

21 November 2021

HUNTER BUSINESS LEADERS HONOURED AT BUSINESS NSW AWARDS

Hunter business leaders have excelled at the 2022 Business Awards, held by the state's peak voice for business, **Business NSW** in Sydney last Friday night.

Recognising growth, entrepreneurship and excellence, the 2022 Business Awards comprise an incredibly competitive field of top businesses across the state.

Business Hunter CEO, Bob Hawes congratulated all winners and finalists, including two Hunter Region recipients - Hayley Shute of Aussie Ark for *Outstanding Employee* and The Hi-Vis Group for *Excellence in Sustainability*.

"These awards recognise the best of the best and we congratulate all winners for rising to the top of their field. Having two Hunter Region winners among this esteemed group highlights the incredible innovation and leadership across the region and we commend both Hayley and the Hi-Vis Group for their efforts," said Mr Hawes.

Mr Hawes said as we near the end of the working year, the awards were a great opportunity to reflect on growth.

"These awards are a great opportunity to stop and take stock of achievement and when viewed in light of floods, bushfires, pandemic fallout and challenging economic conditions, is testament to the incredible resilience and agility of our business community."

About the Hunter Region winners:

HAYLEY SHUTE, AUSSIE ARK - Outstanding Employee

Hayley is often referred to as the Koala lady at Aussie Ark. Her deep love of Australia's iconic Koala is what started her journey with wildlife and more importantly wildlife conservation.

Hayley graduated with a Bachelor of Science at Macquarie University. She plays a critical role at Aussie Ark and acknowledges that the job is more than just a job. Hayley has dedicated her entire working life to wildlife and conservation. Hayley was responsible for the implementation of a documented and thorough welfare assessment process at Aussie Ark. Hayley is an active team member of Aussie Ark and is constantly working and developing new ways to halt the extinction of wildlife in Australia.

THE HI-VIS GROUP – Excellence in Sustainability

The Hi-Vis Group are committed to not only making a lighter footprint on this Earth, but to also improving the health and quality of life for Hunter residents. They have developed numerous unique processes to minimise their environmental impact. Their sustainability achievements in the past 12 months include - recycling 100% of manufacturing waste, developing LED technology that operates at low power, enabling off-grid solar, reducing aluminium and plastic waste by 13%, 100% recycling of all scrap aluminium and plastics, and improved printing practices resulting in 1000 litres of water saved each day.

All HUNTER REGION FINALISTS:

Outstanding Young Business Leader: Scott Lynch, Community Therapy
Outstanding Business Leader: Justin Hales, Camplify
Excellence in Micro Business: Borne Clothing
Excellence in Small Business: Aussie Ark
Excellence in Large Business: The Hi-Vis Group
Outstanding Start Up: Resourceful Living
Excellence in Innovation: SAPHI
Excellence in Export: Batrium
Employer of Choice: PKF Sydney and Newcastle
Outstanding Community Organisation: Home in Place
Outstanding Local Chamber: Muswellbrook Chamber of Commerce and Industry

All 2022 NSW BUSINESS AWARD WINNERS:

Outstanding Employee: Hayley Shute, Aussie Ark
Outstanding Young Business Leader: Raghav Murali-Ganesh, CancerAid
Outstanding Business Leader: Laura Prael, LEP Digital
Excellence in Micro Business: Projectura
Excellence in Small Business: Topsoil Organics
Excellence in Large Business: Warrigal
Outstanding Start Up: Compassion Creamery
Excellence in Innovation: Zepto Payments
Excellence in Sustainability: The Hi-Vis Group
Excellence in Export: Meet PAT
Employer of Choice: C7EVEN
Excellence in Diversity and Inclusion: iClick2Learn
Outstanding Community Organisation: Boys to the Bush
Outstanding Local Chamber: Business Lismore
Business of the Year: Zepto Payments

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