



Tuesday 22 September 2009



**BEST BUSINESS: Ron Holden with Prime Minister John Key & General Manager of Business Banking at Westpac Ian Blair.**

## ***NALCO Wins Westpac Business of the year Supreme Award***

By Mark Gilbert

The Supreme Award was presented to Ron Holden, Managing Director NALCO by the Prime Minister, John Key and Ian Blair, General Manager of Business Banking at Westpac.

After many weeks of intense scrutiny from the judging panel, celebrations took place at the Dinner of the Westpac Manukau Business Excellence Awards on 18 September.

The winners were provided with an opportunity to celebrate their success in what is seen as the most competitive round of these awards to date. "The awards have had a record number of entries this year, and are now the largest business award event in New Zealand, so even

those businesses who were named finalists should be extremely proud of their achievements," says Gaelle Deighton, CEO of Enterprising Manukau. "This year's winners have really raised the bar and set some new standards for us all to aspire to."





NALCO went into the night as a finalist in 3 categories and came away with a hat trick of awards.

**Finalists for Cogita Excellence in Innovation and Strategy Award were:**

- Argenta Ltd
- Astron Plastics Ltd
- NALCO

The winner was NALCO for the exciting work they have done in the development and commercialisation of unique aluminium window and door systems for Bradnams and Nulook.

The judges were impressed that this company had seen opportunities rather than problems within their sector to develop new and leading edge products and services. Despite the impact of the tough trading environment, the Senior Management team had the confidence to continue to invest in developing innovative solutions. Their goal is to create a strong position for the business when the market rebounds

**Finalists for EMA Excellence in Manufacturing were:**

- Argenta Ltd
- Connovation Ltd
- The International travel College of NZ
- NALCO (Bradnams East Tamaki)

NALCO won this Award for the development and achievements at Bradnams East Tamaki. This business has undergone a significant changes since it's inception and now reliably delivers quality to it's customers.

The Judges said "This company uses lean manufacturing principles in their business with a high level of innovativeness. They have managed their way through the recession which has hit their industry hard. They have demonstrated strong financial management, with low debt levels, as well as quality manufacturing." The Enterprising Manukau Excellence in Exporting Award in which NALCO was an unsuccessful finalist was won by Argenta Limited, whose 108 staff supply the global animal health community.

Ron continued, "these awards recognize the incredible talent we have in our business.. The effort the team have put in over the last 7 years has been nothing short of amazing. We came into a business that was downsizing and had suffered from a lack of investment over a long period. NALCO have found and developed great people in this business, and that along with a huge focus on good systems, processes and disciplines has made a great difference.

Innovation is the core of our business, we established an internal training academy that leverages off the immense experience we have throughout the business. The feedback from our people has been awesome, people are hungry to learn and it provides fantastic enthusiasm and motivation for our people to deliver on our vision – "A better world for our Customer" .

The exciting thing for me is our future. NALCO have been investing for 7 years and over the last eighteen months we have really come of age. Going forward with the team we have developed there are no limitations, and what is so powerful about this is the real belief our organization has about what is possible."

Manukau City Council Mayor Len Brown says the quality of the winners shows Manukau businesses are in a good position to start the economic recovery.

"The quality of the business entering and winning the awards during what has been a tough year shows the Manukau economy is in good heart. It fills me with confidence that Manukau businesses are in a strong position as the country seems to be coming out of a recession."

"Taking the time to recognise and celebrate the world-class businesses in our backyard shows us what sets them apart, raising the benchmark for the whole business community. The awards allow Manukau businesses to continually raise the bar and promote ourselves as a thriving place to do business," Mr Brown says.

Winner of The New Zealand Herald Small Business of the Year, Boardertown Limited is a retailer of snowboards, wakeboards, skateboards, surfboards, clothing and accessories, now based in Botany Town Centre. Winning this Award, plus the Wiri Licensing Trust Excellence in Emerging Business Award. "After what has been a tough year or two for so





many businesses, it is an appropriate time to toast business success at these awards. The winners have all shown excellence in their management approach, and the high standards they've set are certainly inspiring," says Ian Blair, General Manager of Business Banking at Westpac.

**Other winners are:**

Challenge Trust won the Brookfields Lawyers Employer of Choice Award. The charitable trust provides a full range of recovery services to more than 1,000 people affected by mental illness, addiction, intellectual disability, physical disability and other conditions.

Challenge Trust is also the winner of the Sir Barry Curtis Excellence in Governance Award. PricewaterhouseCoopers are the judges of this award. Solomon Group Education & Training Academy, winner of the RSM Prince Excellence in Service Delivery Award, teaches people to read, spell and write.

The International Travel College of New Zealand is the winner of the TelstraClear Pacific Events Centre Excellence in Tourism & Hospitality Award. Providing full time and distance learning training programmes to the airline, travel and tourism industries.

OfficeMax is a double award winner, securing both the Manukau Water Excellence in Environmental Management Award and the ACC Workplace Safety Award.

Winner of the Manukau Community Foundation Business Contribution to the Community Award is Progressive Enterprises Limited.

Manukau City Council Young Business Person of the Year is Daniel Robertson, who started online bookstore Fishpond in his bedroom in 2004.

Two outstanding business people were inducted into the Manukau Business Hall of Fame, which recognises the loyalty and commitment of those who have made a difference to the Manukau region over the years.

Both Hall of Fame inductees hail from the heating and air-conditioning industry, and are Noel Holyoake, founder of what is now Holyoake Industries Limited, and Eric Kendall, who was the founder of Temperzone Air Conditioning. The current CEO of Temperzone, Les Kendall, accepted the award on behalf of his late father at the Gala Dinner.