



DEVELOPMENT WEST COAST

Leading light

BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2022

FINALISTS

2022



Greymouth  Star
PUBLICATION

LEADING LIGHT AWARDS 2022

West Coast businesses large and small are in the limelight with the announcement of the finalists for the 7th Development West Coast Leading Light Business Excellence Awards.

The first round of judging has been completed, and Development West Coast Chief Executive Heath Milne said that the difficult decision had been made to postpone the gala dinner when Omicron entered the country.

"There have been some positives though - each of our finalists have been able to enjoy the limelight for a little longer.

"We are still determined to celebrate the success of West Coast businesses, but we want to do it in person when the time is right. All going well this will be Friday the 20th of May at the West Coast Events Centre in Shantytown."

"This has been an extremely challenging time for local businesses and the Awards are an excellent opportunity to celebrate the hard work, innovation and commitment it has taken to run a successful business through the pandemic."

The Leading Light Awards are made up of seven main categories, which business owners from across the West Coast have been able to enter.

There are three awards tailored to the size of a business. The Duncan

Cotterill Large Enterprise Award is for progressive and innovative businesses with more than 25 full time staff, the Crombie Lockwood Medium Enterprise Award will focus on those with between 10 and 24 full time staff, and the NZME Small Enterprise award will be given to an organisation with less than 10 full timers.

There is also a Workplace Wellbeing Award sponsored by Issac, and a Sustainability Award from Department of Conservation.

The Greymouth Star Rising Star Award is chosen from those who have been in business for less than five years, and the Great Journeys of New Zealand COVID Hero Award will recognise an inspiring business whose efforts have supported the regional business community during the COVID-19 pandemic.

DWC's Supreme Award is the ultimate accolade for all the entrants with the winner chosen from the category winners.

Mr Milne thanked and congratulated all those who had entered the Awards and said DWC was grateful to sponsors, entrants, judges and organisers, who were making the event possible.

"There is so much to celebrate across our diverse region, and we look forward to being able to celebrate in person at the gala dinner."



2018 Leading Light Awards



2018 Leading Light Awards



Duncan Cotterill is proud to support the Development West Coast Leading Light Business Excellence Awards



The ElectroNet Group are committed to providing a safe and secure supply of electricity to the West Coast community.

Keeping our people and our community safe is at the heart of everything we do.

For emergencies call 0800 768 241 and for all other enquiries call 0800 768 9300.



DUNCAN COTTERILL LARGE ENTERPRISE FINALISTS

Duncan Cotterill is a full service law firm with offices in Christchurch, Nelson, Wellington, Queenstown and Auckland and is among the largest providers of legal services in the South Island. We pride ourselves on being enterprising and this is evident in the relationships we have with West Coasters. We have strong relationships with individuals, small businesses and large organisations. Our clients understand the distinct advantages of aligning themselves with likeminded people. They look to us for the same thinking, resourcefulness and relationship building skills that they themselves have relied on to achieve business success. We are a firm that celebrates enterprise so it is with pride we sponsor the Large Enterprise Award. This award recognises large West Coast enterprises that are innovative and dynamic in their business practices, demonstrate leadership both within their organisation and externally, and have a clear vision for their business.

ElectroNet Group

Locally owned Electricity Network Company, Westpower, is parent to the ElectroNet Group, which consists of four electro-technology companies, including an electrical engineering consultancy and contracting businesses. Earlier this year, new technology developed by the ElectroNet Group, via the ElectroNet Technology company (ETech), won the Safeguard Award for Best Use of Innovation in a NZ Design or Technology to eliminate/manage risk, and was finalist in the NZ Energy Excellence Awards for the same innovation. These achievements align with our vision to be leaders in electrical energy and technology, and our purpose to provide sustainable electrical solutions which enhance communities.

ElectroNet Group



Issac Construction Limited



Issac Construction Limited - Liddell Contracting Division

Isaac Construction is an independent company wholly owned by the Isaac Conservation Trust established in Canterbury. From 2018, Simcox Construction has become a division of Isaac Construction, based in Blenheim, and as of December 2020, proudly, Liddell Contracting is also a division of Isaac Construction, based in Greymouth. This has given Isaac Construction a significant boost in civil structures capability. Liddell Contracting specialises in bridge builds and maintenance, wharf maintenance and repairs, structural repairs of buildings, upgrading, earthquake strengthening, and repairing and maintaining structures in remote places. Together we are a Canterbury, West Coast, Tasman, Nelson, Marlborough, and Otago focused contracting company, driven to provide outstanding customer service, so we can 'give back' to the community and the environment.

WestReef

WestReef Services Ltd is the largest civil construction company in the Buller District. Established in 1996, WestReef is now a Council Controlled Trading Organisation (CCTO). Our key purpose is to make a profit for the benefit of ratepayers and the wider community. WestReef is a key employer in the district, providing stable, responsible employment, with a focus on the wellbeing and development of staff. Over the past six years, we have shown consistent growth in revenue, profitability and staff numbers, while supporting the community across five key department - roading/civil works, parks and reserves maintenance, services/utilities management, environmental projects, mechanical workshop.

WestReef



Supporting the community for over 25 years

Proud to be finalist in the 2022 Leading Light Business Excellence Awards Finalists in 2013, 2015, 2016, 2018, 2022

- Roading & civil construction - Drainage & reticulation - Parks & reserves maintenance
- Environmental projects - Skip hire - Mechanical services - Track construction and maintenance

WESTREEF SERVICES LTD
80 Russell Street, Westport
westreef.co.nz

Westport – Karamea – Reefton – Springs Junction



Doing right by our region

From Karamea to Haast, we've been operating on the Coast for over 30 years, and we're proud of what we've achieved together in that time.

Liddell Contracting has always had firm roots in the region; from being founded by Graham Liddell, to now having daughter Anna as branch manager, with three generations of family having worked here at one time or another.

Our commitment to the Coast extends to supporting local schools and nurturing local talent. We work with local Gateway programmes at Grey High and Trades Academy to introduce students into the civil construction industry.

In 2021 an opportunity arose to align our business with the Isaac Group. This move has solidified our connection to the region by being able to draw on specialist skills and resources from the other group partners – Simcox Construction and Isaac Construction.

Another important benefit is that we support the Isaac Conservation and Wildlife Trust with every infrastructure project we work on. Their programmes work to breed and rear a number of species including kakī (black stilt), pāteke (brown teal), kākārīki karaka (orange fronted parakeet), tūturuatu (shore plover), and whio (blue duck), all which are released into the wild. Some whio (blue duck) are even released right here on the West Coast.

It means we're building a legacy our kids' kids will be proud of. We want to ensure future generations of New Zealanders will be able to enjoy our native birds and plant species for years to come.



For your next civil construction project, talk to us – your one-stop shop for engineering, civil construction, crane hire, blasting and coating.

liddell.co.nz

Liddell
CONTRACTING

Part of the Isaac Group

CROMBIE LOCKWOOD MEDIUM ENTERPRISE FINALISTS

We are delighted to sponsor this award for West Coast businesses with 10-24 FTEs who are focused on providing innovative growth solutions that target improved customer satisfaction, enhanced productivity and excellence in people management.

Crombie Lockwood has a long and proud history of providing insurance broking and risk advisory services to West Coasters and we are proud to act for over 300 West Coast clients. Without the support of these clients, many of whom have been with us for over 30 years, we could never have contemplated opening an office on the Coast which we did in 2014.

Paul Fauth, who leads our West Coast operation ensures on the ground local resource and is complemented by our 100+ strong Canterbury team of insurance professionals.

Crombie Lockwood is the largest insurance broking company in New Zealand. We operate a network of 23 offices with a combined staff of over 750. Our nationwide branch network allows us to maintain client focus and the strong longstanding relationships our business is built on.

Coastal Health Limited

Coastal Health is a well-established, privately owned, Nurse led medical practice who pride themselves on offering highly skilled community focused team. It provides services to the West Coast public from a new purpose built facility designed by the owners to ensure staff and patients have easy access and flow within the practice. The practice has 4300 patients enrolled and employs General Practitioners, Nurse Practitioner, Nurse Prescriber, Practice Nurses and highly focused customer service and admin team. The practice is spacious, well equipped and provides many health services aligned with General Practice.

Coastal Health Limited



Jeff Evans Limited



Jeff Evans Limited

With over 33 years' experience in providing services on the West Coast to residential, commercial, and rural customers, we have the knowledge and skills to get the job done to the highest standards. Our experienced team are here to help and offer friendly advice on all types of products and services from new bathroom fixtures, home heating, hot water systems and spa pools right through to offering design advice for new effluent systems, repairing, or replacing a dairy shed and designing and building your new home or commercial premises and so much more.

The Helicopter Line



The Helicopter Line

The Helicopter Line (THL) is New Zealand's leading helicopter company operating a fleet of modern helicopters perfectly suited to accessing New Zealand's most significant alpine areas. Our pilots have specialist mountain flying experience and crews are qualified to ensure safety, both in the air and on the ground. Our

CAA certification comes from our SMS systems which drive ongoing compliance and safety with all aspects of our operations. Our team of pilots are highly skilled and disciplined individuals, specifically trained to fly in the Southern Alps, and their passion ensures the best experience for our clients whether on scheduled scenic flights and Heli hikes.

THE HELICOPTER LINE
ABOVE & BEYOND ADVENTURE

SCENIC FLIGHTS AND HELI HIKES

FRANZ JOSEF & FOX GLACIERS

Proud to be a **finalist** in the **Leading Light Business Excellence Awards**

Discover more...

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TO BOOK VISIT HELICOPTER.CO.NZ

Congratulations to all the winners

Proud sponsor of the **DWC Leading Light Business Excellence Awards 2022**

INSURANCE BROKERS | A GALLAGHER COMPANY

NZME SMALL ENTERPRISE FINALISTS

NZME is proud to again be part of the 2022 Development West Coast Leading Light Business Excellence Awards. The Small Enterprise Award recognises those businesses who provide a true customer experience and who strive for customer satisfaction through their range and quality of products, product knowledge, customer service and after support.

NZME keeps kiwis in the know on the content they

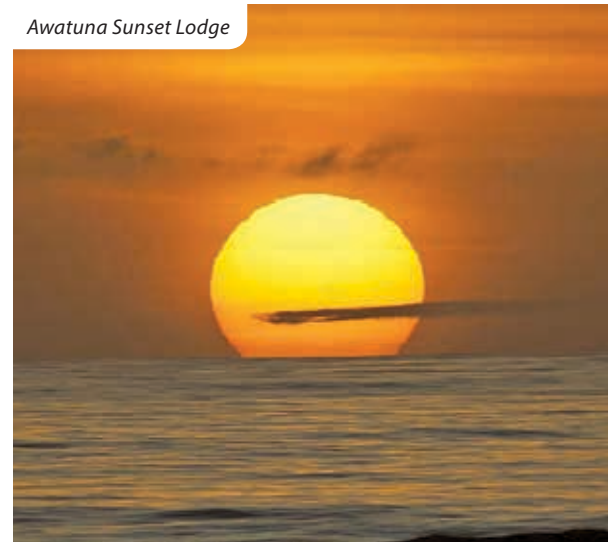
consume, whether it is news, sport or entertainment. Every week, our much-loved brands reach over 3.5 million Kiwis (source: Nielson CMI Fused Q4 20 – Q3 21 Nov 21 AP15+). Whether reading, listening, watching or engaging with our brands, they can get the content they want, from us - where and when they want it.

NZME then develop effective, integrated solutions to help advertisers target these audiences.

Awatuna Sunset Lodge

Awatuna Sunset Lodge is a stunning seaside B&B, just a 10-minute drive north of Hokitika. The Lodge is a smoke-free, adult retreat with uninterrupted views of the Tasman Sea and breath-taking sunsets. With 3 beautifully appointed ensuite rooms, 2 of which are sea-facing, Awatuna Sunset Lodge is a luxury boutique getaway offering personalised service at an affordable price. With many years of experience in both the accommodation industry and sustainability, Elizabeth & Selwyn ensure a fantastic light-foot holiday. We welcome you to rest, relax, rejuvenate, and be nurtured by the Wild West Coast.

Awatuna Sunset Lodge



Breakers Boutique Accommodation



Breakers Boutique Accommodation

"For Jan and Stephen, Breakers Boutique Accommodation is a classic love affair. Discovered while driving past in early 2000, after already falling in love with the West Coast, heart strings were pulled, a move was made and it has been home ever since. A beachfront location sitting in a little bay with views to die for, there is an energy that relaxes the mind and soothes the soul.

Located in the heart of the West Coast on the Coast Road north of Greymouth rated one of the top ten coastal drives in the world, with beaches, river valleys, native bush, short walks, hiking and biking trails in close proximity and oozing with West Coast history, Breakers is a great place for guests to base themselves for exploring the region and you couldn't ask for more informed

hosts when it comes to offering suggestions on things to see and do. Jan and Stephen enjoy spending every spare minute out exploring and love nothing more than sharing their wealth of knowledge with their guests. They have strong Manaakitanga aiming to provide an intimate, warm and friendly atmosphere with many of their guests becoming long time friends.

For them, the love affair with Breakers and the West Coast continues. Every day brings a new discovery, whether it is uncovering more of the Coast's history or checking out a fabulous beach or bush walk. Jan and Stephen have a passion for the environment and do their utmost to ensure sustainability on every level – they feel very fortunate to have this big backyard they are lucky enough to call home and they would love to share their wee slice of paradise with you."

Skydive Franz and Fox Glacier



Skydive Franz and Fox Glacier

Skydive Franz and Fox Glacier is the pioneer of high altitude skydiving in New Zealand and was the first operator to be certified by CAA to conduct skydives from 20,000ft. Nobody jumps higher. Rated by Red Bull as one of the top destinations to visit, Skydive Franz and Fox Glacier has contributed significantly to making New Zealand a skydive destination of choice for world travellers. At Skydive Franz and Fox Glacier we are dedicated to reducing our impact on the environment, making our business more sustainable and are committed to making a difference to the communities within which we operate.

2018 Leading Light Awards



0800 MAUREEN



Call anytime or maureen.pughmp@parliament.govt.nz

Wishing everyone involved with Leading Lights all the very best

Maureen Pugh
National List MP

Funded by the Parliamentary Service. Authorised by M Pugh, Parliament Buildings, Wgtn.



GREYMOUTH STAR RISING STAR AWARD 🌀 FINALISTS

The Greymouth Star is proud to sponsor the Rising Star Award at the 2018 Development West Coast Leading Light Business Excellence Awards.

This award celebrates those who have been in business for less than five years and are already making a valuable contribution to the West Coast. The finalists in this category are all exciting new innovative businesses already making their mark on the Coast.

We, along with Development West Coast, acknowledge the valuable contribution West Coast businesses make to our local economy, we congratulate and wish all the best to this year's entrants.

Waiho Hot Tubs, Franz Josef Glacier



Paradise Vets

Paradise Vets is an independent farm veterinary practice located in the heart of the West Coast at Kumara Junction. Our team of four staff are passionate about working with our farmer clients to maximise their livestock's health and production. We are proud to support the successful West Coast dairy industry servicing farms from Whataroa to Reefton. The business has achieved rapid growth in its initial 2 years of operation and recent recruitment of a second veterinarian will allow further growth of our client base.

Paradise Vets



Waiho Hot Tubs, Franz Josef Glacier

Soak in the luxury of your private Waiho Hot Tub, nestled amongst a lush rainforest setting in the Franz Josef Glacier village. Your tubs submerged wood burner keeps you in control of the temperature of the fresh, mountain stream water during your Waiho experience. The relaxation factor of this all-weather experience can be further enhanced by adding epsom salts and beautiful NZ hydrosols to your water. Locally developed and operated, Waiho Hot Tubs offers another fantastic reason to rejuvenate at Franz Josef Glacier.



PARADISE
FARM VETS

Dairy Sheep + Beef Deer



For all your Farm Animal Veterinary Needs

Proud to be part of the thriving West Coast Dairy Industry

If you value efficiency, expertise and quality results
Contact us today on 027 634 7596
2035 Kumara Junction Highway



Paparoa Guided Walks



Paparoa Guided Walks

Paparoa Guided Walks strive to be a leader in the adventure travel industry by providing exceptional hiking adventures in a responsibly sustainable way, promoting the conservation of both natural and human communities.

We offer an all inclusive 3 night, 4 day guided hiking adventure tour along the Paparoa Track, New Zealand's newest Great Walk.

Enrichment of our guests' lives comes from the services we provide - from the form, rhythm, and renewing qualities of the beautiful and wild places in which we work.

Simply being out in nature awakens a part of many of us that has gone dormant from living around artificial lights, the noise of civilization, the demands of daily life, and a lack of wide-open spaces.

Our commitment is to run unforgettable hiking trips, and those are important words to us.

Our goal is that the experience that Paparoa Guided Walks creates will stick with clients for years to come, and every time you think back on it you feel a sense of fulfilment, inspiration, and accomplishment.

And even more importantly, we hope the trip sparks a desire to keep getting out into nature, whether it is on more of our trips or on their own.

Societal values toward the land are diverse, but for many people, there is no identity with nature, no intimate, direct experience with place.

For these people, there is generally no realisation that a connection with nature can help them to better realise their potential as humans, or that modern civilization is mounting an unprecedented assault on the natural world.

In these cases, exposure to the natural world can help to create an emotional identification with the land that can motivate day-to-day action on behalf of the places we love.

Proud to work alongside local businesses and bring local news to your door for over 155 years

CONGRATULATIONS to all the Finalists on your outstanding achievements . . . There has never been a better time to celebrate business excellence, as our community along with the rest of the world has been faced with challenging times.

You have all done exceptionally well and we wish you all the very best for the awards evening.

Greymouth Star
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Greymouth Star
Ph 03 769 7900
Advertising enquiries: brettk@greystar.co.nz



 **Coastal Health**

Coastal Health, your private primary health provider also offers . . .

Our Occupational Health Services are advertised only via word of mouth.

Our ability to deliver quality health services, either at the clinic or worksite is reflected in the growing number of companies requesting our services to ensure their staff and wellbeing is priority. Services include, clinical exam and history, audiology and education, spirometry, immunisation status, musculoskeletal, visual acuity, drug screening, ergonomics, PPE checks and board reports.

CHi Appearance is a new and exciting addition to Coastal Health. It offers cosmetic injectables and services by a Nurse Practitioner along with being stockists of Skincare Rx products.

We're Proud to be a Finalist in the Leading Lights

We believe in building partnerships and trust, in a safe and professional environment.

03 768 5942

CHi
appearance



reception@coastalhealth.co.nz • occhealth@coastalhealth.co.nz
chiappearance@coastalhealth.co.nz

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**Specialists in;
Civil Construction
Road Maintenance
Surfacing Solutions**

**Proud to Support our workplace health provider, providing us great service in health monitoring, precautionary treatments and acute services when required.
Keep up the Good Work Coastal Health and Good Luck for the upcoming Awards Evening!**

For information on our civil capabilities

- Driveway construction and surfacing
- Civil roading and maintenance
- Quality aggregate and landscape product
- Commercial and residential subdivisions
- Rural construction

Fulton Hogan West Coast
208 Main South Road.
Greymouth
Phone 03 768 7880

ISAAC WORKPLACE WELLBEING AWARD 🌀 FINALISTS

Isaac Construction, Liddell Contracting and Simcox Construction are all part of the Isaac Group of companies, offering a wide array of civil construction and infrastructure services. We do it for the right reasons and exist to sustain one of New Zealand's longest established conservation trusts. We have over 70 years' experience in civil construction, operating throughout the South Island. Conservation and the protection of endangered species has seen the creation of Peacock Springs, a unique and world leading quarry restoration wildlife habitat, covering 1100 hectares of land on the outskirts of Christchurch. The facility is home to a number of species including; Kakī (Black Stilt), Pāteke (Brown Teal), Kākāriki Karaka (Orange Fronted Parakeet), Tūturuatu (Shore Plover), and Whio (Blue Duck). Our vision at Liddell Contracting is to continually upskill our staff and demonstrate our civil structures capability across the wider South Island; whilst maintaining our homebase on the West Coast.



WestReef

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Jeff Evans Limited



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Coastal Health Limited

The Coastal Health team prides itself on offering a supportive, flexible and community focused work environment that results in a very low turnover in staff. Coastal Health is a women owned and operated business and, with the occasional exception, it has an all-female staff. "Our greatest strength as women is our camaraderie. It means sharing knowledge and opportunities, being empathetic and supporting each other. We recognize our staff's strengths and offer flexibility within the business for them to build on those. Productivity is enhanced by the opportunities and support provided by our peers and the company. Friendships

amongst the team have grown. The different personalities are enjoyed and often extend outside the work place." Coastal Health's success is not just the Directors' successes but all staff. No-one likes being sick and putting pressure on others. However, flexibility within staff to cover others and their workload during periods of illness, either of themselves or family members, is something the business pride ourselves on. Directors ensure staff know and are aware they are valued. "We often reinforce this with gestures of acknowledgment of birthdays, anniversaries, personal achievements work and non-work related and just when they have had a busy week."

Coastal Health Directors



THE GREAT JOURNEYS OF NEW ZEALAND COVID HERO AWARD 🌀 FINALISTS

Great Journeys of New Zealand proudly operates iconic scenic trains throughout both the North and the South Islands. From journeys with the views of active volcanoes and breath-taking Pacific Coast to the world-famous TranzAlpine, we have something for everyone.

A memorable journey is guaranteed on all our services, thanks to comfortable seats, panoramic windows, and an open-air viewing carriage, offering the best views! We

have audio commentary with local stories and fun facts, and an onboard licensed café for those feeling peckish.

The TranzAlpine is a great way to experience both West Coast and Christchurch. For those that want a little more, check out our package options, that include accommodation and activities to complete your trip away. Also, we've been working on new travel options, keep an eye out for our new experiences coming soon!

www.greatjourneysfnz.co.nz

Waiho Hot Tubs, Franz Josef Glacier

The creation of Waiho Hot Tubs was a response to COVID-19. With two other businesses in Franz Josef, having to batten down the hatches during the first lockdown was tough and could have been a very negative journey for Adam Haugh.

"Franz Josef's isolation creates a special community spirit and strong interdependence between businesses. We need each other to be successful in order to succeed ourselves." Adam took the brave decision to start something new and something that would support other struggling businesses, not just his own.

"One of the satisfactions of Waiho has been able to create work for other people who call Franz home. The project has also had the

spinoff of providing something positive for the community to feel ownership of at a time when things were feeling a bit negative."

Waiho Hot Tubs, Franz Josef Glacier



Rainforest Retreat



Rainforest Retreat

Nestled amongst the Southern Alps, close to Franz Josef Glacier and countless other scenic spots, the Rainforest Retreat is the perfect base to explore New Zealand's Glacier Country and the wild West Coast. With our accommodation ranging from flashpackers, to motels, all the way up to 5* Deluxe units, there is truly something for every preference and budget. Following a day of adventuring, our onsite Monsoon restaurant and bar is the perfect space to wind down and relax. Guests can cosy up next to open log fires, whilst enjoying some tasty homecooked meals and delicious cold beverages.

Franz Josef Wilderness Tours



Franz Josef Wilderness Tours

Kayak, cruise or fish with Franz Josef Wilderness Tours on Lake Mapourika. A family owned and operated business offering guided kayak tours, scenic boat cruises and fishing charters on the stunning mirror lake in Franz Josef. Kayak, cruise or fish with Franz Josef Wilderness Tours on Lake Mapourika. Dale & his team of knowledgeable guides will show you the glacier region from new perspectives on an engaging tour experience you won't forget – especially as you receive our signature free photographs after each tour. Fish for Salmon or Brown trout, or enjoy a guided walk on our exclusive rainforest trail through the Okarito Kiwi Sanctuary. There is a tour option for everyone!

FRANZ JOSEF
wilderness tours

**KAYAK, CRUISE OR FISH
ON LAKE MAPOURIKA**

KAYAK, CRUISE OR FISH WITH US ON THE BEAUTIFUL LAKE MAPOURIKA. Franz Josef Wilderness Tours is a family owned and operated business, offering guided kayak tours, paddle boards, boat cruises and Fishing Charters. Mirror-like morning reflections and guided walking through a kiwi sanctuary are at your finger tips with our team of friendly and knowledgeable guides.

We're Proud to be Finalists!

Contact 0800 423 262
www.franzjoseftours.co.nz



JUST THE TWO OF US
SOAK STAY AND DINE

Perfect for a romantic break or mini get away to Franz Josef Glacier

Soak – Treat yourself to a rejuvenating hour long soak in the new fresh water, wood fired Waiho Hot Tubs

Dine – Enjoy the flavours of **SnakeBite Brewery** with a \$50 food & beverage voucher to share

Slumber – Stay at the central village **Bella Vista Motel**
From just \$229 for two

GIFT VOUCHER'S AVAILABLE

Soak in the luxury of your private Waiho Hot Tub, nestled amongst a lush rainforest setting in the Franz Josef Glacier village.

Your tubs submerged wood burner keeps you in control of the temperature of the fresh, mountain stream water during your experience.

The relaxation factor of this all-weather experience can be further enhanced by adding epsom salts and beautiful NZ hydrosols to your water.

THE WHOLE FAMILY
FAMILY SOAK, STAY & DINE

A family escape designed for two adults and two children

Soak – Treat your family to a refreshing 1 hour soak in the new fresh water, wood fired Waiho Hot Tubs

Dine – Enjoy the flavours of **SnakeBite Brewery** with a \$100 voucher to share

Slumber – Stay at the central village **Bella Vista Motel**
From just \$425 for a family of four



www.waihohottubs.co.nz | 03 752 0009 | Open daily from 2.30pm till sunset. Our tubs fill fast book today!

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION SUSTAINABILITY AWARD FINALISTS

The Department of Conservation (DOC) is delighted to once again sponsor the Leading Light Business Excellence Awards. In 2022 DOC is sponsoring the Sustainability Award. This recognises businesses or organisations that demonstrate how their products, services, strategies or initiatives are helping to reduce impacts on the environment and improve long-term sustainability.

The award provides DOC with an opportunity to

recognise the contribution businesses and organisations make to the Coast while demonstrating respect for the environment in which they work.

“It’s great to see so many businesses thinking about their environmental footprint and the difference they can make”, DOC West Coast Director Operations Mark Davies says. “This is an ideal opportunity to reward that effort and initiative. Well done to all finalists.”

Okarito Kayaks

Okarito Kayaks is a small, family-run kayak service, deeply invested throughout the last thirty years in supporting our backyard – our local community, and the stunning natural environment that sustains us.

Last year, Okarito Kayaks started the GorseBusters project, as a positive response to Covid, and to look after the place that looks after us.

We initially hoped to muster a few mates to clear gorse around the edge of Okarito Lagoon. With great support from across the West Coast, and all of NZ, the project took on broader aims; to energise the local community to do something positive out of adversity; enhance our regions reputation for looking after for it’s backyard; and to do some real, tangible environmental good for the stunning place we call home.

We’re hugely grateful for all the support we got from across the Coast to make that happen - so we’ll keep at it.

Our aim is leave our backyard – community and environment – better than we found it; GorseBusters and the work it contributes will be part of that legacy and at the core of our business in the future.

Okarito Kayaks



Ribbonwood Retreat Bed and Breakfast



Ribbonwood Retreat Bed and Breakfast

Ribbonwood Retreat is a boutique accommodation provider set near Franz Josef. We have a strong environmental ethos at our Bed and Breakfast and have been involved with a range of sustainability initiatives including planting five hundred trees on the property, carbon reduction initiatives, and (environmental) volunteer community projects. During Covid, we have obtained the Qualmark Silver sustainability award and are aiming for Gold in the coming year. Despite the downturn in visitor numbers, we have made the most of this time to improve our systems, strategic planning and learning new skills.

Ribbonwood Retreat Bed and Breakfast



Okarito Kayaks



Paparoa Guided Walks

Emotional identification with the land is often the first step toward conservation, but it’s not enough to simply love a place; effective environmental reform also requires scientific, legal, and political know-how.

Because of this, it is imperative that citizen activists and non-governmental organisations hold government and businesses accountable for their actions.

We must, as stewards of our children’s and grandchildren’s planet, be willing to protect what is left of the Earth’s natural resources and wild places.

It is our dream at Paparoa Guided Walks that these special places will be preserved and cherished by many generations to come.

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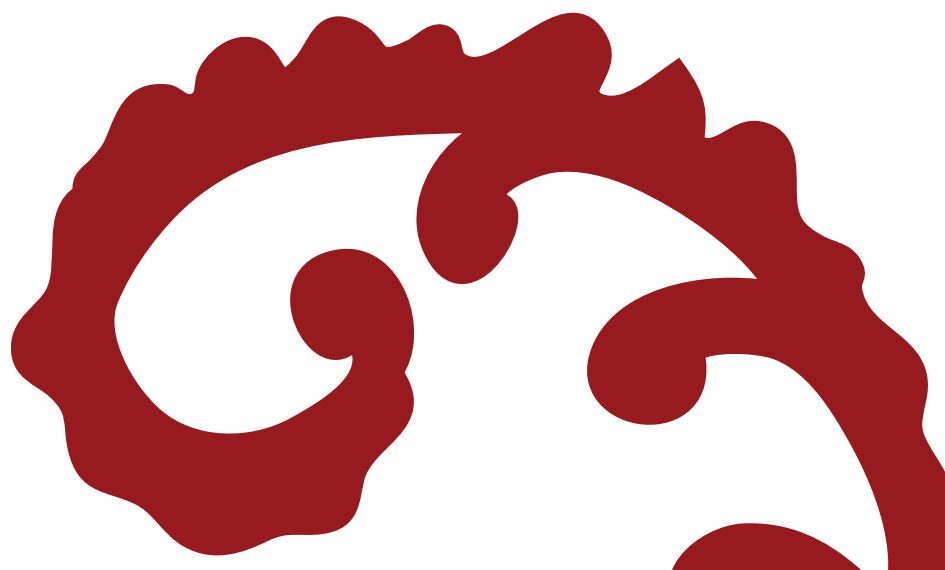
**MC
STEPHEN CAUNTER**

Stephen's motto is enthusiasm, entertainment and knowledge. Ask him what his job is and he will tell you "storyteller". These attributes make Stephen a highly successful facilitator of the ANZ Business Training workshops. These workshops cover a range of business topics and are designed to help the attendees run more successful businesses.

Stephen is particularly passionate about the topics of Networking, Marketing and Customer Service.

Stephen's career with the ANZ Bank spans over 40 years and a variety of roles. The majority of his career has been dedicated to working with business customers and helping them with the issues they face. Since 2006, he has travelled the South Island presenting over 1000 workshops and seminars to over 9000 participants. He is also well regarded as a conference speaker. More recently now the champion of the webinar!!

Outside of work Stephen is interested in all kinds of sports, a rugby referee, fly fisherman, whitebaiter and when time permits turns his hand to restoring vintage machinery.



**GUEST SPEAKER
KEVIN BIGGAR**

Ever thought that you can't do it? Kevin Biggar will have you thinking again!

Kevin was a couch potato when he decided to take part in the 5,000km trans-Atlantic rowing race. He then went on to achieve a much tougher challenge - the first ever kiwi to complete an unsupported trek from

the coast of Antarctica to the South Pole. You may also recognise Kevin as the co-host of the TVNZ series 'First Crossings' and 'Intrepid NZ' recreating the adventures of pioneering NZ explorers. A little like Bear Grylls but wearing a waistcoat!

Now a full-time speaker, Kevin talks about techniques to take on, and persevere through, big, audacious challenges. You'll be riveted by his rollicking, outrageous story and leave with a fresh perspective on your own challenges!



FINALIST VIDEOS

The major prize for category finalists of the Leading Light Business Excellence Awards is the opportunity to have a promotional video made of their business by Dave Kwant of Vision Co.

Dave has been involved in the awards since its beginnings in 2011 and really enjoys visiting all the finalist businesses throughout the region. "Its just great filming a whole variety of West Coast businesses and meeting people who are very proud of their enterprise. I love it."

Dave's own reputation as a videographer has also grown during the last 10 years and we feel lucky to still be able to topin him down for the five to six weeks it takes for him to film and edit the videos.

Helen Wilson, of DWC, says "Dave is a bit of a one man band on site; producer, director, videographer all in one, and he brings out the best in people in front of a camera and there is a real art in that. Feedback from finalists this year confirms that for me. In the glacier region finalists have been models in each other's video's which all adds to the fun."

The videos will be screened at the Awards Celebration and are gifted to the businesses after the ceremony.



2016 Leading Light Awards



2016 Leading Light Awards



THE ENTRY AND JUDGING PROCESS

This was the first time the Leading Light Business Excellence Awards have used an online entry form and we acknowledge the assistance and guidance we received by our counterparts over the hill at Enterprise North Canterbury who introduced us to Jotform. It certainly made the judging process easier – and more environmentally friendly!

Our Round One judges were from all over NZ and were sourced from our Sponsor organisations (apart from those with conflicts) and two of DWC's retired Advisory Body members, both of whom could be described as highly respected business leaders.

Some of our judges gave up time over the best of our summer weather to read and assess the entries. We are very thankful for their efforts.

After Round One the process this year rested with our Chief Judge, Stephen Caunter from ANZ. Stephen started from scratch with all the Finalists entries and over a two - three week period started choosing our winners. Finally, this year, Stephen will be able to make it to our Awards Ceremony, and as a special bonus we are really honoured to have him demonstrate one of his other talents, as our MC.

SOME NOTES FROM OUR CHIEF JUDGE, STEPHEN CAUNTER

The standard of entries was in the main high and the task of rating one above another was more challenging this year than ever before.

Here are some brief notes and straight from the heart:

- Please use spell checker!
- Have someone else read it for "readability".
- There was a mixed bag in terms of the insight that the two photos gave to the business from nil to great.
- The use of the word "strive" was consistent across many entries, this is a substitute for "try" as opposed to we "will" or "we do".
- Give more examples of your great work in action. Sometimes I was left with the feeling of being amazed but wondering if it really happened, and
- Stick to the word limits!

The financial section I placed less weight on due to the impact of Covid. So there was a relatively level playing field for being a financially successful business as opposed to having turnover decimated by the impact of covid and still being in business. Both are very credible outcomes.

It was a pleasure to see all the amazing things you are doing, thank you for taking the time to enter the awards, well done on becoming a finalist.

To the award winners my congratulations.



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DEVELOPMENT WEST COAST
Leading light
 BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2022

2022 AWARDS CEREMONY



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 PUT IT IN YOUR DIARIES NOW!**

2018 Leading Light Awards





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Te Ohu Whakawhanake o Te Tai Poutini

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Congratulations

**TO ALL THE FINALISTS - WE WISH YOU ALL
THE BEST FOR THE AWARDS EVENING.**



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