

FROM BUSINESS KAPITI HOROWHENUA INC

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Recognised for their achievements Nature Coast Business Hall of Fame Inductees

Levin 11th November 2009: Business Kapiti Horowhenua Inc, the group that organizes the Electra Nature Coast Business Awards, last night inducted two new Laureates into the Nature Coast Business Hall of Fame. They were Mr David Pritchard of the Prichard Group in Otaki and Mr Roger Halliwell of RJ's Licorice in Levin.

The inductions were a special part of the 2009 Electra Business Awards.

The Business Hall of Fame recognizes the region's outstanding business luminaries, people who not only have made a significant impact upon the business community and economy over many years but also demonstrated qualities of altruism through their continued community support and involvement.

The full criteria are that inductees must have been a senior manager conducting business of a notable scale for a minimum period of ten years. In the course of their career have demonstrated most or all of the following: business excellence, leadership and respect in the business community, innovation and/or entrepreneurship in business, and service to the community at large

Normally only two people are recognized each year, chosen by a panel from the Chamber of Commerce and Rotary and co-chaired by the mayors of Kapiti Coast and Horowhenua.

More information on the two inductees is attached below.

Information on Roger Leonard Halliwell

In his own words, the next inductee this year to our Hall of Fame was born “at a very early age in Gisborne”. Roger Leonard Halliwell moved to Levin at age 8. His secondary education was mostly at Horowhenua College where both his sporting prowess in rugby and gymnastics and his impulse for public service took root. He raised enough funds to purchase a full set of Olympic sporting equipment some of which, he thinks, is still used today.

In 1960 he joined the family business ‘The Paint pot’ retailing paint and wallpaper, which is still a going concern. In 1968 Roger became the buyer for PWF (Paint and Wallpaper Federation of NZ – 50 retails stores) and served on the Federation’s board for 14 years as President/Buyer. 1972 he bought the family business in Levin and sold it in 1982.

In 1983 he was asked by the receivers to manage a business called Granny’s Licorice, which he bought six months later. Soon after he moved the business to what is now RJ’s Licorice in Tiro Tiro Rd, Levin.

In 1988 he sold the business to Arnott’s Biscuits which then on-sold it to the international giant Nestle company. In an interesting twist six year’s later Roger bought the land and buildings back and started another licorice business with his wife Dixie and son Regan James; hence the business name of RJ’s Licorice.

Roger is a real family man. He and Dixie were married in 1967 and have raised four children. Regan is now managing director, Dixie and Roger both on the Board, daughter Amy was for seven years National Accounts manager and son-in-law Sean is IT manager.

Roger is a past president of the Confectionery Manufactures of NZ, and in 2008 was awarded the “Alfred Stauder” Australasian confectionery manufacturers award for excellence to the industry.

Rotary has been a life long passion for Roger since he joined Levin Rotary Club 44 years ago. He was President twice for Levin and Assistant Governor twice (Horowhenua and Kapiti) and during this time was awarded the “Paul Harris” fellowship for service to Rotary and community.

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His public service included three years as chair of Levin Borough Council's Staff and Finance committee for Levin Borough Council and later for five years on Horowhenua College's Board of Trustees including some time as Chairman.

He was the principal sponsor of the Halliwell Hockey Turf and still contributes to the up keep of the turf today. RJ's also supports many other organizations such as Kid Kan, Life Education Trust along with many other local sporting and cultural groups.

Today Roger's business employs over 65 people.

Information on David Pritchard, of The Pritchard Group, Otaki.

Born in Otaki started farming and contracting in 1966. He purchased his first farm, a dairy farm, in Addington Road, Otaki where he grew tomatoes and had double broiler chicken shed. Over next 10 years, he purchased 2 other farms – one in Shannon growing potatoes and one at Forest Lakes for dairying. Later he diversified into horticulture employing 120 staff

Also interested in and developed kiwifruit blocks in New South Wales and Victoria

Late in the 1980s David Pritchard continued with land development throughout New Zealand. As well as developing several farms in Otaki and the rest of the Kapiti region he became involved in project managing residential sub-division developments, spreading to Queenstown, Coromandel, Canterbury, Marlborough, Taupo and Northland.

Over the last two decades has been a director on several boards – Wellington Airport, Horticultural Export Authority, NZ Rural Properties, Housing NZ, Wellington Waterfront and Marlborough.

David has contributed towards many community projects over the years =-

- Helping with the covering of the Otaki Pool
- Assisting with the development of Beach FM
- Assisting John Barrett with his Kapiti Island projects
- Always been supporter and sponsor of local sporting teams and individuals – e.g. Otaki Surf Club, Rahui Rugby Club
- Community projects e.g donating plants, working bees, donating machinery
- Supporting Waitohu School Fireworks fund raiser
- Sponsor of Kapiti Sports Awards, Project K
- Hosted and organised charity fund raiser for Wellington Mary Potter Hospice
- Contributed to the arts – e.g. sponsored Mahara Gallery Waikanae, Affordable Arts Show Wellington and International Arts Festival Wellington.
- University grants to a number of individuals