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## Waipa Networks 2016 Business Awards Finalists Announced

We have an absolutely incredible competition shaping up across all categories for the Waipa Networks 2016 Business Awards (The Awards). The exceptional level of quality entries has presented our judging team with a challenge they are only too happy to embrace.

It is with great excitement we announce the finalists of this year's Awards.

The Awards aim to encourage business excellence, with the belief that strong, successful business supports vibrant and successful business communities.

Entrants have submitted an evidence based entry that must clearly articulate and demonstrate business success and the active pursuit of excellence across multiple disciplines. The finalists have also been interviewed by judges to further qualify their entry, providing opportunity for presentation of their business face-to-face.

Andrew Buchanan-Smart of the University of Waikato Management School said, "It's incredible to see the quality of businesses entering the Waipa Networks 2016 Business Awards and the fact that each year the quality gets higher means businesses are stepping up and we can be assured business in Waipa and Raglan is in an excellent position".

Tania Witheford - CEO Cambridge Chamber of Commerce said, "If these Awards were to be the basis on which we evaluated the health of business in Waipa and Raglan, we can be confident about our future direction and opportunity for growth. The finalists have put massive effort into their entries".

"Whilst winning is the ultimate goal, entry into the Awards provides businesses with the opportunity to reflect, evaluate, consider progress and realign future strategic direction as they gain valuable insights from the comments and feedback made by judges," said Kris Anderson - CEO Te Awamutu Chamber of Commerce.

***Our congratulations go to all entrants and finalists.***



**Finalists for the Waipa Networks 2016 Business Awards are:**

**EXCELLENCE IN BUSINESS AWARDS:** The University of Waikato Management School have judged and evaluated entries looking for those businesses who clearly demonstrate excellence across a range of measures.

**The Finalists are:**

<b>Sponsor: Rocketspark</b>	<b>EXCELLENCE IN BUSINESS – SOLE TRADER</b>
<b>Finalists:</b>	Petite Posy
	RV Living
	The Second Floor Yoga & Wellbeing Centre

<b>Sponsor: NZME.</b>	<b>EXCELLENCE IN BUSINESS – NEW AND EMERGING</b>
<b>Finalists:</b>	HUS
	Laszlo Boats NZ
	Kiwi Cookie Company
	The Coach House Country Café
	The Good P.A

<b>Sponsor: Te Awamutu Courier</b>	<b>EXCELLENCE IN BUSINESS - SMALL BUSINESS</b>
<b>Finalists:</b>	Cambridge Glass Ltd
	CSC Buying Group
	Luxe & Co
	The Herbal Dispensary
	TrueStyle Improvements Ltd

<b>Sponsor: Cambridge Edition</b>	<b>EXCELLENCE IN BUSINESS - MEDIUM BUSINESS</b>
<b>Finalists:</b>	Amber Garden Centre
	Emma's Food Bag
	Gourmet Delicious
	Loulous Hair and Beauty Spa
	Nova Healthcare Ltd

<b>Sponsor: Lewis'</b>	<b>EXCELLENCE IN BUSINESS - LARGE BUSINESS</b>
<b>Finalists:</b>	Five Stags
	Gallie Miles Limited
	Paddock



**EXCELLENCE IN SUSTAINABILITY AND COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTION** is selected from the finalists in the Excellence in Business categories. These businesses demonstrate consistent excellence in sustainability across the award criteria and proven community contribution as an integral part of business.

Sponsor: Fonterra	SUSTAINABILITY AND COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTION
Finalists:	Amber Garden Centre
	CSC Buying Group
	Gourmet Delicious
	Emma's Food Bag
	The Herbal Dispensary

**EXCELLENCE IN DIGITAL STRATEGY AND IMPLEMENTATION** is selected from the finalists in the Excellence in Business categories. This category requires the utilisation and implementation of digital innovation and technology through the use of digital tools and the internet to enhance business performance and customer experience.

Sponsor: Waipa District Council	DIGITAL STRATEGY AND IMPLEMENTATION
Finalists:	Emma's Food Bag
	Five Stags
	Gourmet Delicious
	Paddock
	RV Living

### EXCELLENCE IN CUSTOMER SERVICE

The **Trustpower** Customer Service Awards confirmed we have outstanding businesses that understand their customers and are delivering excellent customer service.

Sponsor: Trustpower	TE AWAMUTU CUSTOMER SERVICE AWARD
Finalists:	Matariki Motor Lodge
	Showcase Jewellers Te Awamutu
	The Lab
	The Coach House Country Café
Sponsor: Trustpower	CAMBRIDGE CUSTOMER SERVICE AWARD
Finalists:	Body and Motion Ltd
	Five Stags
	Gourmet Delicious (Suburban Café)
	Loulous Hair and Beauty Spa
Sponsor: Trustpower	RAGLAN CUSTOMER SERVICE AWARD
Finalists:	Mousey Brown
	Wanna Internet Limited



**CUSTOMER CHOICE AWARDS:**

Customers voted for their favourite business in the **Vodafone** Customer Choice Awards. The winner of this category wins the coveted award and a smartphone. One lucky voter who participated in the voting will win \$100 Vodafone credit which will be announced at the Awards Evening Friday 19 August 2016.

Sponsor: Vodafone	TE AWAMUTU CUSTOMER CHOICE AWARD
Finalists:	Luxe & Co
	Skin
	The Lab

Sponsor: Vodafone	CAMBRIDGE CUSTOMER CHOICE AWARD
Finalists:	Accounted4
	Body and Motion Ltd
	The Lily Pad Café

Sponsor: Vodafone	RAGLAN CUSTOMER CHOICE AWARD
Finalists:	Mousey Brown
	Raglan Rock Ltd
	The Herbal Dispensary

**EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR**

The Employee of the Year Awards for Te Awamutu and Raglan (People4Success) and Cambridge (People In Mind) recognises individuals who go above and beyond, making a significant contribution and positive impact.

**Te Awamutu Employee of the Year Finalists:**

Sponsor: People4Success	TE AWAMUTU EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR AWARD	
Finalists:	Giann Reece	Bayleys Success Realty Limited
	Michael Stone	Computer Aid
	Brenda Whitehead	Growing Spectrum

Raglan Employee of the Year Finalists will be announced soon.

Sponsor: People In Mind	CAMBRIDGE EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR AWARD	
Finalists:	Josh Dillion	Body and Motion Limited
	Scott Ward	Cambridge Glass Ltd
	Mike Newbury	Elite Building Compliance Ltd



**TE AWAMUTU PEOPLE MANAGER OF THE YEAR**

The People Manager of the Year Award for Te Awamutu recognises exceptional leadership in the business they are employed by, or own.

Sponsor: People4Success	TE AWAMUTU PEOPLE MANAGER OF THE YEAR AWARD	
<b>Finalists:</b>	Annette Kershaw	Enrich+
	Bex Paulsen	Waipa Community Facilities Trust
	Tim Rasdell	Warehouse Stationery

**WAIKATO MANAGEMENT SCHOOL EMERGING BUSINESS LEADER:**

The ‘Emerging Business Leader’ must demonstrate leadership in business and in the wider community. Phil MacKay was the winner of this award in 2015. He said the award, whilst humbling, “recognised my commitment to community and business contribution and has further encouraged me to step up even more”.

**WAIPA DISTRICT COUNCIL AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICES TO BUSINESS:** The nominations for this award are judged by a panel of independent judges, and the winner will be announced at the Awards Evening on Friday 19 August at Mystery Events Centre.

**WAIPA NETWORKS 2016 BUSINESS AWARDS - SUPREME OVERALL WINNER**

Who will be this year’s Supreme Winner? All Excellence category finalists are eligible for the Supreme Award. This award recognises the most outstanding business overall and will be announced at the Awards night.

Tania Witheford – CEO Cambridge Chamber of Commerce said “It’s time to celebrate business excellence in style. There is a great night planned at Mystery Creek with MC Paul Ego to guide us through the evening with entertainment by LipService and Principal Sound. Complimentary buses will be available to/from Cambridge, Raglan and Te Awamutu - so come celebrate with us!” Tickets may be purchased from <http://www.waipabusinessawards.co.nz/shop/>

**ENDS:**

Contact:

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## **ABOUT THE AWARDS**

The Waipa Networks Business Awards are a celebration of business excellence in Waipa and Raglan. Entries open in April and the Awards culminate with *the* premier business event in Waipa and Raglan: the Gala Awards Evening on the 19<sup>th</sup> of August at Mystery Creek Events Centre.

The aim of the Awards is to recognise and celebrate business success and encourage local businesses to strive for excellence in the following categories:

All entrants in the Business Excellence categories undertake a comprehensive entry process which includes a written entry, supporting documentation and on-site judge's visit. Judging is provided by the University of Waikato Management School and feedback and comments are shared with finalists after the Awards. The Special Judges Awards winners, aside from the Services to Business in Waipa award which is entered by nomination, are chosen from the finalists in the Business Excellence categories.