

The Hutt Valley banner was held high and proud at the star-studded field which was the 2009 Wellington Gold Awards ...

HUTT VALLEY BUSINESSES WIN FIVE OF THE 10 CATEGORIES AT REGIONAL GOLD AWARDS



Prime Minister John Key with Lower Hutt Mayor David Odgen.



Lower Hutt Mayoress Teresa Shreves (left) with Hutt City Councillor Deborah Hislop.



Hutt City Council Chief Executive Tony Stallinger and wife Deidre were enjoying the local successes.

In the current financial climate, it was an impressive and confidence-boosting reminder the Hutt Valley has a business sector second to none.

Five of the 10 categories at this year's Wellington Gold Awards were won by Hutt Valley-based businesses and even more impressive was the fact local businesses won five of the six categories in which they had finalists entered. Now in its 11th year, 2009 also saw the highest ever number of businesses entered.

Avalon-based but recognised for its



Photograph courtesy of Robert Catto Photographer.

scientific and technical excellence around the world, GNS Science took the Discovering Gold for research and development with its project *Real Gold & Black Gold*, helping countries extend their marine territory.

Petone's Datamail Group was recognised with Supporting Gold for its wide range of professional services and infrastructure it provides for a large range of other businesses nation-wide.

At other end of the scale, the Emerging Gold went to Womama, a company founded by Heidi Holbrook and Juliette George four years ago. They met at an ante-natal class and dissatisfied with the lack of available maternity products began creating their own fashionable nursing bras. Their innovative thinking to enhance what is a special time in the life of mother and babe has led to business success throughout Australasia and now they are eying the British and American markets.

Gracefield-based Dulux New Zealand continued its record of workplace safety excellence with the ACC Workplace Safety Award, and Naenae-based Resene took the Green Gold Award for its positive sustainability practices.

Hutt Valley business icons featured

in three of the five individual salutes to excellence in business performance.

Neville Jordan, Petone-raised and still a Hutt resident, received the *Dominion Post Tribute to a Wellington Icon* award. After retiring from MAS Technology, the electronics company he founded, Neville now runs Endeavour Capital, a leading New Zealand private equity company investing mainly in the New Zealand science and technology sectors. He is one of only three living New Zealanders to be a Laureate of both the Hi Tech Hall of Fame and NZ Business Hall of Fame.

Gracefield company Formway received EMA's *Salute to a Cornerstone Business*. Now world-renowned (their ZAF chair won a Prince Philip design award 20 years ago to set them on their way) their business is based around ideas and products for making people more comfortable at work.

When the Wellington Tenth's Trust's CEO Professor Ngatata Love stepped forward to receive BECA's *Salute to a Star Performer* on behalf of the Trust it marked also the most historic of links with early Wellington and even more locally with Petone. Professor Love's family roots go the deepest of all into the sands of Pito-one.

THE WINNERS WERE:

Discovering Gold: R&D projects and products
WINNER: Real Gold & Black Gold by GNS Science.
HV finalist: Melamine Testing by AsureQuality Gracefield

Emerging Gold: smaller enterprises
WINNER: Womama (Petone).
HV Finalists: Celcius Coffee, Dzine Signs Upper Hutt.

Supporting Gold: Professional services and infrastructure providers
WINNER: Datamail Group Petone.
HV Finalists: Boulcott Hospital, Charta Packaging Gracefield and Griffiths Drilling (NZ) Upper Hutt.

ACC Workplace Safety Award: for workplace safety practices
WINNER: Dulux NZ Gracefield.

Green Gold Award: for positive sustainability practices
WINNER: Resene.
HV Finalist: Datamail Group.

Team Gold Award: Empowering teams
HV Finalist: Industrial Research Ltd (IRL).



Charta Packaging's Michael and Anna Stokes (l) Camille Flanagan (back) and Steve and Sue Crilly. The Gracefield-based firm specialising in high quality corrugated cardboard packaging was a finalist in the Supporting Gold category.



Writer/Performer Michele A'Court was MC for the evening. She enjoyed a catch-up with *Vibrant Hutt* editor Leigh Sutton.



Upper Hutt Mayor Wayne Guppy with wife Sue.



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