

These awards are open to businesses in or around the Christchurch area (a guideline is a five-mile radius). Businesses may enter from outside the area providing the five-mile radius is a major trading area of that business. Businesses can enter as many categories as they wish, but only one entry per category. Sponsors may not enter categories they are sponsoring.

Nominations need to have comments on why the company is being nominated so that the judges can appreciate why you have nominated them and gain an understanding of why they are worthy of the award. **It is not the number of nominations the judges will consider but the quality of the nomination.**

### **Restaurant of the Year**

This award is more about fine dining than a burger or pizza. Judges will be looking for restaurants that offer a memorable occasion, use fresh local ingredients and source other local products. It's about what makes you the place people aspire to visit. The entrant will need to demonstrate customer service at the highest level, a creative menu and give details of any awards, reviews, customer testimonials that back this up.

Entrants should demonstrate excellence across every aspect of their business, outlining their long term aims to continue to improve their customer experience.

### **Best Place to Work**

This category is open to all businesses and organisations (public and private sector) that can demonstrate they have created an outstanding workplace based on a set of values that has led to a committed, effective, and motivated workforce. Tell us what sets you apart and how that has benefited the business/organisation and its employees. With stresses in recent years from Covid to rising running costs tell us how the business has taken steps to take care of and help employees and customers.

### **Best Café, Pub, Casual Dining.**

This award is open to cafes, coffee shops, bars, beachside bars, pubs, etc - and any business that provides food and drink in a social area. Entrants should demonstrate excellence across every aspect of their business, outlining their long term aims to continue to improve their customer experience.

### **Excellence in Customer Service**

This award is open to businesses that can show flexibility, responsibility, and a clear focus on their customer service. They need to demonstrate a high level of customer satisfaction, setting the bar for their competitors to follow. Also, businesses should, if possible, give examples of any customer service training they have given to their team, whether on a one-to-one basis or group training.

### **Family Business of The Year**

The winner of this award will have family members currently working in the business. The judges are looking for businesses who can articulate why that matters to the success of the business, while acknowledging the pros and cons of a family structure. Entrants will demonstrate what it means to be a family business and how (if applicable) non-family leaders are integrated. Businesses entering this award will need to specify the current family members leading the business and their roles.

### **Community Support**

We are looking for entries and nominations for organisations, businesses and individuals that have done remarkable work for their local community. Open to any business or organisation that can demonstrate commitment to the local community through services, fund raising or physical or mental support. This award is open to businesses or individuals who have gone the extra mile supporting other businesses or individuals during the recent issues. The winner of this category will be a business or an individual that has consistently helped others with dedication and commitment. Entries should give examples of what has been done. Entries can be nominations from other businesses for a business or individual OR from a business for an individual within that business.

### **Business of the Year (Less than 10 employees)**

This category is open to all local companies with 10 or less employees that can demonstrate ambition and innovation in their business sector. Details on how your business stands out from your competitors and achievements in the last year or so. Details on where you want to be in the next year. The judges will be looking for achievement in all aspects of the company, excellent leadership, a good sales and marketing strategy, commitment to staff development and training.

### **Green/Eco Business of The Year**

We are looking for local business entrants who show awareness of environmental issues and are working to be more environmentally friendly. Entrants will need to show they are focused on being ethical and socially responsible. The award is open to any local business, organisation, or individual that has included environmental improvements as part of their core business model and reducing waste.

### **Independent Business of the Year**

This category is open to local independent businesses who can demonstrated enterprise, vision, innovation, and entrepreneurial spirit, which in turn is growing their business. Also, a strong record of serving local customers. The winning business will demonstrate excellence

in all areas of the business and the business can be any size from a one-man band to large local employer.

### **New Business of the Year**

Entrants are invited from businesses less than three years old (as of December 2022), that have demonstrated enterprise, vision, innovation, and entrepreneurial spirit when setting up a successful new business. Also, a clear vision as to how the business will develop in the future. We are looking for inspiring new businesses that will be seen as role models for other new businesses.

### **My Favourite Business**

#### **Nominations only Please – no entries but nominations from customers/clients etc**

The judges will be looking for details on why the business is your favourite – is it what they sell, their customer service, their staff, their pricing? Is it a combination of all these traits? Tell us what makes them so special in your eyes.

### **Young Entrepreneur/Rising Star**

Entrepreneur A young person is defined as under 35 – they can either be employed or run their own business. The judges will be looking for individuals who have demonstrated an exceptional contribution to the workplace or development of their own company showing excellent performance, a real hands-on approach, initiative, and entrepreneurial spirit.

### **Overall Winner**

**This is decided by the judges who are asked to vote for their 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> businesses and then the one that gets the most overall 1<sup>st</sup> votes is our winner.**