



## NEWS RELEASE

### **Te Whangai Trust nurtures a win at the Sustainable Business Network Awards**

Te Whangai Trust was named both 'Sustainable Business of the Year' and winner of the Not for Profit category at the Sustainable Business Network awards for the Waikato region last night.

Te Whangai Trust founders Gary and Adrienne Dalton manage a native plant nursery in Miranda employing at-risk members of the community and encourage them to become positive about their contribution to society.

The charitable trust, founded in 2007, has developed a unique business model that is comprised of revenue and self-sufficiency through the native plant nursery and the social aspect of giving employees a hand up and getting them back on their feet into full-time employment.

The judging panel was impressed by Te Whangai's commitment to the cultural and social sustainability principles which are thoroughly integrated in the Trust's vision of creating a sustainable, ecological and educational business that supports and trains disadvantaged people who find it challenging to enter the labour market. They can then move forward and create a better life for themselves and future generations.

Te Whangai has dramatically changed the lives of almost 100 individuals by recognising their potential and empowering them with the skills needed to turn their lives around. With effective communication and commitment to assist disenfranchised and disconnected people, the Trust has maintained a successful economic model while gaining a tangible environmental benefit.

The Sustainable Business Network Awards recognise businesses that are demonstrating leadership by embracing innovation, sustainability and regenerative practices in their day-to-day operations.

Waikato region winners for the 2009 Sustainable Business Network Awards are:

<b>Category</b>	<b>Winner(s)</b>
Sustainable Business of the Year	Te Whangai Trust
Not for Profit	Te Whangai Trust
Emerging – Large and Corporate	Foster Construction Limited
Emerging – Small and Medium	KINA NZ Design + Art Space

Sustainable Design & Innovation	The Enviroschools Foundation <i>Judges commendation: Integrated System Engineers Limited</i>
People's Choice Award Waikato 2009	The Enviroschools Foundation

Waikato region winners are now finalists in the national NZI Sustainable Business Network Awards, to be held in Auckland on Thursday, November 12.

Regional Manager of the Sustainable Business Network's Waikato office, Michelle Locke, is delighted with the achievements of these businesses that are going the extra mile to incorporate sustainability into their daily life.

"It's encouraging to see so many businesses taking leadership positions in the sustainability space.

"Congratulations to all of our winners – they are proof that a holistic approach is not only good for the environment, it's good for the bottom line as well, as these companies continually adapt and innovate to grasp the opportunities that exist even in tough economic times."

Entering the annual SBN awards requires businesses to participate in one of the following:

- The SBN's 'Get Sustainable Challenge', covering eight areas of sustainable business practice;
- Entering the Sustainable Design and Innovation Award that covers products, services, and buildings.

### **Ends**

#### **Notes to editors**

- Judges' comments are included in the attached background document
- The judging panel was made up of: Michael Le Roy-Dyson (Fulton Hogan); Craig McFarlane (DHB) Cllr Daphne Bell (HCC) Annie Perkins (Groundwork Associates) Ian Mayes (Eco Adviser HCC) Riikka Anderson (YWCA)
- High-resolution digital photographs of award winners will be available from Michelle Locke on Monday, September 14. See contact details below.

#### **About the Sustainable Business Network (SBN)**

The Sustainable Business Network represents more than 700 organisations throughout the country, ranging from SMEs and not-for-profits through to large businesses and corporations.

SBN promotes sustainable business practice through networking, practical advice and the development of resources and tools. It focuses on leading, promoting and facilitating practices and procedures that enhance economic prosperity, environmental quality, social equity and business ethics.

SBN runs the Get Sustainable Challenge, the GreenFleet programme (including tree-planting offsets), and hosts the annual Sustainable Business Network Awards. SBN has also developed the online assessment tool [www.getsustonline.org.nz](http://www.getsustonline.org.nz), and is co-producer of the [www.greenlist.co.nz](http://www.greenlist.co.nz) green directory.

#### **For further information please contact**

Michelle Locke  
Waikato Regional Manager  
Sustainable Business Network – Waikato

Phone: 07 855 8955

Email: [waikato@sustainable.org.nz](mailto:waikato@sustainable.org.nz)

**About Te Whangai Trust:**

- Te Whangai Nurseries is a native plant nursery in Miranda, Waiakto, and employs around 16 people at a time. Employees are assisted to move off the benefit, off the streets, out of prison, and directly into the workforce.
- Advocacy assistance is provided by the Government, Social Services, community groups and volunteers when needed.
- Set up as a charitable trust in September 2007, Te Whangai by Gary and Adrienne Dalton.
- More information can be found on the web: [www.tewhangai.webs.com](http://www.tewhangai.webs.com)

***Wright Communications is proud to supply the Sustainable Business Network with pro bono public relations support.***