NZI Rural Women New Zealand Business Awards Category Winners – Media Statements

Creative Arts – Millwood Press

Sophie Siers: 0210 8200 788
Sophie’s books for children have enjoyed international success, although it’s New Zealand where her heart lies. Using farming as the backdrop, Sophie captures the essence of rural living, while creating exceptional stories that resonate with all children, whether they live in a rural or urban environment. Sophie has a strong desire to grow her business and is an ardent supporter of other Kiwi writers.

Emerging Business – Hunt and Gather Bee

Hannah O’Brien: 0274 679 103
Hunt and Gather Bee is based on strong values that resonate throughout its offering. This successful business combines an innovative product and marketing strategy, with a true desire to care for our environment and our native bees, while working towards eradicating pests. This young business is already making a real mark on the rural map and we’re looking forward to watching their next steps with interest.

Innovation – Wiz Wireless

Bridget Canning: 0272 490 688
Providing reliable internet and vast coverage to New Zealand’s rural communities is no small feat. Wiz Wireless has embraced this challenge and has found robust solutions to service a geographical area where many larger providers have failed. Simply put, this innovative business excels at what it sets out to do - bringing connectivity and providing high quality broadband to rural Wairarapa.

Love of the land – Plants Hawkes Bay

Marie Taylor: 027 442 4536
Passion is at the forefront of Plants Hawkes Bay and demonstrates how a passion can transform into a thriving business. A foundation in horticulture and experience in forestry restoration was the genesis of Plants Hawkes Bay, which has a strong focus on using knowledge and love of plants and the environment for the good of the community. Marie’s enthusiasm for growing rare, naturally-occurring local plants is evident in her work and she works closely and adds immense value to local Iwi, Councils, farmers and botanists’ groups.

Rural Champion – Fly my Sky

Robyn McKenzie: 0274 424 115
Airlines are a competitive and highly regulated sector and rural communities are often the first to lose their service when the economics don’t make sense. Fly my Sky is the exception to this – it is focused on getting people to Great Barrier Island and back with a reliable and regular service, and just as importantly, its economics stack up and the business is in a strong financial position with a business plan focused on expansion.