



PRESS RELEASE

Chamber announces Business Awards finalists

The finalists in this year's Waikato Chamber of Commerce Business Awards, supported by Fosters, were announced tonight at an event at one of last year's award winners' premises.

Ninja Valley in Frankton hosted 140 people for the invitation-only event. Entrants, sponsors and judges gathered to hear the line-up of finalists for 10 categories. CEO of the Year doesn't have finalists; the winner of that category will be announced on the night of the gala dinner on November 15.

Head judge Dr Heather Connolly said the awards empower business and recognise excellence.

"The panel of 32 judges were very impressed with the quality of the finalists and the number of entries this year," Dr Connolly said.

"We had a record number of entries this year – 88 in fact, up from 76 last year, which is a great illustration of just how much value entrants get from being part of the judging process. The calibre of entrants was excellent and it's always encouraging to see businesses enter for the first time," Connolly said.

"As judges it's a privilege to have the opportunity to find out more about each entrant and what makes that business special."

Chamber marketing and events manager Rebecca Aston said this year's awards dinner is going to be the biggest yet.

"We were at capacity in the space we previously held the gala event at Claudelands so this year we're thrilled to be holding it in the GloboxArena where we can host 200 more people."

Tickets for the gala dinner, to be held at Claudelands Event Centre on November 15 are available for purchase at <https://business.waikatochamber.co.nz/events/details/waikato-chamber-of-commerce-business-awards-2024-4635>

List of finalists

Business Growth & Strategy Award

Cater Plus
Pure Lighting
Wade Group
Waitomo Group

Community Contribution Award

Hamilton Multicultural Services Trust
Kora
Ninja Valley

For Purpose Award

Hamilton Multicultural Services Trust
The Cake Detective Charitable Trust
Wild Bamboo

Innovation Award

Vertex Engineers
Waikato Milking Systems
Waitomo Group Ltd

Marketing Award

Gallagher Animal Management
Hobbiton Movie Set
Rabobank
Waitomo Group

People & Culture Award

Livingstone Building
Longveld Limited
Pure Lighting
Waitomo Group Ltd

Service Excellence Award

Connect Health
Groundcover Landscaping
Whites Powersports

Small Business of the Year Award

Brainchild
Confinement Escape Rooms Hamilton
Stapleton Consulting

Sustainability Award

Pact Steel Limited
Restore Native

Waikato Regional Airport
Waitomo Group

Emerging Leader of the Year finalists

Ashley Mason
Claire Williamson
Jonty Rae

The Waikato Business Awards are supported by Fosters, while the category sponsors are: Company-X, Deloitte, Hamilton Airport, Kiwibank, Montana Food & Events, Sleepyhead, Trust Waikato, the University of Waikato, Union Square, Wintec and 2degrees.

Ends

Media inquiries: Rebecca Aston Phone 027 423 4277
Email: rebecca.aston@waikatochamber.co.nz