

## The 2012 NZIFST FOOD INDUSTRY EXCELLENCE AWARDS - CITATIONS

### 2012 NZIFST AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE AND SUPPLY

**WINNER: Environmental Health Officer Team (EHO), Environmental Health Services, Christchurch City Council, led by Sue Reynolds.**

Following the two major seismic events in September 2010 and February 2011 and on-going aftershocks, Christchurch city's infrastructure sustained serious damage. Outbreaks of communicable disease were quickly recognised as a major concern. In their work to protect public health and assist business recovery, the city's Environmental Health Officers undertook various roles and duties under often difficult and stressful conditions. The tireless dedication of this team is noteworthy. One of the measures of their success was that there was no increase in communicable disease in the three months following the 22 February earthquake.

**RUNNER-UP: David Calder Arrow International.**

David is project/construction manager for Arrow International, a large construction and project management company. His communication skills and efficiency were an important part of his successful management of the clean-up, repair and reinstatement for Coca Cola Amatil in Christchurch whose plant and facilities were badly damaged during last year's earthquakes. It was clear that he had a strong sense of obligation to this customer. He worked tirelessly to help them clean up the chaos and was effective at coordinating the work of his own colleagues at Arrow and of other service providers.

**RUNNER-UP: Dr Carolyn Lister Plant and Food (Crown Research Institute)**

Carolyn has a passion for promoting the nutrition and health provided by fresh fruits and vegetables, notably with the "Five+ a day" initiative. She donates a huge amount of her personal time to that commitment and is trusted by the food industry and the media alike, with her ability to take scientific knowledge and translate it into facts which can be understood by the general public. She is also recognised for her scientific research in the area of antioxidants, phytochemicals, anthocyanins and colour.

### 2012 ECOLAB AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN ECO-EFFICIENCY.

**WINNER: Alistair Campbell, Bluebird Foods**

A team led by Alistair Campbell, co-ordinated a series of projects to support Bluebird's sustainability vision. Their goals were to reduce the site's waste to landfill and maximise recovery of food waste for alternate uses, thereby turning waste from a cost centre into a profit centre. Central to the success of the project were:

- Investment in equipment to maximise waste recovery
- Active engagement with suppliers to maximise waste recovery and obtain a rebate for recyclables
- Building awareness with staff through team activities and communication.

A clear feature of this application was the strong evidence of Alistair's engagement with his fellow employees and with an external service provider. There was clear evidence of partnership, staff engagement, and training, and above all, of being successful in bringing about behavioural change within the Company.

**RUNNER-UP: James Good Fonterra Brands, Te Roto (Kapiti)**

James was nominated by the management team at Fonterra Brands Te Roto where he is the site logistics coordinator. His nomination commended his exceptional contribution to the improvement of the site's eco-footprint by reducing chemical usage and freight costs, showing considerable personal initiative and lateral thinking. James was nominated in the belief that his approach to changing routine practices was innovative, and made the point that what is good for the environment is also good for business.

## 2012 NZIFST AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN INNOVATION

### **WINNER: The IceBar Co team led by Fiona Hyland, Tip Top/Fonterra**

The IceBar Co is an ice block range, designed to appeal to adults, with flavours such as ginger beer and lemon, lime and bitters. This particular application demonstrated the value of outlining the challenge very clearly, then explaining how the project was structured and how the inevitable issues that arise were dealt with. The application showed evidence of good market research and the value of using competent, professional help. There was also good evidence of intra-company teamwork and spirit. This was a very structured and targeted project that led to a pleasing commercial outcome for the Company.

### **RUNNER-UP: Erik Arndt, Aria Farms**

Erik is the CEO and a director for the food manufacturing company Aria Farm Ltd which he co-founded with his wife Anna in 1998. In late 2009 and early 2010 Erik spent months researching and developing a new product which combines a similar meat strip to the original Aria Farm strips with vegetables to make a ready-made frozen lamb, beef or chicken stir fry. The major problem was developing a meat product that would cook quickly from frozen and in the same time as frozen vegetables and retain its crispness. In overcoming this, Erik showed original thinking, effective market research and determination.

## JASOL AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN LEADERSHIP

There was a strong field of five nominations for the leadership award. They all demonstrated worthy work and challenged the judges. It is a reflection of our times that three of them relate to recent crises. It is often such events that serve to bring out and highlight true leadership.

### **WINNER: Pierre van Heerdan, Sanitarium**

Following the February 11, Christchurch earthquake, Pierre van Heerdan of Sanitarium spent many weeks in that city, coordinating the receipt and distribution of pallets of food and other necessities in his role as Vice-Chairman of the Food and Grocery Council. He turned the Christchurch Sanitarium plant into a triage centre for fresh water and other support. When the Sanitarium factory had to be closed due to earthquake damage he oversaw the task of suspending the operation with sensitivity for his workers' plight.

### **RUNNER-UP: Dave Tanner, Zespri.**

Due to the unique structure of the New Zealand kiwifruit industry, the responsibility to lead the Psa R&D response fell to Zespri, working on behalf of Kiwifruit Vine Health (KVH). While the Psa R&D programme will continue for some time, a level of understanding of the disease has now been reached so that Zespri can announce a Psa recovery pathway, which revolves around the release of a Zespri gold variety known as Gold3, which has a much better tolerance of Psa. Through the team's determination to explore all avenues, they have been a key factor in returning confidence to the kiwifruit industry.

### **RUNNER-UP: Sharon Angus, Silver Fern Farms**

The leadership shown by Sharon in changing a company culture away from production-led to market-led, through development and marketing of a branded range of ready to cook retail products is outstanding. She has an ability to connect in all areas of the business, generating buy-in and instilling a sense of pride, motivation and ownership to all involved. The nomination showed clear evidence of partnership, collaboration and team building.