

Media Release

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Kaikohe's Tall Poppies flourish

District winners in the Top Energy 2006 Tall Poppy Business Awards were announced at an Award's function held by the Kaikohe Business Association last Friday evening.

Winners are; a GOLD Award to Waste Works Ltd in the Technology / Innovation category, a GOLD Award in the Retail category to Beadle Taylor Limited and in the Trusts / Charities & Not-for-profit Organisations category - a SILVER Award for Te Runanga A Iwi O Ngapuhi. The judges also voted a MERIT Award to T W Grant Insurance Brokers for their entry in the Service Industry category.

Presenting the Awards, Top Energy Senior Manager, Kathryn Starr offered her congratulations to all winners saying, "These Kaikohe businesses have taken their place in the sun in the 2006 Tall Poppy Business Awards by scooping up awards in service, retail and technology & innovation, which has put them at the forefront of businesses in the Far North region."

The 2006 Tall Poppy Business Awards were again sponsored by Top Energy on a region-by-region basis, in conjunction with 6 district Business Associations; Kaitaia, Kaikohe, Kerikeri, Kawakawa, Paihia and Russell.

According to this year's Awards judges, some of the entries from around the region this year were outstanding. "There were some extremely good entries which indicate the depth and strength of business in the region", said regional judge, Robin Shepherd. "I enjoyed judging these entries and marvelled at the enthusiasm and commitment of many people who are pursuing their dream." Regional judge, John Halse added, "I've been privileged to be a judge in these Awards for a third time and each time it's been a thrill to see the variety of businesses that drive the Far North economy. This year I want to especially acknowledge those business owners who are entering the Awards for the second time – for the most part, I have noticed a significant increase in the calibre of entry, reflecting not only their desire to be recognised by their peers but also, I believe, showing better knowledge of their businesses."

Winners from other districts will be announced over the coming weeks. Award winners from each of the 6 districts will then go through to the regional competition, where Best in Category and a Supreme Award winner, recognising the best overall business in the Far North region, will be chosen. A regional Awards Dinner and Presentation will be held early November. END.

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