

## **MEDIA PACK - 2022 Taituarā Awards – Embargoed until 25 May 5.00PM**

Each year Taituarā holds a series of awards to showcase and celebrate the outstanding people and mahi that contribute to the success of the local government sector.

This year we distributed eight Excellence Awards, including a Supreme Award, an Emerging Leader Award and an award for a winning management challenge team.

Below is some information on the recipients of the following awards announced today:

- 2022 LGFA Taituarā Local Government Excellence Awards®
- AskYourTeam Emerging Leader of the Year Award
- Winner of the NZ Leg of the JLT Australasian Management Challenge

### **2022 LGFA Taituarā Local Government Excellence Awards®**

#### **The LGFA Supreme Award**

##### ***The Winner is:***

Far North District Council for Te Hiku o te Ika Revitalisation Project.

Te Hiku o te Ika Revitalisation Project is also the winner of the Minister of Local Government's Award for Council/Community Relations. Further information about the project and what the judges said about it can be found below under the Council/Community Relations category.

##### ***Previous Winners:***

2022	Far North District Council, Te Hiku o te Ika Revitalisation Project
2021	Western Bay of Plenty District, Transfer of Ownership of Panepane Purakau
2020	Bay of Plenty Regional Council, Te Arawa Catfish Killas
2019	Auckland Council, Kia Puāwai
2018	Waikato Regional Council, Kawe Kōrero
2017	Waimakariri District Council, Draft Waimakariri Red Zone Recovery Plan
2016	Hamilton City Council, Council Transforms A City Dump – The Restoration of Hamilton Gardens
2015	Selwyn District Council, Project Helix

##### ***About the Sponsor:***

The New Zealand Local Government Funding Agency (LGFA) specialises in financing the New Zealand local government sector, the primary purpose being to provide more efficient funding costs and diversified funding sources for New Zealand local authorities. LGFA was established to raise debt on behalf of the local government sector in a cost-effective manner.

This is the second year that the Local Government Funding Agency has sponsored the Supreme Award, and the eighth year they have supported the Excellence Awards (having been the sponsor of the Transforming Service Delivery Category).

## **Te Tohu Waka Hourua - The Buddle Findlay Award for Māori-Council Partnerships.**

This Award recognises programmes, projects or initiatives that demonstrate outstanding results from working in partnership with Māori. Entries may come from any area of local government activity but must be able to demonstrate a commitment to partnership with Māori.

### ***The Winner is:***

Ngāti Tūrangitukua and Taupō District Council for the Mana Whakahono ā Rohe Partnership Agreement

### ***About the Winner:***

A Mana Whakahono ā Rohe is an existing tool provided for under the Resource Management Act (RMA) designed to enable tangata whenua and local authorities to discuss and record how they will work together on resource management matters including joint decision making. The council and iwi have built on an existing Mana Whakahono to extend this into planning and decision-making under the Local Government, Reserves and the Ngāti Tūrangitukua Settlement Acts, and in the council's co-governance structure.

### ***The Judges said:***

This was a stand-out entry in this category with its focus in culture and behaviour change. This genuine desire to empower mana whenua in joint decision making across the council made this the most transformative entry in this category. We look forward to hearing more of the progress Ngāti Tūrangitukua and Taupō District Council are able to jointly make for their community.

### ***Last Year's Winner:***

Waikato Regional Council for Transfer of Functions to an Iwi Authority under s33 RMA

### ***About the Sponsor:***

Buddle Findlay is one of New Zealand's leading commercial and public law firms with a significant local government practice. This is the second year that Buddle Findlay have sponsored this category.

### ***Footnote:***

One of the judges declared a conflict of interest in, and therefore did not assess, the entry from Taupō District Council.

## The MartinJenkins Award for Collaborative Government Action

This Award recognises outstanding results that have been achieved through local authorities working with other government agencies. This category could include programmes or projects from any area, provided there is a demonstrable community benefit, and the approach is transferable to other local authorities.

### ***The Winner is:***

Auckland Council and the Wynyard Edge Alliance for America's Cup 36 Base Infrastructure

### ***About the Winner:***

This entry covers the infrastructure necessary to prepare the Auckland Waterfront to host America's Cup 36 – a project brought in on time, under budget and with a legacy that extends beyond a single event.

Note: The Wynyard Edge Alliance is a collaboration of Auckland Council, Eke Panuku Development Auckland and the New Zealand Government – primarily the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE).

### ***The Judges said:***

This is a once in a generation project that delivered a world-class amenity on a block of land that was previously a significant detractor from the Auckland Waterfront. Aucklanders and the nation as a whole will be able to enjoy this for many years to come. The lessons around alliance contracting and procurement, quality assurance and engagement are applicable to any capital investment of moderate to high value.

Note: the Judges advise that they did not consider recent decisions made by Team New Zealand relevant to their assessment of the project against the Excellence Awards criteria.

### ***Last Year's Winner:***

Hastings District Council for Hastings District Council's Place Based Housing Solution

### ***About the Sponsor:***

MartinJenkins works at the intersection of government and business, helping organisations navigate and implement policy, regulatory and organisation change to improve organisational performance and the lives of all New Zealanders. MartinJenkins is an organisation made up of people who want to be of service. They have an investment in excellence that goes beyond just getting the job done.

This is the second year that MartinJenkins has sponsored a category in the Excellence Awards, last year they sponsored the (discontinued) Better Policy and Regulation category.

## The Minister of Local Government's Award for Excellence in Council/Community Relations

This Award recognises programmes, projects or initiatives that demonstrate outstanding results through excellent community engagement or community empowerment. Entries may come from any area of local government activity but must have community engagement, empowerment, or partnership as a key aspect, especially those undertaken over and above statutory requirements. Entries may include successful collaboration with private or community organisations. The approach taken must be capable of transfer to other local authorities.

### ***The Winner is:***

Far North District Council for Te Hiku o te Ika Revitalisation Project

### ***About the Entry:***

This is a highly successful collaboration between Far North District Council, the Kaitaia Business Association, the five iwi of Far North's Te Hiku region and the wider community. Its purpose is to create employment in, and enhance the vibrancy of, three of New Zealand's most deprived areas. Some 81 urban development, restoration and revitalisation projects were identified and folded into the project.

### ***The Judges said:***

This is an exemplar of how modern local government acts as leader and broker of solutions that promote community wellbeing, and achieves tangible results. This pragmatic and focused wellbeing initiative is exactly the outcome that Parliament had in mind when it restored wellbeing to the statutory purpose of local government.

### ***Last Year's Winner***

Western Bay of Plenty District Council for Transfer of Ownership of Panepane Purakau

### ***About the Sponsor:***

The Department of Internal Affairs is the sponsor for this category. The Department's Local Government branch provides expertise and experience across central and local government agencies to build relationships, provide a two-way conduit for issues playing out in local government, and support a range of activities that are critical for communities and are a shared priority for both arms of government.

This is the sixth year the Department has sponsored a category in the Excellence Awards, and the fourth year it has sponsored this category (previously it sponsored the now discontinued Innovation in Asset Management category).

## The Capability Group Award for Excellence in Organisation and People Development

This Award recognises approaches that build an exceptional organisational culture or capability through the application of transformational leadership.

Entries in this category might be multi-year programmes or one-off projects but they will involve organisational redesign, human resource management, leadership development or other means of building organisational or staff capability. The approach must be capable of transfer to other local authorities.

### ***The Winner Is:***

Far North District Council for Great Workplaces

### ***About the Winner:***

This initiative emerged from a staff survey taken during the first 2020 COVID-19 lockdown where 83 per cent of staff reported their productivity was the same or better working at home. Great Workplaces was launched with the initial objective to retain remote working productivity and wellbeing gains. It quickly became an initiative about providing our people workplace choice.

### ***The Judges said:***

While most organisations have had to adapt to remote working during the pandemic, we were impressed by the meticulous process that Far North has taken to make remote working business as usual. Far North's attention to documenting the actual costs and benefits of the approach also captured our attention. All rural and regional councils could learn from this pragmatic programme for overcoming distance and a multiplicity of locations.

### ***Last Year's Winner:***

Whangārei District Council, Whangārei's Organisational Strategy.

### ***About the Sponsor:***

Capability Group is a provider of professional development opportunities that transform individuals and workplace cultures. Capability Group partners with Taituarā to develop leadership capabilities within the local government sector.

This is the fifth year that Capability Group has sponsored the Excellence in Organisation and People Development category.

## The Datacom Award for Transforming Service Delivery

This Award is for programmes or projects that result in an exceptional service experience through new delivery models or the redesign of business processes or practices. The programme or project can relate to any area of council activity which is about delivering improved value for money to ratepayers. The approach must be capable of transfer to other local authorities.

### ***The Winner is:***

Hastings District Council, Toitoti Hawke's Bay Event Centre Asset Management BIM and Digital Twin

### ***About the Winner:***

Hastings' construction of a digital twin for Toitoti – Hawke's Bay Arts and Events Centre is understood to be the first application of this technology to a community asset in New Zealand. The technology enables managers to access data on the degree of comfort, asset condition and asset performance in real time.

Note: A digital twin is a virtual representation of an object (in this case, a building) updated using real-time data, and in conjunction with other tools such as simulation and artificial intelligence to support decision-making.

### ***The Judges said:***

Digital twin technology is a powerful tool for managing asset condition and performance, saving the community real money and providing a better long-term user experience. The Council told us a compelling practical story of the differences that the twin has enabled in activities that are fundamental to the overall user experience as well as the more mundane activity such as maintenance of the ceiling

### ***Last Year's Winner:***

Selwyn District Council for A World Class Customer Experience Transformation Project

### ***About the Sponsor:***

Datacom is the country's largest and longest serving technology company. It delivers an ever-green service called Datascape to local councils which contains a wealth of intellectual property built from our multi-year success within local government.

This is the second year that Datacom has sponsored the Transforming Service Delivery category.

## **GHD Award for Environmental Leadership**

This Award recognises programmes, projects, or initiatives that provide tangible benefits to the environment, or showcase leading practice in managing environmental impacts in the local community. The approach must be capable of transfer to other local authorities.

### ***The Winner is:***

Wairoa District Council for Toi te whenua, Manaaki ki te whenua

### ***About the Winner:***

This was a project that resolved an environmental issue that, while far from unique, was a pressing community issue. Wairoa District Council coordinated the removal of some 800 abandoned car bodies from the district and the safe disposal of the same.

### ***The Judges said:***

This was a deceptively simple solution to an environmental issue grounded in geographical isolation and economic deprivation. The council brought about the removal of 800 cars by the end of the project – that's one car for every 11 people who live in the district. Wairoa told a compelling before and after story, using an approach that the council is extending to other areas of environmental management.

### ***Highly Commended Citation:***

*Hamilton City Council for its Stormwater Master Plan Webviewer*

### ***About the Entry:***

*This digital tool draws on a wide range of data to provide a clever spatial tool to help council and others understand what stormwater assets need managed, what sort of action is required and when.*

### ***The Judges said:***

*This is an exemplary project that achieves environmental, asset management, financial and cultural outcomes. It's carefully thought through project planning is something anyone planning an information technology project can learn from.*

### ***Last Year's Winner:***

Eke Panuku Development Auckland for Te Ara Awataha

### ***About the Sponsor:***

GHD recognises and understands the world is constantly changing. It is committed to solving the world's biggest challenges in the areas of water, energy and urbanisation. GHD is a global professional services company that leads through engineering, construction architectural and advisory expertise. Its forward-looking, innovative approaches connect and sustain communities around the world. Delivering extraordinary social and economic outcomes, GHD is focused on building lasting relationships with its partners and clients.

This is the second year that GHD has sponsored the Environmental Leadership category.

## **The Beca Award for Placemaking**

This award recognises programmes or projects that shape or create a vibrant local economy, local culture or promote the achievement of positive social outcomes. Any project or programme in these areas may be entered, but it must be able to demonstrate it is transferrable to other local authorities.

### ***The Winner is:***

Hastings District Council for It's Flaxmere's Time

### ***About the Winner:***

It's Flaxmere's Time is both a revitalisation programme for Hastings District's lowest socioeconomic community and a means for building trust and engagement between the people of Flaxmere and the Council. The programme is an amalgam of housing development, parks development, expanded health, wellbeing, sporting opportunities and social services expansion.

### ***The Judges said:***

Hastings has actively harnessed the skills, expertise and resources of a wide range of partners both in Government, in the community and the community itself not least to create trust and a sense of pride in the community. The multifaceted approach focussed largely on people and human networks, not just building things. This is the very definition of local placemaking and makes Hastings a worthy winner of this, the inaugural placemaking award.

### ***Highly Commended Citation:***

*Ashburton District Council for Ashburton CBD Streetscape Renewal Project*

### ***About the Entry:***

*As its name implies, the Ashburton CBD Streetscape project is a town centre placemaking and infrastructure renewal project encompassing the four aspects of wellbeing.*

### ***The Judges said:***

*We were impressed with the Council's holistic approach to the project and its contribution to community wellbeing now and in the future. The Council's approach to design has seen a centre created that is more than a vehicle for retail and presents a compelling before and after.*

### ***Last Year's Winner:***

This is a new category.

### ***About the Sponsor:***

Beca is one of the Asia-Pacific's largest independent advisory, design and engineering consultancies.

## The AskYourTeam Emerging Leader of the Year Award

The AskYourTeam Emerging Leader of the Year Award is presented every year to an up-and-coming leader with a proven track record of designing and delivering innovative and successful programmes, projects, processes, or practices with an identifiable community impact.

The recipient will travel to Columbus in the United States to attend the 2022 ICMA Conference.

### ***The Winners are:***

This year, for the first time in this awards history, we have two recipients:

- Natasha Stubbing, Marketing and Engagement Manager, Northland Regional Council
- Shyamal Ram, General Manager Infrastructure Services, Waitomo District Council

### ***The Judges said:***

The judges were extremely impressed by the calibre of the applications received, highlighting the breadth of leadership talent across local government. Ultimately, the judges were unable to separate the two winners and our thanks go to AskYourTeam for enabling us to recognize two recipients this year instead of the usual one.

**Natasha** has demonstrated a commitment to a career in local government and serving her community. Her career exemplifies what a pathway in local government can look like. The judges were impressed by Natasha's commitment to working with her community to increase engagement, particularly in democratic participation across the diverse communities within Te Tai Tokerau. She strives to ensure Te Ao Māori and tangata whenua values are considered through the Council's engagement and decision-making processes. Natasha has also led programmes to support ākonga and tertiary students to explore a career in local government. Her career to date left the judges in no doubt that she will continue to grow her career in local government. Congratulations Natasha.

**Shyamal** impressed the judges with his willingness to share his knowledge and expertise across the sector and with other technical experts. He has been heavily involved in significant capital projects at both Waitomo and Ashburton District Councils. He has demonstrated an authentic desire to deliver inter-generational benefits that will provide a lasting impact for the communities that he serves. Congratulations Shyamal.

### ***About the Sponsor:***

With over seven years of success, AskYourTeam has amassed a strong record of delivering on its promises to help organisations build cultures that involve their people and lift their productivity. Its system is based on evidence from the world's leading management thinkers and leadership coaches. AskYourTeam's team of local support people work with a variety of different agencies and businesses across the public and private sectors, in schools and membership organisations to make the small changes that help them grow their culture of involvement.

## NZ Leg of the JLT Australasian Management Challenge

Each year Taituarā runs the New Zealand leg of the JLT Australasian Management Challenge, Australasia's premier forum for current and emerging local government leaders.

The Management Challenge is a simulation-based team building, learning and networking program using real local government themes – the types of issues that a senior management team in a council would most likely face.

The teams are challenged to respond to a series of tasks in a unique one-day, fast paced, 'pressure cooker' environment, with the winning team going on to represent New Zealand at the Australian finals, competing against seven states and territories.

### ***The Winner is:***

Napier City Council, 'The Veronica Bells'

With the Challenge held online this year, teams had the added challenge of navigating tasks in a virtual environment. 'The Veronica Bells' demonstrated all the characteristics of a highly effective team – interacting well, demonstrating collaborative behaviour, and including everyone's perspectives.

The judges felt that 'The Veronica Bells' completed their tasks consistently to a very high standard, their processes and team work clearly giving them an edge in being productive with their time.

As winners of the New Zealand leg of the JLT Management Challenge 'The Veronica Bells' will go on to represent New Zealand at the Australasian Grand Final in Australia, competing later in the year against seven states and territories.

### ***Runners Up:***

Second Place: Western Bay of Plenty District Council, 'Fresh Take'

Third Place: Central Otago District Council, 'Pinot Thyme'