

Media Release 16 May 2017

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Awards Reveal NZ's Gender Diversity Champions!

The winners of the [2017 Women in Governance Awards](#) were announced at the Women in Governance Awards Gala Dinner tonight (18 May 2017) held at the Novotel Ellerslie in Auckland.

The **Not-for-Profit sector** lead the charge in the organisation category Awards with all three Awards going to organisations who were operating as Trusts or Charities. The **Women in Governance Organisation of the Year Award** went to the **Auckland Community Law Centre**, a charity whose aim is to ensure access to justice for Auckland's most vulnerable people. The judges reported that "this organisation demonstrated good insight into the barriers hindering women and how they can provide solutions to overcome these. Their successful mentoring programme is producing great results, with more women skilled and capable in the areas of governance and leadership."

The **Inspirational Excellence Award** (the supreme award) was awarded to **Heather Roy**, who the judges described as "someone who clearly demonstrates inspirational excellence in all that she does and whose achievements in governance leadership are both significant and commendable. She drives strategic change in a collaborative, constructive and inclusive way that is helping other women into leadership roles and thoughtfully challenges male dominated structures to ensure they evolve to be more inclusive of diversity."

"All Award entries received were of an exceptional standard," said Women on Boards Chief Executive, Linda Noble, "in particular, the Emerging Leader category attracted a large number of very worthy entries which made the judging of this category incredibly difficult. The increase in the number of entries received on last year's Awards confirms that there are many organisations and individuals in 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 2017 Women in Governance Awards provides the perfect opportunity to acknowledge those organisations and to celebrate our women gender diversity champions."

AWARD FINALISTS AND WINNERS 2017

OUTSTANDING PATHWAY TO GOVERNANCE LEADERSHIP

Agri-Women's Development Trust - winner

YWCA Hamilton - *finalist*

GOVERNANCE INNOVATION BY A NOT-FOR-PROFIT

Agri-Women's Development Trust - *finalist*

Sport Wellington - winner

WOMEN IN GOVERNANCE ORGANISATION OF THE YEAR

Auckland Community Law Centre - winner

MinterEllisonRuddWatts - *finalist*

Sport Wellington - *finalist*

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GENDER ADVOCACY CHAMPION

Liz Dawson - *finalist*
Tania McInnes - *finalist*
Linda Robertson - winner

EXCELLENCE IN GOVERNANCE DEVELOPMENT

Catriona McBean - *finalist*
Kate Reid - winner
Karen Whittington - *finalist*

EMERGING LEADER – sponsored by Sport New Zealand

Andrea Brewster - *finalist*
Sara Jane Elika - winner
Jacqueline Lethbridge - *finalist*
Sylvia Maclaren - *finalist*
Kirsten Mander - *finalist*

INSPIRATIONAL EXCELLENCE – sponsored by Russell McVeagh

Jennifer Pelvin - *finalist*
Kate Reid - *finalist*
Heather Roy - winner

The [Women in Governance Awards](#) are an initiative of [Women on Boards NZ](#) which is a business unit 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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