



2degrees Auckland Business Awards

powered by Auckland Business Chamber

NORTH & WEST | CENTRAL | SOUTH & EAST

CELEBRATE OUR FINALISTS

WHAKANUIA Ō TĀTOU WHIRINGA TOA

EMPOWERING BUSINESS &
CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE IN
THE **NORTH & WEST** REGION

2degrees Auckland Business Awards 2026
Regional Cocktail Event

PROGRAMME

MIHI WHAKATAU

TE AROHA GRACE

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

KATE RODGER - Master of Ceremonies

AUCKLAND BUSINESS CHAMBER

SIMON BRIDGES - Chief Executive, Auckland Business Chamber

PRINCIPAL SPONSOR ADDRESS

RICHARD HANN - Partnership Manager, 2degrees

CATEGORY AWARDS

Best Emerging Business
Excellence in Customer Experience
Excellence in Innovation
Excellence in Marketing
People's Choice

WALK AND FORK MENU

CATEGORY AWARDS

Excellence in Strategy
Excellence in Sustainability
Employer of the Year
Excellence in International Business

SUPREME BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AWARD

WALK AND FORK DESSERT

WALK AND FORK MENU

Vegetarian

Salt baked beetroot risotto, parmesan custard, petit salad (V/GF)
Roast vegetable medley (VE/GF/DF)

Non-Vegetarian

Braised beef cheek, creamy gouda mash, salsa verde (GF)
Roast Chicken, eggplant & coconut puree, minted goats curd, radish (GF)
Market fish, herb ghee jasmine rice, ginger & spring onion relish

Petit Fours dessert

Chocolate bar with hazelnut cream (GF)
Tropical mini pavlova (GF)

WINES BY LOVEBLOCK

2022 Méthode Traditionnelle
2023 Marlborough Pinot Gris (Organic)
2023 Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc (Organic)
2023 Marlborough Chardonnay
2022 Central Otago Pinot Noir

Beer, orange juice and non-alcoholic beverages

FINALISTS

EMPOWERING BUSINESS & CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE IN THE **NORTH & WEST** REGION

BEST EMERGING BUSINESS

Te pakihi whakaihu waka

SPONSORED BY AIR NEW ZEALAND

Atlas Studios
Avatars Global
Elyte Hydration
One Wellness Group
Palladium
Pantheon IQ
RevGrowth

EXCELLENCE IN CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE

Te kairangi o te arotaki ratonga kiritaki

SPONSORED BY BARFOOT & THOMPSON

Aspire Property Management
Both Brains
Mulan Cafe & Restaurant
Skydive Auckland
Smoke - Event Photo + Video
Tree Adventures

EXCELLENCE IN INNOVATION

Te Kairangi o te aronga hou

SPONSORED BY Z ENERGY

Astute Access
Hale Animal Health
Mason
TROW Group

CATEGORY SPONSORS



AIR NEW ZEALAND 

BARFOOT
THOMPSON &



LUMO



CORDIS
AUCKLAND

 Reliance
Utilities

AUCKLAND BUSINESS
CHAMBER
EMPLOYMENT SOLUTIONS

PORT OF
AUCKLAND
TĀHAKI HĒRĒNGA WAKA

FINALISTS

EMPOWERING BUSINESS & CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE IN THE **NORTH & WEST** REGION

EXCELLENCE IN MARKETING

Te kairangi o te whakatairanga

SPONSORED BY LUMO DIGITAL

BOUNCE NZ
Ellis Label
LAKOA
Forty Thieves Ltd
Masons
Northern Rocks
Pets In The City

PEOPLE'S CHOICE

Te kōwhiringa o te tini

SPONSORED BY KIWIBANK

Brazilian Cafe & Bistro
Empower Her Community
Forty Thieves Ltd
Pets In The City
Takacat NZ Ltd
The Mortgage Supply Co
The Teachers Connections

EXCELLENCE IN STRATEGY

Te kairangi o te whakarautaki me te whakamahere

SPONSORED BY CORDIS, AUCKLAND

Atlas Studios
Empower Her Community
Flow Marketing
Forty Thieves Ltd
Pets In The City
ZEN Energy

CATEGORY SPONSORS



AIR NEW ZEALAND

BARFOOT
THOMPSON &



LUMO



CORDIS
AUCKLAND



AUCKLAND BUSINESS
CHAMBER
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AUCKLAND
TĀHAKI HERENGĀ WAKA

FINALISTS

EMPOWERING BUSINESS & CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE IN THE **NORTH & WEST** REGION

EXCELLENCE IN SUSTAINABILITY

Te Kairangi o te Toitūtanga

SPONSORED BY RELIANCE UTILITIES

Pharmapac

Re:Circle

Resource Recovery Devonport

Rocket Freight

TROW Group

EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR

Te Kaimahi o te tau

SPONSORED BY CHAMBER EMPLOYMENT

Barker Business Brokerage

BOUNCE NZ

Harcourts Cooper & Co Property Management

The Mortgage Supply Co

My Wonderland Indoor Playground

Skydive Auckland

Unipharm Healthy Manufacturing

EXCELLENCE IN INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS

Te kairangi o te tāpaetanga ā-hapori

SPONSORED BY PORT OF AUCKLAND

Rocket Freight

TROW Group

Unipharm Healthy Manufacturing

CATEGORY SPONSORS



AIR NEW ZEALAND

BARFOOT
THOMPSON &



LUMO



CORDIS
AUCKLAND

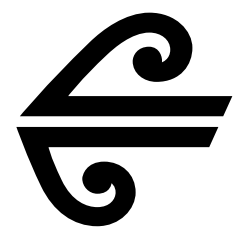
Reliance
Utilities

AUCKLAND BUSINESS
CHAMBER
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PORT OF
AUCKLAND
TĀHAKI HIRANGA WAKA

BEST EMERGING BUSINESS

SPONSORED BY

AIR NEW ZEALAND 

PRESENTED BY SAM WINSTANLEY

Providing uniquely Kiwi journeys to more than 15 million customers who fly to, from and within New Zealand each year. Air New Zealand is the flag carrier airline of New Zealand.

Atlas Studios | Atlas Studios is a specialist commerce agency based in Takapuna, Auckland, purpose-built to help modern and ambitious brands scale smarter digitally through Shopify and Shopify Plus.

Avatars Global | Building hyper-real AI avatars that make digital experiences feel genuinely human. Avatars Global Limited was born from a bold idea and a garage. In July 2023, a small team of five began working without revenue, driven by a conviction that digital experiences could - and should - feel genuinely human.

Elyte Hydration | Founded in 2023, by Annelies Grimshaw and Mario Ozich, Science-backed hydration that helps people feel, perform, and live better.

One Wellness Group | One Wellness Group was established in 2022 as the next expression of a mission that began in founder Jessie Shi's own life. Building a trusted natural health ecosystem to reduce confusion and empower proactive wellness choices.

Palladium | Palladium is a strategic market research agency, delivering crystallised insight to brands across Australia and New Zealand founded in April 2025 by Steph Karayannis and Richard Hall.

Pantheon IQ | Pantheon IQ is a fast-growing agentic AI company helping mid-market organisations across New Zealand and Australia reengineer the way they work.

RevGrowth | Partnering with B2B businesses to generate qualified opportunities and predictable pipeline through human-first outbound sales.

EXCELLENCE IN CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE

SPONSORED BY



PRESENTED BY HENRY BARFOOT

New Zealand's largest privately owned real estate company which has been run by the Barfoot & Thompson families for over 90 years. It sells 1 in 3 Auckland properties.

Aspire Property Management | Auckland's dedicated residential and commercial property management specialists, delivering exceptional service for landlords and tenants.

Both Brains | Both Brains was built on a simple belief: the best outcomes happen when people work together. Making IT simple, secure and strategic for businesses across New Zealand.

Mulan Cafe & Restaurant | A family-run cafe and restaurant delivering authentic Malaysian-inspired dining while proudly supporting local NZ businesses.

Skydive Auckland | Skydive Auckland Limited has been delivering New Zealand's most thrilling skydiving experiences since its founding in December 2011.

Smoke - Event Photo + Video | The event photographers of choice for the world's most respected brands covering events across New Zealand and, since 2026, Australia.

Tree Adventures | Auckland's treetop adventure park - delivering memorable outdoor experiences for over 20 years.

EXCELLENCE IN INNOVATION

SPONSORED BY



PRESENTED BY SIMON BRIDGES, ON BEHALF OF Z

Z Energy (Z) is one of Aotearoa New Zealand's leading transport energy companies, with a nationwide retail fuel and supply infrastructure network, alongside a growing public EV charging network at select Z retail and destination sites.

Astute Access | Astute Access is a disruptive Kiwi technology company transforming traditional locking systems through secure Bluetooth-enabled smart locks and the LockVue access management platform.

Hale Animal Health | Hale Animal Health is developing the world's first cannabinoid-based prescription pain medicine for dogs.

Mason | Masons is a proudly New Zealand owned family business & delivers innovative building systems that help New Zealand build smarter, faster and better.

TROW Group | One of Aotearoa and the Pacific's largest waste recovery operations, delivering impact through Papatūānuku preservation.

EXCELLENCE IN MARKETING

SPONSORED BY



PRESENTED BY PHIL CLEMAS

LUMO was founded in 2016 with an ambition to pioneer the out of home marketing sector through innovation, digital first thinking and a promise never to compromise on quality.

BOUNCE NZ | Inspiring movement, human connection and confidence through unforgettable action-adventure experiences for all ages.

Ellis Label | Ellis Label was founded on considered womenswear, prioritising intentional design, longevity, and mindful consumption.

Forty Thieves Ltd | Forty Thieves is an award-winning New Zealand food company making nut butters for fuelling everyday and epic adventures™.

LAKOA | Science-backed supplements helping women age strong, stay active, and thrive through every season.

Masons | Masons delivers innovative building systems that help New Zealand build smarter, faster and better.

Northern Rocks | Northern Rocks: A world-class bouldering facility in Auckland. Where fitness meets fun, community and friends.

Pets In The City | Premium dog care brand helping dogs, owners, and people live their best lives across NZ.

PEOPLE'S CHOICE

SPONSORED BY



PRESENTED BY SARAH JONES

Just like you, we're a New Zealand business. This is home for us and we're here for the long haul. As a Kiwi bank, we're focused on backing local and supporting Kiwi businesses, contributing to a stronger community and economy. We believe that when you join us, we join you and together we can do great things.

Brazilian Cafe & Bistro | Brazilian Café, founded in 2014, is an independent owned, a business dedicated to sharing the authentic flavours and hospitality of Brazil in New Zealand.

Empower Her Community | A global networking community and membership platform built by women, for women in business.

Forty Thieves Ltd | Forty Thieves is an award-winning New Zealand food company making nut butters for fuelling everyday and epic adventures™.

Pets In The City | Premium dog care brand helping dogs, owners, and people live their best lives across NZ.

Takacat NZ Ltd | Proudly designed and developed in New Zealand, Takacat boats are now sold globally through a co-op of Takacat Distributors, reaching customers in Europe, North America, Australia, Asia, and beyond.

The Mortgage Supply Co | Founded in 2011 by industry leaders David Windler and David Hart, The Mortgage Supply Co began with a clear goal: to transform the lending experience for New Zealanders through client-focused, transparent, and expert advice.

The Teachers Connections | The Teacher's Connections works with more than 200 teachers across Aotearoa and supports families in Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch, Tauranga, Hamilton, Queenstown, Waiheke, and beyond.

EXCELLENCE IN STRATEGY

SPONSORED BY

CORDIS
AUCKLAND

PRESENTED BY CRAIG BONNOR

Cordis Auckland is proud to sponsor the Excellence in Strategy award. This category celebrates businesses that think ahead - setting clear goals, executing with purpose, and turning long-term vision into measurable success.

Atlas Studios | Atlas Studios is a specialist commerce agency based in Takapuna, Auckland, purpose-built to help modern and ambitious brands scale smarter digitally through Shopify and Shopify Plus.

Empower Her Community | A global networking community and membership platform built by women, for women in business.

Flow Marketing | A revenue growth consultancy specialising in AI search, organic social & strategic marketing for NZ businesses.

Forty Thieves Ltd | Forty Thieves is an award-winning New Zealand food company making nut butters for fuelling everyday and epic adventures™.

Pets In The City | Premium dog care brand helping dogs, owners, and people live their best lives across NZ.

ZEN Energy | Helping power change hands to create an independent, sustainable and resilient energy future.

EXCELLENCE IN SUSTAINABILITY

SPONSORED BY



PRESENTED BY DHWANIL RAO

At Reliance Utilities, we're more than just an energy broker - we're your partner in making energy simple, fair, and tailored to your needs.

Pharmapac | Premium NZ packaging manufacturer delivering innovative, sustainable packaging for pharmaceutical, natural health, honey & food brands.

Re:Circle | Re:Circle is a New Zealand retail business transforming the way people buy and sell pre-loved goods by making reuse easy, accessible and commercially viable.

Resource Recovery Devonport | Empowering communities to value waste through reuse, recycling, education, and local reinvestment for lasting impact.

Rocket Freight | A full service freight, logistics, customs and warehousing business delivering cargo solutions worldwide.

TROW Group | Ko TROW Group mātou | We are TROW Group
TROW is one of Aotearoa and the Pacific's largest waste recovery service providers.

EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR

SPONSORED BY



PRESENTED BY LEAH GATES

Auckland Business Chamber is supporting our local communities into work with practical work-readiness programmes and connecting job seekers with New Zealand's business network. Our approach is simple: help businesses access great people while creating employment opportunities that strengthen our communities.

Barker Business Brokerage | Barker Business Brokerage, New Zealand's boutique specialist business brokerages, connecting business owners with successful outcomes.

BOUNCE NZ | BOUNCE NZ is New Zealand's leading action adventure entertainment destination, inspiring movement, self-expression and human connection through world-class indoor adventure experiences.

Harcourts Cooper & Co Property Management | Harcourts Cooper & Co Property Management is an award-winning residential property management business and part of the largest Harcourts franchise in the world.

The Mortgage Supply Co | Founded in 2011 by industry leaders David Windler and David Hart, The Mortgage Supply Co began with a clear goal: to transform the lending experience for New Zealanders through client-focused, transparent, and expert advice.

My Wonderland Indoor Playground | My Wonderland is a values-led indoor playground, café, and party venue creating magical, inclusive play experiences where no child or parent ever misses out.

Skydive Auckland | Skydive Auckland Limited has been delivering New Zealand's most thrilling skydiving experiences since its founding in December 2011.

Unipharm Healthy Manufacturing | UNI-MADE, Winning Start-Foundaed in 1979, empowering global health brands through trusted New Zealand manufacturing.

EXCELLENCE IN INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS

SPONSORED BY



PRESENTED BY GARY ELMES

Port of Auckland exists to serve our customers and the people of Auckland. We're proud to facilitate the sustainable growth of international trade, tourism and commerce for Auckland and the upper North Island.

Rocket Freight | A full service international freight, logistics, customs and warehousing business delivering cargo solutions worldwide.

TROW Group | One of Aotearoa and the Pacific's largest waste recovery operations, delivering impact through Papatūānuku preservation.

Unipharm Healthy Manufacturing | UNI-MADE, Winning Start - empowering global health brands through trusted New Zealand manufacturing.

SUPREME BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AWARD

SPONSORED BY 2degrees

2degrees is committed to delivering digital outcomes for New Zealand Inc and enhancing the productivity of local businesses. With a strong challenger brand heritage, combined with its current scale and world-class mobile and fibre networks, 2degrees is well-positioned to empower their customers to focus what matters most - their business.

They are proud sponsors of the 2degrees Auckland Business Awards

CATEGORY SPONSORS



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