

Business awards finalists

Sixteen businesses have been named as finalists in the 2008 North Canterbury Business Awards (details on page 2).

"We were extremely pleased with entry numbers in the inaugural awards and commend the fantastic array of businesses who entered," says Enterprise North Canterbury manager Heather Miller.

"It's not an easy thing to put yourself out there for scrutiny, and we take our hats off to those businesses who were prepared to do so. We want to encourage them to try again next year."

Judges were pleased with the quality of the businesses, although the writing of the paperwork itself was a barrier for some. Heather thanked the judges (www.northcanterbury.co.nz/links-and-partners/Judges) for the time they put in and said it was great to see a range of business types and sizes being chosen as finalists.

"It was interesting that both the innovation award finalists are businesses that have solved rural problems – Bellfarm Electronics (pictured below) and Technical Concepts."

The businesses have emerged as a result of the business owners living and working in rural communities and recognising the need to solve specific problems aligned to water use and death-rates of new born foals.

"These are the types of businesses that are contributing to our economy and which we need to celebrate. All the finalists reflect a cross-section of our business community and are spread the length and breadth of North Canterbury."

Heather also praised the foresight of the seven sponsors who were prepared to back the awards from the outset.

Mainpower has been the major sponsor, with Ray White Real Estate, Northern Outlook, Department of Labour, Landor Developments, North Canterbury Community College and Hanmer Springs Thermal Pools and Spa as category sponsors.



North Canterbury
Business
Awards

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The North Canterbury Business
Awards are organised and
supported by:



enterprise north canterbury

Book early for business awards dinner

Join us at the Gala Dinner on Saturday 30 August to celebrate North Canterbury's Business Awards. This formal evening will be hosted by Frankie Stevens, who will also provide the entertainment. The evening, at the Kaiapoi Club, will provide an opportunity to showcase the awards' finalists and announce the winners as well as be a great night out. The evening will provide a fantastic team outing for businesses wanting to book a table.

Tickets (\$96 plus GST per person) can be purchased from the Kaiapoi Information Centre, Charles Street, Kaiapoi, phone (03) 327 3134 or email: info@kaiapoivisitorcentre.co.nz

Award Finalists

(continued from page 1)

The finalists in the North Canterbury Business Awards (by categories) are:

Exceptional Tourism Provider Award sponsored by Hanmer Springs Thermal Pools and Spa

Continental, Rangiora
(www.continental.co.nz)

Continental supplies event catering, hires marquees and event equipment throughout the South Island, and offers venue management services to various sites throughout Canterbury. It also caters to the tourism market through business, cruises, tour groups and travellers.

Fontainebleau Luxury Retreat, Hanmer
(www.fontainebleau.co.nz)

Fontainebleau is a luxury retreat, providing elegant five-star accommodation, designed exclusively for couples to relax and rejuvenate.

South Pacific Motorcycle Tours Ltd
(www.motorbiketours.co.nz)

This Mandeville-based business provides guided motorcycle tours and rentals for individuals, couples and groups, catering for the luxury market. Tours include Harley-Davidson Cruiser Rides for corporate events, special gifts and for visitors, including taking them to North Canterbury hot spots.

Exceptional Workplace Award sponsored by the Department of Labour

Amberley Preschool and Nursery Incorporated, Amberley

Amberley Preschool and Nursery is a childcare and education centre for children between the ages of 6 months and 5 years.

Horton Signs, Rangiora
(www.hortonsigns.co.nz)

Horton designs, manufactures, installs and project manages signage, branded mediums and message systems.

Rangiora Bakery Ltd, Rangiora
(www.rangiorabakery.com)

Rangiora Bakery operates two retail shops and services many large wholesale customers primarily in New Zealand. It also contracts manufacturing for various national clients.



Exceptional Sustainability Award sponsored by Landor Developments Ltd

Hurunui Complementary Health Clinic and Wahine Acupuncture, Cheviot

The business provides a range of therapeutic treatments and a Traditional Chinese Medicine clinic in Cheviot and Kaikoura.

Kinley Education, Rangiora
(www.kinleyed.co.nz)

Kinley provides products and services to support creative reuse education in the early childhood sector. It also runs creative reuse workshops for adults and children.

North Canterbury Community Resources Ltd, Amberley

Hurunui Recycling recycles post consumer waste by undertaking kerbside recycling collection and processing. It markets a range of recovered materials and runs a Community Reuse Store.

Exceptional Innovation Award sponsored by Ray White Rangiora (Trends Realty Ltd)

Bellfarm Electronics, Amberley
(www.bfe.co.nz)

Bellfarm designs, manufactures and installs radio-controlled pump switching systems and monitoring systems for farm water supplies, irrigation systems and town water schemes.

Technical Concepts Ltd, Ashley
(www.breedezzy.com)

Technical Concepts developed the Breed-Ezy Foaling Alarm which is a halter-based transmitter that sends coded signals directly to a pocket pager when a mare lies down to foal. The product was developed to help reduce high mortality rates if mares are left unattended to foal.

Exceptional Niche Marketing sponsored by Northern Outlook

Farm to Farm Tours, Rangiora
(www.farmtofarm.co.nz)

Farm to Farm Tours is an inbound and outbound agricultural tourism operator. It specialises in organising group tours for farmers and people interested in agriculture around New Zealand and to many overseas destinations including South America, North America, United Kingdom, Ireland, Europe, China, South Africa and Australia.

Arbitek Ltd (www.arbitek.co.nz)

Arbitek has two business units. Arbitek Streamline assists NZ manufacturers to be more efficient by applying world class manufacturing principles enabling the business to flow faster while reducing costs. Arbitek Ltd is a global materials sourcing company delivering costs reduction on manufacturing parts by up to 30 percent.

McLaren Excavating Ltd, Waikuku
(www.excavating.co.nz)

Waikuku based McLaren Excavating is a small diverse contracting business covering all aspects of earthmoving, driveways and construction. They service a wide and varied client base ranging from lifestyle blocks, farmers, builders, developers and corporates to local authorities.

Exceptional Service Delivery Award sponsored by the North Canterbury Community College

Activity Hanmer Ltd, Hanmer
(www.activityhanmer.co.nz)

Activity Hanmer (pictured) specialises in outdoor activity and is based at the Hanmer Springs Forest Camp. It provides visiting schools and corporates with a range of activities: climbing, biking, orienteering, tramping, bush skills, team building initiatives, and overnight camps. The business is growing its corporate market as a means to subsidise schools.

Horton Signs, Rangiora
(www.hortonsigns.co.nz)

Horton designs, manufactures, installs and project manages signage, branded mediums and message systems.

Oxford Post Shop

Oxford Post Shop runs a Kiwibank banking facility, New Zealand Post services, Land Transport services, and bill payments for over 70 agencies. These are integrated with a full range of Waimakariri District Council services including a library.

Local Initiatives

Broadband update

A group looking at how broadband access can be improved in North Canterbury has been brought together by Enterprise North Canterbury. It is now looking at how the region might lodge an expression of interest for the Broadband Investment Fund. If successful, this would enable the region to undertake research to develop a substantive business case on the best way to enhance local broadband access.

Labour Market Strategy

North Canterbury's draft Labour Market Strategy is available online (www.northcanterbury.co.nz). The strategy, developed as a result of extensive consultation, has eight interlinked strands: investing in leadership and communication, tapping into the region's people resource, identifying workplace needs, improving the connections, building workforce capability and capacity, encouraging best workplace practice, addressing the barriers and assisting business and productivity growth. Enterprise North Canterbury is leading the strategy's implementation in partnership with the region's Labour Market Advisory Group, Ministry of Social Development and Department of Labour.

Sustainable tourism in North Canterbury

North Canterbury is one of nine regions to successfully win Government funding to employ an adviser to work one-on-one with tourism operators to help reduce their business impact on the environment. The programme, which requires a small contribution from participating businesses, will be implemented and managed by Enterprise North Canterbury. The initiative will enable businesses to cut business costs through giving them practical ways to reduce their power and water use and the amount of waste they send to landfill. It will also help the tourism sector to take a leading role in protecting and enhancing New Zealand's environment. Spaces are limited. Local tourism businesses interested in taking advantage of the initiative should email: office@enterprisenc.co.nz

Other Initiatives

Service excellence

Great tips on how to drive service excellence to give your business a competitive advantage and other ways to become customer focused can be found at Dr Ian Brooks' website. Brooks is one of New Zealand's leading speakers on business management. For more information go to http://www.ianbrooks.com/speech_outlines/tab1.asp

Eco-advice booklet

An eco-advice booklet has been developed to provide households with practical information on things to help the environment. The '25 Steps Towards Sustainability' booklet covers five topics – rubbish, water, energy, building and transport and features case studies of New Zealanders who have already benefited by taking some of the steps. The booklet can be found at www.sustainability.govt.nz

Socially conscious

Educated consumers are looking for companies that mirror their socially conscious values, according to a study by Global Strategy Group, BBMG, New York. Rural Bulletin reports that the study found the most important values were health and safety, corporate honesty, eco-friendliness, promoting local producers and convenience. The study of 2000 adults found that while price and quality were still top considerations, a growing number are showing concern about issues pertinent to social responsibility. Trust was also rated as very important with consumers wanting a match between what a company is promising and what it is doing.

Open Polytechnic training

The Open Polytechnic has launched a new programme aimed at small businesses. The Certificate in Entrepreneurship (Export) aims to assist small businesses plan for growth and includes an on-line diagnostic tool, a mentor, learning material and an on-line support and business club. For more information go to <http://www.openpolytechnic.ac.nz/programmesandcourses/certenex>

Wine exports boom

New Zealand's wine exports have reached a new record level with wine export revenues increasing 16 percent to reach NZ\$766 million in the year to March 2008, according to Rural Bulletin. NZ Winegrowers believes the industry will reach export figures of \$1 billion by 2010.

Hanmer conference

Registrations are now being taken for the New Zealand Tourism and Hospitality Research Conference being held in Hanmer Springs from 3-5 December. Conference chair Ray Sleeman says that the conference is for people interested in 're-creating' tourism. More information can be found at www.lincoln.ac.nz/nzthrc

Free website for foodies

Food companies may be interested in a free website that provides information on contract manufacturers and packers of food or dietary supplements. The site is at www.fabfoodiefinder.co.nz

Government update

Small to medium sized businesses wanting information on how to access government assistance may be interested in a free information update being run on August 12 in Rangiora. The event is being hosted by Small Business Minister Clayton Cosgrove in partnership with Enterprise North Canterbury. For more information phone 0800 770 772 or email startmanagegrow@avenues.co.nz

Training at the Chamber

The Canterbury Employers' Chamber of Commerce has a range of training available including time management, demystifying compliance, taxation, grants and funding and understanding the disciplinary process. Ph: 0800 50 50 96 or check out www.cecc.org.nz

Improving marketing online

A free workshop is being held in Rangiora on 18 September to help businesses improve their marketing online. The two-hour seminar is being organised by Zeald.com – a national company that works with SMEs. For more information email: dene.robinson@zeald.com or go to www.zeald.com

New challenges lined up

Incredible people skills, networks to die for, enthusiasm, vision and outstanding knowledge of, and commitment, to North Canterbury...

Those are but some of the attributes of Tony Hall who, after six years, has stepped down as Enterprise North Canterbury's board chair. (ENC's trust constitution has a mandatory requirement for board members to remain only six years).

Tony (pictured) already has a raft of new challenges lined up including being Chef de Mission for the 2010 Winter Olympics, chairing the Partnership of Excellence between Lincoln and Massey Universities and the Life Science and Agricultural Industry, and chairing the MainPower Trust. "I feel so fortunate to be doing what I am. I would have never dreamed 20 years ago of the sorts of things I'm doing now," says the 61-year-old who is particularly excited about his new Winter Olympics role. "To lead a New Zealand team away is pretty cool."

Incoming ENC chairperson Therese Arseneau says Tony's contribution to economic development in the region during his six year-term has been enormous. "Tony's involvement has been vital. I don't think ENC would have got off the ground without him," she says. Therese also paid tribute to Simon Cowles, who has also ended his six-year term. Simon is a human resources consultant with business and property interests in Hurunui. He used to live in Waimakariri before transferring out of the district for work.

Therese says that the pair worked well together in establishing ENC due to Simon's knowledge of, and networks in, the Hurunui and Tony's in the Waimakariri. "It was a great combination."

Advisory board member Pete Vink has also stepped down from the board after six years. Pete's expertise in community and economic development, and his networks with a range of organisations in the region, has been integral to ENC's success.

Tony says that right from the outset when he was asked to chair the ENC board, he had three conditions. "No politics, no egos and if we couldn't make a difference we'd pack up our own bags and leave." Tony was adamant that ENC needed to be strategic and learn from the mistakes and successes of other economic development agencies. Its first major initiative was trying to establish a strategic plan for water in Canterbury. And while the region could not get buy-in at a national level to fund this, addressing water issues has been integral to ENC's role over the last six years. This includes spearheading the Hurunui Community Water Development Project and a new initiative to encourage best practise water use across the region.

Tony is passionate about ENC's role in taking best practise technology, research and science, and transferring that knowledge to 'the people who pull on their boots each day' in our rural communities. For Tony he believes the success of ENC has been its staff and board. "It is the people involved in the trust who make the difference as far as I'm concerned. We're a catalyst for change. I hope that in the years to come we can build on that to ensure more best practise, technology and science transfer."

Note: Tony established Community Colleges New Zealand Ltd & is its executive director. He chairs the North Canterbury Sport and Recreation Trust & is on the Lincoln University Council.



Making the transition

Therese Arseneau is clear about her new role chairing Enterprise North Canterbury's board. "I see myself as being the bridge between the old and the new."

While Therese was one of the founding members of the ENC board, her term does not end for another 12 months. "We're in transition from setting up an organisation to moving into the future. I'm really excited about chairing the board as we make that transition," says Therese who is a political commentator and analyst, lecturer in political science at the University of Canterbury and author.

ENC's new board members are New Zealand Institute of Management (NZIM) chief executive Reg Gartners, former Telecom executive David Bedford and Tertiary Accord of New Zealand national development director Pamela Simpson. Reg has had over 23 years at the helm of the NZIM, has been widely published on management subjects and has developed many management education programmes. Most of David's working career was in human resources, with periods as head of human resources for Telecom New Zealand and the Electricity Corporation of New Zealand. David is now developing a small vineyard in Waipara. Pamela has more than 10 years experience in senior management positions in a range of industries including hospitality, health, agriculture and tertiary education.

The new members join other existing board members and advisers. These are: Hurunui Mayor Garry Jackson, Waimakariri Mayor Ron Keating, entrepreneur, commentator and consultant Ben Kepes, Hurunui District's chief executive Andrew Dalziel, Waimakariri District's chief executive Jim Palmer, and ENC's David Viles and Heather Miller.

Business Gems is produced by Enterprise North Canterbury. Contact: Business Development Manager, 83 Ivory Street, PO Box 436, Rangiora, Ph (03) 3106860 e: office@enterprisenc.co.nz www.northcanterbury.co.nz

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