



## MEDIA RELEASE

1<sup>st</sup> December 2016

### ecoMaster wins 2016 NBAA Business of the Year.

Key businesses, tertiary education institutes, local governments and community organisations from Melbourne's North gathered in anticipation on the morning of 1 December 2016 of the announcement of the winners of the Northern Business Achievement Awards for 2016.

The 2016 Business of the Year Award sponsored by the Victorian Government was awarded to Tullamarine business **ecoMaster**, for business excellence across all areas of operations.

ecoMaster CEO, Lyn Beinat said "Little did we realise what a journey we set ourselves upon when we decided to warm up our freezing cold winter home and cool it down from a summer hot box. We love having tiny energy bills and a low carbon home. Innovation is in our DNA. We are particularly proud of developing draught proofing seals for doors and windows that actually work, and can be installed on a DIY basis. It is a great thrill to have years of innovation acknowledged in this way."

Other winners were:

- The **Sustainability and Environment Award** sponsored by *Apprenticeships Matter*, which recognised sustainability and environmental best practice was awarded to **Charles Sandford Woodturning** for reducing their reliance on non-sustainable products.
- For successfully exporting their products to New Zealand, **Giorgio Dental Laboratory**, was awarded the **Export Award** sponsored by *NORTH Link*. They also have plans to expand into other significant overseas markets.
- The **Customer Service Award** sponsored by *MatchWorks*, which recognised excellence in customer service from an all-round perspective, was awarded to **Dorevitch Pathology**.
- The **Innovation and Enterprise Award** sponsored by *AusIndustry*, recognised significant innovation and enterprise initiatives. This award was presented to **ecoMaster** for developing their own products when the market failed to provide quality solutions.
- The **Industry-Education Engagement Award** sponsored by *Northern Melbourne RDA* recognised **Merino & Jumbuck** for their use of a number of education programs and providing workplace experience for mature aged students.
- The **Human Resources Award** sponsored by *M+K Lawyers*, recognises the investment in employee engagement and development. This award was presented to **Olivia Newton-John Cancer Wellness & Research Centre** for their high level of staff engagement and ongoing professional development and training.
- The **Workplace Diversity Award** sponsored by *Melbourne Polytechnic*, recognises companies who value in a culturally diverse workplace and was awarded to **healthAbility** whose plans and organisational strategies promote an environment that supports diversity.

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And for only the third time in eight years the Chairman's Award was presented – this time to **Kapiris Bros** for their excellence across a wide range of categories including customer service, high level of training for their staff at all levels, innovation in their quality control, software solutions, community engagement and waste neutrality.

The Northern Business Achievement Awards Grand Finale breakfast for 2016 was held on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December and attracted over 200 people.

The Awards align with NORTH Link's aims of economic development and marketing and promotion of Melbourne's north, by recognising local business achievement, encouraging innovation and providing valuable networks and opportunities for enterprise growth and development.

So as to encourage continuing accomplishment amongst businesses, the Northern Business Achievement Awards (NBAA) have been created as a series of business breakfast events designed to:

- acknowledge and celebrate the successes of Small-Medium enterprises (SME's)
- offer opportunities for valuable networking
- learn and exchange ideas

Chris Heysen Chair of NORTH Link said "The 2016 NBAA Grand Finale again showcased the best that Melbourne's north industry has to offer. I congratulate the winners and all nominees on their achievements".

The NBAA has created by NORTH Link with initial funding from the Victorian Government and the support of the Cities of Banyule, Darebin, Hume, Moreland, Whittlesea and the Shire of Nillumbik.

For more information or Sponsorship opportunities please contact Chris James, Executive Director, NORTH Link on (03) 9479 3336.

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Conference Website - <http://www.nbaa.com.au>