

## Inaugural Business Awards a big success

Beechworth businesses The Spa at Beechworth and Lake Sambell Caravan Park took home the top honours at Indigo Shire’s Inaugural Business Awards, announced at a ceremony last Friday 15 April.

The two businesses shared the Most Outstanding Business Overall award, out of the 44 businesses that were nominated. The joint winners Sue and Roger Humphris of Lake Sambell Caravan Park and Debby Donkers of The Spa at Beechworth will each receive a \$5000 advertising package from the event sponsors Edge FM and 3NE. The award ceremony, held at Vintara Winery near Rutherglen, was attended by 75 people.

Indigo Shire Council’s Business Development Officer Jamie Boatwood said the awards were one way of recognising and celebrating the many achievements in the Shire’s business industry. “The awards are a way to acknowledge the achievements of business across the Shire. The Awards were town based, so entrants only competed against other businesses in their own town rather than against all businesses across the Shire,” Mr Boatwood said.

“Businesses are vital to the prosperity of our towns and they work hand in hand with the tourism focus of the Shire. Running a business at any time is hard work, and when it is in a tourism Shire, such as Indigo, it is often a seven-day-a-week proposition. Acknowledging this commitment and rewarding the businesses that do it well is what these awards are all about,” Mr Boatwood said.

Awards and recipients:

<b>Excellence in Industry</b>	- Complete Body Craft, Rutherglen
<b>Excellence in Retail</b>	- Kinagrow, Yackandandah - Antiques and Collectables, Rutherglen - Meaghan Art, Chiltern - NewsXpress, Beechworth
<b>Excellence in Professional Services and Business (Private Enterprise)</b>	- A Bears Old Wares, Yackandandah
<b>Excellence in Tourism and/or Hospitality</b>	- Kirbys Flat Pottery, Yackandandah - Country Cottages B&B, Rutherglen
<b>Excellence in Customer Service</b>	- Hume Building Society, Yackandandah - Parkers Pies, Rutherglen - Watchbox Winery and Café, Chiltern - Larder Fromagerie and Provisions, Beechworth

The businesses were judged by an independent panel, from outside of Indigo Shire. The businesses in the category of Customer Service were judged by mystery shoppers on criteria such as courtesy, customer service, presentation and product knowledge.

**\*\*ENDS\*\***

For more information, contact Indigo Shire Council Business Development Officer, Jamie Boatwood 03 5728 8062 [jboatwood@indigoshire.vic.gov.au](mailto:jboatwood@indigoshire.vic.gov.au)

**Caption: Roger and Sue Humphris and Debby Donkers accepting their Most Outstanding Business Overall awards.**