

Media release - Friday, 12 August

South Auckland Business Success Celebrated

The winners of the Westpac Auckland South Business Awards 2011 were announced tonight at a prestigious Gala Dinner at the TelstraClear Pacific Events Centre.

The annual highlight event for the south Auckland business community, the black-tie evening included entertainment by Elizabeth Marvelly and Players from the Manukau Symphony Orchestra.

Nine businesses in total were honoured across twelve categories, celebrating a variety of businesses across a diverse range of awards - from manufacturing to exporting, marketing to innovation and recognising businesses role as an employer and for their contribution to the community.

The 2011 Westpac Auckland South Business of the Year Supreme Winner is East Tamaki Healthcare, also winners of the Cogita Excellence in Innovation and Strategy and RSM Prince Excellence in Service Delivery categories. The New Zealand Herald Auckland South Small Business of the Year is Town and Country Veterinary Services while Charlie George of Republic Bar and Kitchen was named AUT Young Business Person of the Year.

Mayor Len Brown says the number of individual award winners and calibre of finalists in the awards this year are a tribute to the perseverance and innovation of south Auckland businesses.

“Once again, the south Auckland business community has exceeded expectations. The quality of finalists in this year’s Westpac Auckland South Business Awards demonstrate the resilience of the businesses fraternity, where local companies are developing bespoke solutions, savvy marketing and simply working smarter under trying economic conditions. I understand the judges found the standard extremely high, with the number of businesses winning categories larger than ever.”

“The Westpac Auckland South Business Awards recognise and celebrate business excellence, honouring those driving prosperity for the region. Congratulations to all entrants, finalists and especially to our winners at this fantastic event here tonight. It certainly makes me proud to be from the south.”

Ian Blair, Westpac's General Manager of Business Banking, says the awards highlight the diversity and success of south Auckland business.

"Westpac is proud to be a partner in these awards and in the development of business growth in the region. South Auckland has a thriving business community, from large manufacturers and exporters to small businesses and sole practitioners. The winning businesses tonight are great examples of what can be achieved and we have witnessed some truly inspiring business stories. On behalf of Westpac, I congratulate all winners on their achievements in these awards and wish them continuing success in the future."

The winners of the Westpac Auckland South Business Awards 2011 are;

Brookfields Lawyers Employer of Choice Award

Recovery Solutions Group

New Zealand Steel Excellence in Exporting Award

Howick Limited

Employers & Manufacturers Association Excellence in Manufacturing Award

GMP Pharmaceuticals Ltd

Cogita Excellence in Innovation & Strategy Award

East Tamaki Healthcare

RSM Prince Excellence in Service Delivery Award

East Tamaki Healthcare

Wiri Licensing Trust Excellence in Emerging Business Award

Ormiston Hospital

Stevenson Commendation in Environmental Management Award

Astron Plastics Ltd

TelstraClear Pacific Events Centre Excellence in Tourism & Hospitality Award

HMS Host Ltd

Manukau Institute of Technology Excellence in Marketing Award

The International Travel College of NZ

ACC Commendation in Workplace Safety Award

Agility Logistics

Auckland Communities Foundation Business Contribution to the Community Award

Cardinal Logistics

AUT University Young Business Person of the Year 2011

Charlie George, Republic Bar and Kitchen

The New Zealand Herald Small Business of the Year 2011– Judges Choice

Town and Country Veterinary Services

Westpac Auckland South Business of the Year Supreme Winner 2011
East Tamaki Healthcare

Auckland Tourism Events and Economic Development (ATEED) facilitates the Westpac Auckland South Business Awards 2011, which cover the entire south Auckland area, including the Franklin Ward.

Auckland Tourism, Events and Economic Development's Manager Business Development – South, Yvette Hellyer, says the Westpac Auckland South Business Awards are an important tool in driving economic growth for the region.

“The Westpac Auckland South Business Awards highlight the achievements of our most successful economic partners, regardless of size or trade, and recognise their contribution to the south Auckland economy and community as a whole. Their aim is to encourage local businesses to prosper across the breadth of our large and diverse region. The winners of tonight's awards are certainly an inspiration for other businesses and a tribute to what is being achieved here in the south Auckland community.”

Westpac Auckland South Business Award 2011 sponsors include; Westpac, The New Zealand Herald, AUT University, Manukau Institute of Technology, New Zealand Steel, Brookfields Lawyers, Cogita, ACC, RSM Prince, Wiri Licensing Trust, Stevenson Group, Auckland Communities Foundation, EMA, TelstraClear Pacific Events Centre, and many other supplier sponsors.

The awards were instigated 19 years ago to recognise, encourage and assist business growth and development in the south Auckland region.