



For release: Saturday 29th October 2016

Media Release: 2016 Westpac Northland Business Excellence Awards: Winner's announcement

Westpac Northland Business Excellence Awards for 2016 took place at the Forum North on Friday night. Northland businesses submitted 40 entries across 5 business categories, 7 ancillary categories and an overall supreme winner.

Waipapa Pine Ltd was the Supreme 2016 Westpac Northland Business of the Year and was also the winner of the Vodafone Excellence in Business Large Business Award.

The judges said...

The judging panel was unanimous in making the Supreme Award to Waipapa Pine after a short discussion. The scale and complexity of this business and the space in which it operates, the company's holistic approach to their industry and the people in it, plus their industry leadership and genuine respect for the environment, made this entry shine above the rest.

Tony Collins from the NZ Chambers of Commerce Northland said that it was great to celebrate not only the winners but all entrants for the passion they show to their business aspirations and their pursuit of excellence, the standard continues to get better every year and no matter what the size, structure or nature of the enterprise they were all committed to making their business a success.

The complete list of winners were

Northcity Caravans - Piano Hill - winner of the Ricoh Northland Excellence in Micro Business (1-3FTE) Category. (Finalist: Sarah Burrows Design)

The judges said:

The judges were particularly impressed with the broad number of business aspects that have been improved and implemented at Northcity Caravans - Piano Hill.

There is a well-documented five year vision with milestones clearly identified along the way. Robust budgeting is in place and the target market is well defined.

Good business systems such as XERO and CRM are in place, and above all there is a genuine and impressive commitment to a broad range of local community support.



Tyrepower Whangarei - winner of the Henderson Reeves Excellence in Business Small Business Awards (4-9FTE). (Finalists were: Activ8 NZ Ltd, EchoNorth Diagnostic Ultrasound and Te Hiku Media)

The judges said:

The owners of Tyrepower have taken a relatively mundane industry and established a point of difference by focusing on the customers and elevating the service levels to a very high standard.

This combined with very good image management, branding and significant community support, including “gold coin donations” for puncture repairs, suggests they have developed a differentiation strategy that really sets them apart.

Unichem Buchanans Pharmacy - winner of the GBC Winstone Excellence in Business Medium Business Award (10-24FTE). (Finalists: were Habitat for Humanity and Trigg Construction Ltd)

The judges said:

Unichem Buchanans Pharmacy is a financially successful business and has strong planning processes and systems to support ongoing improvement and development.

The judges were particularly impressed with the enthusiasm, passion and attention to detail from General Manager, Gemma Buchanan. Husband and wife partners, Gemma and Iain have created an environment where staff are engaged and clearly enthusiastic about what they do.

They actively contribute to the wellbeing of their community and the importance of the care and empathy for clients was evident. They are a very worthy winner.

Waipapa Pine Ltd - winner of the Vodafone Excellence in Business Large Business Award (25 plus FTE). (Finalists: were Ross Insulation Ltd and Airzone Ltd)

The judges said:

The judges were impressed with how Waipapa Pine has navigated their way in a demanding and complex industry which is hugely significant for Northland, addressing the questions of ongoing log supply, national and international interests, and the company’s role in their local community.

The leadership they have shown in their industry, their support of staff, attention to environmental concerns, and the depth of their vision for the future, were just some of the factors which made this entry a stand-out in the large business category.



Cadenshae - winner of the Business Coaching New Zealand Best Emerging Business Award. (Finalists: were Monster Graphics, Live Wire Media and Mint Floral)

The judges said:

Nikki recognised and defined a market to provide bright, funky and functional active wear to nursing mums. In April last year Nikki, together with Adam, established Cadenshae.

They developed a product range, established reliable supply chains, detailed business procedures and innovative marketing activities including superior customer service processes.

Their online market quickly grew and was expanded by appointing resellers in New Zealand, Australia, Malaysia and continues to grow at a staggering pace.

The judges were impressed by the clarity of focus, the passion, clear business processes, the developing global distribution network and the phenomenal early growth. Congratulations to you both.

Habitat for Humanity - winner of the Top Energy Best Not for Profit Organisation Award, Northland Kindergarten Association and Te Hiku Media were finalists in this category

The judges said:

A vision of “a world where everyone has a decent place to live” is a bold goal. However Habitat for Humanity Northland has impressed the judges by developing into a dynamic and sustainable organisation.

Development of multiple funding streams, having a desire to operate with excellence, and the utilisation of a variety of different sources of labour, has enabled Habitat for Humanity Northland to create a world of difference, to not a few but many Northlanders.

Te Hiku Media - winner of the Northland Regional Council Sustainable Business Award (finalists were Waipapa Pine and Habitat for Humanity)

The judges said:

Te Hiku Media (Te Reo Irirangi o Te Hiku o Te Ika) have developed an innovative digital platform for live-video-streaming that shows forward thinking and a drive and passion for success. This is backed up by a digital marketing strategy that enables them to reach their audience locally, nationally and internationally.

Te Hiku Media show very good planning and management skills and have developed multiple funding sources while staying true to their vision and mission.

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Airzone Ltd – winner of the ACC Workplace Safety Award. (Finalist: Ross Insulation Ltd)

The judges said:

A Northland business established in the 1980's, Airzone was a founding partner of SafeTrades North (now part of NorthTec). With a strong focus on energy-efficiency and recycling to protect the environment, Airzone also contributes to the community through its work on ventures such as the cancer centre, Project Promise, undertaken at cost.

Airzone's strong training programmes and good working relationships with clients and project team members has established an ethic of cooperation and support within the organisation and the community.

Te Hiku Media - winner of the Creative Northland Excellence in Creative Industries Award and Mint Floral and Sarah Burrows Design were named as a finalist.

The judges said:

Over the past 25 years Te Hiku Media (Te Reo Irirangi o Te Hiku o Te Ika) has transformed into a multimedia platform organisation; becoming an Iwi communications hub for radio and online media. Te Hiku Media have a clear revitalisation strategy for Maori language content, archiving and digital innovation.

Goals and objectives show they are in the business of delivering 'meaning' where users' needs are not only satisfied by form and function but also through experiences – the meaning.

Their planning takes a design thinking innovation process to drive their market rather than adapt which has led to technology epiphanies such as live streaming major events, building online digital platforms and building data. All underpinned by sound fiscal decision making.

Supacolour – Hot Printz Screenprinting Ltd took out the Northland Inc Innovation Award, established business (the other two finalists were Building & Fire Services (2008) Ltd and Northland Regional Council which as well as naming as a finalist was highly commended by the judging panel).

The judges said:

Supacolour – Hot Printz Screenprinting Ltd are highly innovative with a first in market product. They have balanced their risk by building from significant expertise - seeing potential that is built on solid basis of industry knowledge. Through matching state of the art technology to an age old process, they are delivering to an international market to high acclaim.

The judges highly commended Northland Regional Council saying:

The team of dedicated staff have made a huge impact in support of triple bottom line reporting with significant environmental and community impact. They have supported a number of new product developments, are lessening the negative impacts of dairying, and are leaders in this field in NZ.

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Hive took out the Northland Inc Innovation Award, emerging business (Finalists were UV Solutionz Ltd and JP Green)

The judges said:

Hive are a new company moving strongly through their development journey with significant potential.

Strong engagement with expertise has enhanced and supported the innovation process; they have used advice from experts and customers, checked assumptions and built from there.

They are ready to enter the market in a scalable way capitalising on a global opportunity to support a new way of working.

Alzheimers Society Northland Inc and Active Attitude were joint winners in the Cavern Home Judges Choice Award

The judges said about Alzheimers Society Northland:

Alzheimers Society Northland provides information, support and education to people living with dementia, their caregivers and families throughout Northland.

The passion and dedication of the General Manager, Kevin Salmon and staff was a stand out for the judges. The level of genuine care, empathy and respect from the staff was evident and highlighted when the judges were privileged to meet the clients and care givers during the site visit.

Attention to detail and thoughtfulness was further evident in the commitment to build a purpose built community facility in Tikipunga.

The judges said about Active Attitude...

Ashleigh's passion, determination and spunk has blown the judges away. Such a clear focus and desire to achieving goals is to be congratulated and an example for other businesses to follow.

Hone Heke Lodge Flashpackers Kerikeri was voted More FM Customer's Choice Service Provider while **Mint Floral Ltd** was the More FM Customer's Choice Retail Provider.

This is what one client had to say about Hone Heke Lodge:

As a Te Araroa Hiker, Hone Heke Lodge was a wonderful place to stay. The owners were extremely friendly and helpful. They provided us hikers with anything we needed (really fast). Not only did they help us out with nice laundry and cooking facilities, they also gave us good information about the upcoming sections and gave us moral support and comfort (which is very important as a hiker). I highly recommend Hone Heke Lodge Kerikeri as winner.

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And a Mint Floral Ltd customer had this to say:

I have recently engaged the help of Jasmine & Bryce and their wonderful team at Mint Floral to do our wedding flowers. They have been amazingly helpful so far and come up with some stunning bouquet ideas.

Their shop is beautiful, stylish and funky and such an awesome place to get flowers and gifts

The Northern Advocate Business Hall of Fame inductee this year was **Jack Guy** in recognition of his contribution to Northland business.

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