



EMBARGOED TO 9pm, Friday 6th November 2020

Westpac Northland Business Champions 2020 Winners Announcement

Westpac Northland Business Champions 2020

The Westpac Northland Business Champions 2020 awards took place at Forum North on Friday night, 6 November. In a year impacted by drought, Covid-19 and flooding, this one-off special event gave Northlanders a chance to shine a light on those businesses and business people in their communities who displayed champion qualities such as leadership, community mindedness, innovation and resilience.

Over 2500 individual nominations were received for 244 Northland businesses and individuals across five business categories and eight specialist categories. Finalists were selected based on the number of nominations, and then an independent panel of judges had the difficult task of choosing the category winners and the ultimate Westpac Northland Business Champion - Supreme Leadership winner.

Steve Smith, NorthChamber CEO said, *"It has been heart-warming and inspiring to read about the business champions in our region. Feedback from the nominations indicates we are a business community of pro-active, resilient, creative, adaptable, and kind folk. Our future success lies in more of the same."*

Westpac Northland Business Champions - Supreme Leadership Winner

Jessie Rose Boutique, Forever Love Caskets and Inspire Art Studio

Judges Comments

"Jessie Rose and her business stood out because of the complexity and success of the response to Covid-19 and other 2020 disasters. Forced into the world of online teaching for the delivery of painting classes, she changed her ways of doing business and expanded on those learnings to build new product offerings and outlets for her creativity while at the same time providing those stuck at home an outlet for their feelings around Covid restrictions and a way to continue something 'normal'.

A significant decline in the death rate and changes to the way funerals were conducted led to changes and new opportunities in her casket decorating business. Rather than being overwhelmed by a personal tragedy, she directed her response into the establishment of a space in her premises where others with similar experiences could come without judgment or expectation. She took time to reflect on the business, where the strengths are and where she could diversify and improve – and took action on what she found. Every dark experience was turned into a positive and the business thrived as a result, with all of her activities based on sound ecological principles.

In Jessie's words: "The positive from Covid is that it has validated that what we are doing is working and impacts people's lives. We have made a difference."



NorthTec Northland Business Champion - Business Person (Individual)

Finalists

Steve MacMillan – Northpower

Jessie Rose – Jessie Rose Boutique, Forever Love Caskets and Inspire Art Studio

Jennifer Andrews – Regent Training

Winner

Jessie Rose – Jessie Rose Boutique, Forever Love Caskets and Inspire Art Studio

Northland Document Solutions Northland Business Champion - Micro Business (1-3FTE)

Finalists

Wild Ivy Flowers and Gifts

Jessie Rose Boutique, Forever Love Caskets and Inspire Art Studio

KeriCentral Hostel

Winner

Jessie Rose Boutique, Forever Love Caskets and Inspire Art Studio

Henderson Reeves Northland Business Champion - Small Business(4-8FTE)

Finalists

David's Pharmacy

Blush Beauty Therapy

Heads Up Adventures

Winner

David's Pharmacy

Marsden Maritime Holdings Northland Business Champions - Medium Business (10-24FTE)

Finalists

BestStart Maunu Village

NorthAble Matapuna Hauora

Winner

NorthAble Matapuna Hauora

Vodafone Northland Business Champion - Large Business (25+FTE)

Finalists

Northern Districts Security

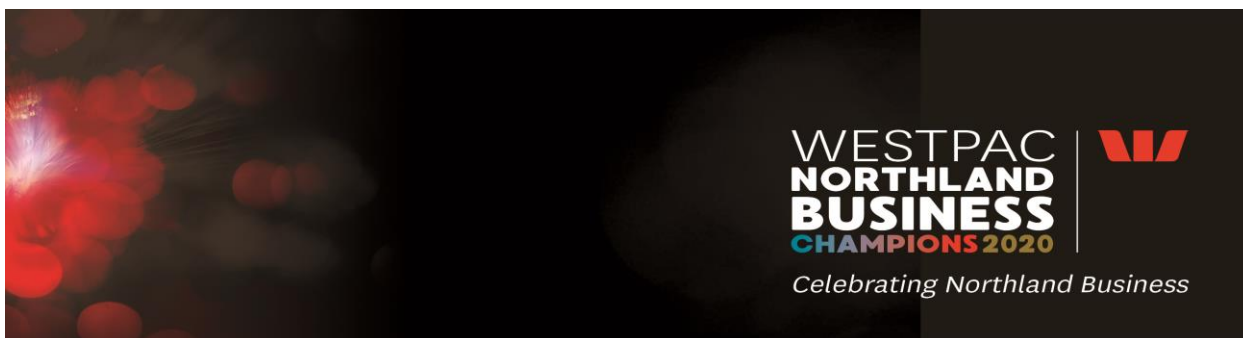
The Jetsons Group, incorporating No 8 Restaurant, the Cove Café, the Dune Mangawhai Restaurant and Bar, and The Quay.

PAK'nSAVE

Kensington Pharmacy

Winner

PAK'nSAVE Whangarei



Accident Compensation Corporation Workplace Safety Champion

Finalists

Hone Heke Lodge

Individual nomination – Jennifer Andrews Regent Training Centre

Aligned Movement

Winner

Aligned Movement

Northland Regional Council Environmental Business Champion

Finalists

Gathered

HeadsUp Adventures

Kohatu Development Ltd

Digital Wings

Winner

HeadsUp Adventures Ltd

Top Energy Not for Profit Champion

Finalist

Northland Arts Centre

Rugby For Life Community Partnership Programme

Winner

Northland Arts Centre

Northland Inc Innovation Champion

Finalists

Aligned Movement

Best Start Maunu Village

Digital Wings

Winner

Aligned Movement

Creative Northland Creative Industries Champion

Finalist

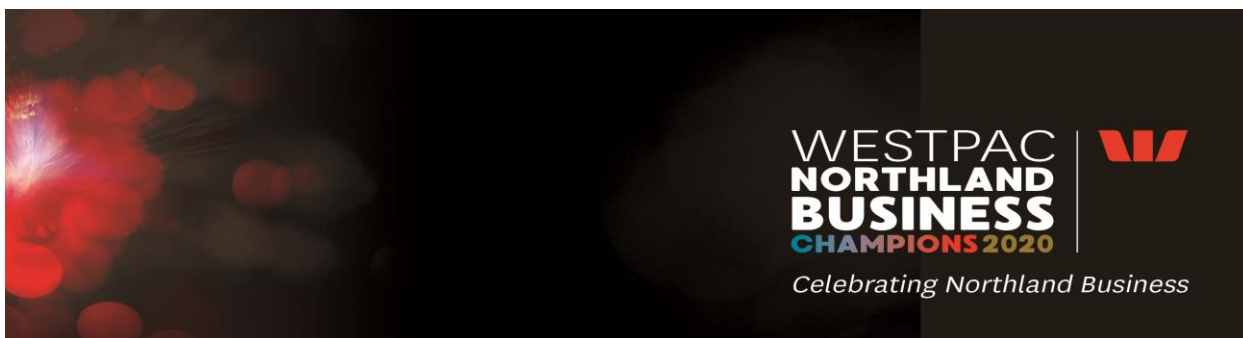
Jessie Rose Boutique, Forever Love Caskets and Inspire Art Studio

Wild Ivy Flowers and Gifts

MD Gallery

Winner

MD Gallery



More FM Customer Choice Champion

Finalists

Wild Ivy Flowers and Gifts

Blush Beauty Therapy

KeriCentral Hostel

Aligned Movement

David's Pharmacy

Jessie Rose Boutique, Forever Love Caskets and Inspire Art Studio MC

Winner

Jessie Rose Boutique, Forever Love Caskets and Inspire Art Studio

Ministry of Social Development He Poutama Taitamariki Champion (Youth Employee of the Year)

Finalists

Anahera Pickering – Whangarei Youth Space

Jared Johnston – Northland Scaffolding

Winner – Employee Jared Johnston

Winner – Employer Northland Scaffolding

The Northern Advocate Northland Business Hall of Fame Inductee

Sandra McKersey

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