

Media Release 1 July 2016

Embargoed until 10.30pm, 30 June 2016

Awards Reveal NZ's Gender Diversity Champions!

The winners of the [2016 Women in Governance Awards](#) were announced last night at the Women in Governance Awards Gala Dinner held at the Stamford Plaza in Auckland.

Ports of Auckland beat off rival finalist ANZ Bank to secure the **Gender Diversity in Leadership Award** while a small start-up business, [Organic Initiative Ltd.](#), succeeded against fellow finalist, Tauranga City Council, in taking the Award in the **Excellence in Governance - Gender Diverse Organisation of the Year** category.

The **Supreme Award in Governance** was awarded to Professor Judy McGregor who is well-known and highly-regarded for her promotion of board diversity, both locally and internationally, and who has for many years been considered the "*eminence grise*" for women directors in New Zealand.

"All Award entries received were of an exceptional standard," said Women on Boards Chief Executive, Linda Noble, "the Awards entries that were received confirmed that there are many organisations and individuals within New Zealand consciously working hard to ensure that the issue of gender diversity is addressed. Many New Zealand organisations have diversity as a key strategic initiative and are doing far more than merely ticking the box for corporate social responsibility. As a nation, we are also well represented by individual women making a contribution to improving our governance capability. The 2016 Women in Governance Awards provides an opportunity to recognise our women gender diversity champions and to acknowledge those organisations who have implemented successful gender diversity programmes and initiatives."

Award Finalists and **Winners 2016**

Gender Diversity in Leadership

ANZ Bank - *finalist*

Ports of Auckland - winner

Not-for-Profit Gender Diversity

Connexis - winner

NZ Bar Association - *finalist*

Excellence in Governance - Gender Diverse Organisation of the Year

Organic Initiative Ltd- winner

Tauranga City Council *finalist*

Inclusive Leader - Gender Champion

Materoa Dodd - *finalist*

Frances Hague- winner

Helen Shorthouse – *finalist*


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Excellence in Governance Development

Ginnie Denny - *finalist*

Dr Bev Edlin- winner

Nikki Franklin - *finalist*

Sport New Zealand Next Generation Leadership

Andrea Brewster - *finalist*

Hannah Doney - *finalist*

Angela Lim- winner

Supreme Award in Governance

Professor Judy McGregor – winner

The [Women in Governance Awards](#) are an initiative of [Women on Boards NZ](#) which is a division of [Governance New Zealand](#). The Awards programme recognises and celebrates innovation, excellence, creativity and commitment to diversity by **both organisations and individuals**.

[Women on Boards New Zealand](#) was established to promote and advocate for greater gender diversity at the executive and board level in New Zealand in the belief that the boards of companies across all sectors benefit from the diversity that a gender-balanced board brings.

[Governance New Zealand](#) is New Zealand's leading independent professional body with a sole focus on the practice of governance and is dedicated to providing leadership in the areas of governance, compliance and risk management.

Governance New Zealand wholeheartedly supports Women on Board's vision of growing the presence of women on the boards of New Zealand, and to bring through the next generation of board-ready women by providing tools and empowerment through education and support.

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