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The Flying Fox

It's that time of the year when you as a business owner or manager should be taking a good look at your business and thinking about celebrating its innovation, excellence and achievement, by entering the 2008 Wanganui Business Awards.

The Flying Fox had entered before and had been successful in their category so after a break of two years they decided to re-enter to evaluate whether the changes they had made to the way they ran their business were the right ones. This decision was well worthwhile and saw them rewarded with the 2007 Coull Battell Ltd Leisure & Tourism Award.

"We found the process relatively easy, provided we had documented progress and allowed enough time to prepare a well-presented and easily understood entry", advises owners Annette Main & John Blythe. "The process helped us identify any gaps in our planning."

"We attended a workshop and found it to be a useful way to engage with the process and expectations of the judging team," adds Annette.

"We have found the awards to be a valuable experience, the whole exercise of transferring to paper what we knew in our heads the first time we entered was a huge jump in our planning. We have now continued to do this and to reassess this regularly, through the entry process.

"We used a power point presentation within our entry to present some of the more unusual aspects of our business and its planning processes to the judging team in a more visual format. We felt this simplified the entry process for us.

"Winning our category was for us, a public recognition that our small family business with its solid foundation of environmental and social responsibility principles was able to compete successfully with our peers in the area of business success. The award gave us the confidence to continue to develop and improve our business without compromising these principles."

"This district has a solid foundation of small to medium and often family run businesses," says Annette and John. "Entering this competition is a positive way to get recognition for the contribution these businesses make to the success of our community".

Entries for the 2008 ABN AMRO Craigs Wanganui Business Awards opens June 5th with all entries remaining confidential to the independent judges appointed through Massey University. As for last year's competition, all entrants will receive personalised feedback from the judges, plus acknowledgement at the Award Ceremony to be held November 1st.

Visit www.wanganuibusinessawards.co.nz or contact the Wanganui Chamber of Commerce on 345 0080 for further information.



2008 ABN AMRO Craigs Wanganui Business Awards



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