognising the pursuit of excellence at that the journey is continuous and that all businesses other words should undergo a constant process of improvement”.

“As well as raising their business profile and celebrating their success, each category winner receives a media package valued at over \$10,000 to add value back into the business and promote their win,” continues Mr Collins.

Following the success of the business size categories at the 2012 awards, businesses will again be grouped and measured against businesses of similar scale to ensure like sized is evaluated against each other.

No one knows a business better than those who own, operate or work within that business each and every day. What these people may not know is the best way to express this knowledge within the entry format and in manner that allows for it to be judged against the assessment criterion. To demystify the entry process the New Zealand Chambers of Commerce Northland, in partnership with Westpac, will run a series of workshops throughout Northland to walk the entrant through the process.

“In the past there have been some outstanding entrants and winners from outlying districts. We would like to see this strong regional representation continue. If you know of a business that you believe would benefit from this event, please encourage them to enter” says Mr Collins.

For more information visit the awards website www.northlandbusinessawards.co.nz or contact the New Zealand Chambers of Commerce Northland .

Contact
Tony Collins
ceo@northchamber.co.nz
027 444 1010
09 459 1945



Key Dates

- 25th March Entries open with call for expression of interest
- Closing date for expression of interest: Friday 16th August
- Entrant's workshops June - July
- Entries close 16th August
- Entries open for MoreFM Customer Choice: 5th Aug (closing 27th Sept)
- Call for Nominations to The Northern Advocate Business Hall of Fame: 5th Aug (closing 27th Sept)
- Judging: 21 August – 3 October Entrants Networking Evening: 9th October
- Awards Presentation & Gala Dinner evening: 25th Oct

Notes to media

Information about the Judging process

The criterion used this year is a modified version of the Baldrige system and this allows for a robust and quantifiable measurement of a business's performance, which can then be used to compare the entrant against like and unlike businesses

Information about Workshops

The time and venue of these is still to be finalised but everyone who complete an Awards Expression of Interest Form will be kept advised as to when these workshops will take place.

At these workshops the entrants will be instructed by past judges, businesses coaches and past entrants on how to best present their business when completing the entry form. Where possible, sample answers will be used as examples to illustrate the information that the judges will be looking for. We believe that there is no reason that an entrant could not leave these workshops with a rough cut of their entry that requires only minor additional work to complete.

Following the workshops which will be 1.5 to 2 hours in duration, all entrants will have access to further coaching as and when required. This year Terry Sage from Business Coaching New Zealand has made his services available to those who need him to help finalise their entries. Terry has been involved in the awards for a number of years and his experience will be of value to anyone entering for the first time