

1 September 2022

**FINALISTS FOR THE 2022 IMB BANK
ILLAWARRA BUSINESS AWARDS ANNOUNCED**

The region's peak business organisation, Business Illawarra, has announced finalists for the 2022 IMB Bank Illawarra Business Awards.

Last night finalists were announced at a live event for the first time, where entrants were able to enjoy face-to-face networking and a celebration drink together, hosted by The Illawarra Hotel.

Adam Zarth, Executive Director of Business Illawarra, said that the 2022 awards program had attracted a record number of entrants and that the standard of submissions was incredibly high overall.

"We've received an overwhelming response to this year's awards program, and I'll take this opportunity to congratulate everybody who entered and particularly our finalists on their strong submissions," said Mr Zarth.

The 2022 IMB Bank Illawarra Business Awards will celebrate the achievements of the region's businesses and business professionals and shine a light on the best of our business community. Entries were assessed by a panel of independent judges, who following a rigorous assessment of written entries, have decided upon finalists from across 15 categories.

"Our finalists are a terrific reflection of the diversity of the talent and expertise in our business community, ranging from sole traders to large-scale employers, and a wide range of industries and sectors across the region."

"We'd like to congratulate all entrants, and particularly our category finalists, who will now progress to the final interview stage of judging. Winners of the Shoalhaven Business Awards in aligned categories will also join finalists in the interview process. Special recognition is due to our Auditor of Judges, Warwick Shanks, who is again overseeing a highly rigorous judging process," said Mr Zarth.

"This year our program theme has embraced 'La Dolce Vita' to bring the essence of 'the sweet life' and a taste of the picturesque Amalfi Coast to the shores of the Illawarra.

The 2022 IMB Bank Illawarra Business Awards gala ceremony will be held on Friday, 14 October at the WIN Entertainment Centre, and the Business Illawarra team are hard at work preparing for the region's most glamorous back-tie event of the year in true Italian style.

— ENDS —

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About Business Illawarra

Formerly the Illawarra Business Chamber, Business Illawarra is the region's peak business organisation; a not-for-profit advocacy group dedicated to the economic development of the Illawarra.

2022 FINALISTS

Excellence in Customer Service - Sponsored by IOH Health

Aceit Sportswear
Big Fat Smile Group
Curran Plumbing
Mrs Oldbucks Pantry
Ocean Blue B&B
Shaw Landscape Group
South Coast Brides
The Cram Foundation
Tiny Tins
Webb Financial

Excellence in Import & Export - Sponsored by NSW Ports

Aceit Sportswear
Scalapay

Excellence in Innovation - Sponsored by Wollongong City Council

Buckaroo Leatherworks
Curran Plumbing
Droppoint Australia
Jasmine Grove by IRT Group
RoboFit
The Flagstaff Group
Venuu
Virtual IT Group
Wollongong Foot & Ankle Centre

Excellence in Large Business - Sponsored by University of Wollongong

Coutts Lawyers & Conveyancers
D.Frame Electrical
Easy Agile
GJ Gardner Homes Shoalhaven
Peoplecare Health Cover
Warrigal

Excellence in Micro Business

Chuckle Communications
Hill To Air
Mrs Oldbucks Pantry
Stand Up Paddle Boarding Shellharbour
The MacBain Agency

Excellence in Small Business - Sponsored by South32

Aceit Sportswear
Crooked River Wines
Five Barrel Brewing
Foye Legal

Propel Technologies
Stella Studioz
The Collective Beat
Tread Right Podiatry & Biomechanics
Webb Financial
Wollongong Strata

Excellence in Sustainability - Sponsored by BlueScope

Burnetts On Barney
Little Eco Baby
The Illawarra Hotel
The Pines
Tiny Tins

Excellence in Tech - Sponsored by Siligong Valley

Business Valuations Online
Propel Technologies
RoboFit
Scalapay
Virtual IT Group

Excellence in Tourism & Hospitality - Sponsored by Destination Wollongong

Mt Hay Retreat
Novotel Wollongong Northbeach
PepperGreen Estate
Pleasant Way River Lodge
Stand Up Paddle Boarding Shellharbour
The Living Room

Excellence in Workplace Culture - Sponsored by Peoplecare Health Cover

Accelo
Coutts Lawyers & Conveyancers
Easy Agile
ECTARC Early Childhood Education Services & Training
Endeavour Energy
Housing Trust
IOT
Nowchem
Shoalhaven Family Law
The Illawarra Hotel

Outstanding Business Leader - Sponsored by Access Law Group

Andrew Webb - Webb Financial
Charlie Emery - Soilco
Darren Frame - D.Frame Electrical
Dr Melinda Williams - Peoplecare Health Cover
John Lamont - Nowchem
Karena Nicholls - Coutts Lawyers & Conveyancers

Peter Jones - Prological Consulting
Renee Knight - CareSouth
Wynter Dares - Wollongong Foot & Ankle Centre

Outstanding Community Organisation - Sponsored by Warrigal

Big Fat Smile Group
CareSouth
Housing Trust
Lifeline South Coast
The Cram Foundation
The Flagstaff Group

Outstanding Employee - Sponsored by WIN Network

Jessica Bezzant - Landscapists
Luke Attenborough - Housing Trust
Natalie Allan - MMJ Real Estate
Sarah Crimston - Allcare Health Services Group

Outstanding Start-up - Sponsored by Port Authority of New South Wales

Adcraft Studio
Banksia Support Services
Illawarra Print & Signage
Precision Suspension & Automotive
Riding For Life
Samurai Group

Outstanding Young Business Leader - Sponsored by Dapto Leagues Club

Alex Stronach - Medicine in Motion Health Group
Brett Wright - Peoplecare Health Cover
Mitchell Woellner - Droppoint Australia
Nikki Aitchison - The Illawarra Hotel
Sidney Curran - Curran Plumbing
Teagan Huntsdale - The Dance Affinity
Will Ryan - IOT