



Media Release

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## Awards celebrate the best of Selwyn

Nine Selwyn businesses, groups and individuals have been recognised for their excellence with an award at the 2016 Sensational Selwyn Awards.

Over 300 people attended a gala dinner at the Lincoln Event Centre on Saturday 30 July to enjoy the best of Selwyn's food and beverages and celebrate the exceptional people and businesses in the district at the biennial awards presentation.

The award winners are:

- *Arts and culture:* Amelia Dunbar - Amelia lives at High Peak Station near Windwhistle and was recognised for her talent in fine art and acting. Category finalists were: Elizabeth (Beth) Keoghan and Nut Point Centre
- *Community Service:* Neville Sinclair Benny - a resident of the Springston area, Neville has contributed to the community through his involvement in the local church, hall, bowls club, primary school and other community commitments. Category finalists were: Gary Elliot and Sue Petersen
- *Sport:* Francie Turner – Francie lives near Southbridge. As the coxswain for the New Zealand Woman's Rowing Eight she is currently competing at the Rio Olympics and also won a Silver medal at the 2015 World Rowing Championships. Category finalists were: Eliza Grigg and Hannah Bates
- *Young achiever:* Elin Harris - Elin is currently the Head Girl at Lincoln High School, and is Deputy Chairperson of the Selwyn Youth Council where she has been involved in many local projects. She is also a member of the Fuji Xerox Next Generation Leader's Programme. Elin lives in Prebbleton. Category finalists were: Dominic Brett Kelly and Hannah Bates
- *Small Business:* COBi Digital Productions Ltd - this family owned business based in Rolleston creates cinematic promotional videos specialising in moving imagery using drones or a cinema rig. Their clients include the BBC, TVNZ, CERA, Warner Brothers, South Pacific Pictures and many others. Category finalists were: Benjamin O'Connell and Timothy Marshall (joint CEOs of Chariot Bothers/ Tribal), Leeston Physiotherapy Ltd and Selwyn Travel
- *Large Business:* The Laboratory - owners Lisa and Martin Bennett moved from London to Lincoln in 2003. They opened the Laboratory in June 2015 with the aim to create a craft beer haven in the heart of Lincoln which would attract locals and visitors. The venue employs 43 staff. Category finalist was: Sicon Ltd.
- *Agri-Business:* Gladfield Malt. The malt is based near Dunsandel and owned by Doug and Gabi Michael. Doug is a fifth Generation Malt Barley grower from Dunsandel. Gabi is a vet/farmer from Brazil. They aim to produce the World's Best

Pure Malt. Twelve years after establishing their business it is thriving and they export their product to the world. The malt won the 2015 DB Morton Coutts Trophy for Innovation and Achievement. Category finalist was: Rural Tenancy Inspections Ltd.

- *Tourism:* The Tea House - the Tea House has been operating in Lincoln since April 2012. It offers a unique setting in an 1890's villa with vintage china and crystal chandeliers where English High Teas are a major attraction. Sourcing product locally is a key priority of the business along with providing an exceptional customer experience. Category finalists were: Hororata Community Trust and Jet Stream Tours Ltd T/A Alpine Jet
- *Environmental:* West Rolleston Primary School, Te Kura o Te uru Kowhai Establishment Board of Trustees - Establishment board members Simon McDermott (Chairperson), Denise Sheat (representative of Te Taumutu), Rebecca Scott, Sherryll Wilson, Kate Duncan and Trish Hann contributed extensive governance and educational experience to the school. The board worked to bring forward thinking environmental and energy efficient build practices aligned with the schools values into the school's design. Category finalists were: Prebbleton Nature Park and Selwyn Fruit Trees in Schools.

Selwyn Mayor Kelvin Coe says the businesses and individuals nominated for the awards were inspirational examples to others and he congratulated those who won awards.

"The awards recognise individuals in the community who provide service and inspiration to the wider community and through their efforts help make Selwyn a great place to live. They are an opportunity to recognise individuals, groups and businesses that excel in their fields."

54 nominations were put forward, from which 26 finalists were chosen by 15 expert judges and nine category winners selected.

Ends

Photos attached: *The owners of small business award winner COBi Digital Productions Ltd, Wayne and Lavinia Cook with Mayor Kevin Coe (centre), and Elin Harris, winner of the Young Achiever award*

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