

15 October 2022

2022 IMB BANK ILLAWARRA BUSINESS AWARDS WINNERS ANNOUNCED

The region's business community celebrated excellence at last night's glamorous 2022 IMB Bank Illawarra Business Awards dinner at the WIN Entertainment Centre in Wollongong.

This year's awards ceremony followed the theme, "La Dolce Vita – the sweet life", and recognised the inspiring businesses that have surged ahead following a torrid couple of years of interruptions and restrictions due to fires, floods and the global pandemic.

New and emerging tech industry businesses were also recognised separately for the first time with the inclusion of a new award category 'Excellence in Tech'.

"Our local businesses have shown the Illawarra community again this year how fortunate we all are to have such a talented pool of individuals driving the fortunes of our local economy forward," said Business Illawarra Executive Director, Adam Zarth.

"Moreso than ever before, the region's prospects across an expanding range of sectors – and in small and medium enterprise particularly – are thriving, and tonight's winners are a showcase of the many businesses grasping those opportunities."

Local fintech company Scalapay was crowned the 2022 IMB Bank Illawarra Business of the Year and were winners of the 'Excellence in Import & Export' and 'Excellence in Tech' categories.

Scalapay's passion to use their success story and 'tech unicorn status' to raise Wollongong's profile globally as a City of Innovation was a defining feature of their submissions and lead the judges to award them the top honour. They are rightly proud of their local roots and believe that the Illawarra has everything it needs to develop and support world class, industry-leading technology.

In the individual award categories, Renee Knight, Executive Officer at CareSouth, was announced as the region's Outstanding Business Leader for 2022.

Luke Attenborough from the Housing Trust was announced as our 2022 Outstanding Employee, with Brett Wright from Peoplescare Health Cover taking out the Outstanding Young Business Leader Award.

A full list of category winners and category sponsors is provided below.

— ENDS —

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2022 WINNERS

Category	Winner	Highly Commended
2022 IMB Bank Business of the Year sponsored by IMB Bank	Scalapay	-
Excellence in Customer Service sponsored by IOH Health	Curran Plumbing	-
Excellence in Import & Export sponsored by NSW Ports	Scalapay	-
Excellence in Innovation sponsored by Wollongong City Council	Virtual IT Group	-
Excellence in Large Business sponsored by University of Wollongong	Warrigal	<i>Peoplecare Health Cover</i>
Excellence in Micro Business sponsored by Adcraft Studio	Mrs Oldbucks Pantry	-
Excellence in Small Business sponsored by South32 Illawarra Metallurgical Coal	Webb Financial	<i>Foye Legal</i>
Excellence in Sustainability sponsored by BlueScope	The Pines	<i>The Illawarra Hotel</i>
Excellence in Tech sponsored by Siligong Valley	Scalapay	-
Excellence in Tourism & Hospitality sponsored by Destination Wollongong	PepperGreen Estate	<i>Novotel Wollongong Northbeach</i>
Excellence in Workplace Culture sponsored by Peoplecare Health Cover	Easy Agile	<i>Endeavour Energy & The Illawarra Hotel</i>
Outstanding Business Leader sponsored by Access Law Group	Renee Knight – CareSouth	<i>Dr Melinda Williams – Peoplecare Health Cover</i>
Outstanding Community Organisation sponsored by Warrigal	Housing Trust	-
Outstanding Employee sponsored by WIN Network	Luke Attenborough – Housing Trust	<i>Natalie Allan – MMJ Real Estate</i>
Outstanding Start-up sponsored by Port Authority of New South Wales	Banksia Support Services	-
Outstanding Young Business Leader sponsored by Dapto Leagues Club	Brett Wright – Peoplecare Health Cover	-