



Special Business Awards Edition

Plus: Avalon Airport ideal for Wyndham business

Wyndham City
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WELCOME



William Pollard once wrote:
"Learning and innovation go hand in hand. The arrogance of success is to think that what you did yesterday will be sufficient for tomorrow."

In this ever changing world the need for business and government to be agile and innovative is documented continuously in many public forums and on many public media platforms.

"Innovate or die" is typical of the words spoken by industry experts, business leaders and politicians. In essence the message from all quarters is consistent; with innovation identified as the single most important factor that will drive long term business growth and economic prosperity.

And what does William Pollard have to do with all of this? Well William Pollard was a Quaker clergyman who was born in England in 1828!

The concept of innovation has been around for hundreds of years and despite William Pollard's best efforts, far too many businesses and governments have been slow to embrace the concept. Sadly many may never embrace the concept.

The pending arrival of Amazon is well documented.

In a recent article published by Huffington Post, Tom Godfrey the Head of Communications at Choice said that Amazon's appealing innovation geared towards its customers will immediately attract the attention of people in Australia.

"I think for local industry it's going to be a real wake-up call... Amazon is a serious disruptor, ultimately what these guys do is they come in and completely dominate and shake up markets. For sectors that have been failing to innovate and acting in consumers' best interests, Amazon will come in and turn the industry on its head," said Godfrey.

Today it is Amazon disrupting the retail sector. Tomorrow it will be another company operating in a different sector.

William Pollard spoke of the importance of innovation in the 1800s. We can't afford to wait another 200 years!

Best regards,

Daryl Wilson
Manager Economic Growth

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Hopper Motor Group wins Business of the Year

A family business that has been operating in Wyndham for more than 45 years is the 2017 Business of the Year.

Hopper Motor Group is a third generation family owned business. Opening the doors to Westland Toyota in Werribee in 1972 they quickly grew in the 80s and 90s by adding Werribee Nissan, Hyundai and Chrysler Jeep Dodge. Further expansion in the past five years has seen them take on additional brands- Fiat, Fiat Professional, Kia, Renault and Isuzu. More than 140 staff make up their Werribee group based at 163-170 Old Geelong Road, Hoppers Crossing.

Over the years the business has developed a strong sense of trust and respect in the community.

"The Hopper Motor Group has made a longstanding commitment to support the local community, which sees them invest in local sporting clubs, community-based programs and local schools", said Cr Henry Barlow, Wyndham City Mayor.

Family is at the heart of the Hopper Motor Group with Joanne Hopper and her brother Paul Hopper taking over the family business when their father Barry retired. In accepting the Business of the Year Award, Joanne Hopper paid tribute to her father who continues to provide inspiration and strategic advice.

Award Winners

Home Based

Baby Scent
Natural Skin Care

Logistics

Country Road Group
Logistics

Manufacturing

Class Plastics

New & Emerging

Circus Fit Studio

New & Emerging Manufacture

Light and Glo Designs

Personal Services

Children Heaven
Family Day Care Australia

Excellence in Innovation

Class Plastics

Excellence in Sustainability

Country Road Group Logistics

Wyndham Business of the Year
Hopper Motor Group

Business Person of the Year
Craig Kennedy

Young Entrepreneur of the Year
Daniel Peers

Mayoral Award
Gracie's Boutique

**Professional Services
Medium**

Reliance Real Estate

**Professional Services
Small**
Hopscotch & Harmony

Retail Large
Hopper Motor Group

Retail Small
The Chevron Market

Tourism & Hospitality
Priya Indian Cuisine

Trade Services
Plum Heating & Cooling

"Our amazing father Barry who more than 50 years ago placed the heart beat into this business and whose passion, humility, drive, wisdom and generosity have laid the foundation and made what Hopper Motor Group is today.

"It's an extreme honour for us to receive this award, but more importantly it's a complete honour for both Paul and I to serve alongside our amazing team- who are family to us. There is not one staff member that doesn't contribute in an amazing way."

"I've been in the business 20 years and this is the first time we've entered. I'm overwhelmed and very fortunate to be part of the Wyndham community", added Joanne Hopper.

The judges said that while all finalists were outstanding in their own right, Hopper Motor Group was the best "all-rounder".

Hopper Motor Group also won the Retail Large category of the Wyndham Business Awards.

Business Of The Year Finalists:

- Class Plastics
- Country Road Group Logistics
- Plum Heating and Cooling
- The Chevron Market

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Craig Kennedy

Business Person Of The Year

The judges selected Craig Kennedy as the 2017 Business Person of the Year describing him as a “true leader in business”.

In particular they acknowledged Craig’s absolute commitment to customer service, ability to inspire others and strong passion for the local community.

Known as “Mr Telstra” Craig is the founder and Managing Director of the Telstra Business Centre Point Cook, the Telstra Retail Store in Point Cook and the Telstra Retail Store in Moonee Ponds.

Craig has lived in Wyndham all his life and contributed significantly both in terms of business and the broader community. As well as managing his own businesses,

Craig is Chairman of the Sanctuary Lakes Golf Club, an Associate Member of the Committee for Wyndham, a Telstra Digital Ambassador (involves helping seniors with digital literacy), an annual participant and supporter of the Cancer Council’s Relay for Life plus much more.

At the Wyndham Business Awards presentation evening Craig said what a great opportunity it was to see so many business people – not just customers but friends-together.

Business Person Finalists

- Ebony Centazzo
- Mark Round
- Theresa Sgambaro



Daniel Peers

Young Entrepreneur of the Year

Daniel Peers, manager of the Altair Fine Art Gallery at Wyndham Harbour was the proud recipient of the inaugural Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award.

The family business relocated to Wyndham Harbour a couple of years ago after operating in North Melbourne as Koorie Connections Altair since 1994.

Since the move to the new location, Daniel has taken the lead from his parents and business founders Julie and Les Peers, in managing the business.

The judges commended Daniel’s can do attitude, energy and personable approach and significant contribution in supporting local and Australian artists.

Young Entrepreneur of the Year Finalists

- John Gai
- Mathew Heywood
- Jack Hurmez
- Curtis Vincent



Mayoral Award

Gracie’s Boutique

Gracie’s Boutique offers a range of unique gifts, homewares, jewellery and clothing with many of their products sourced locally.

Owner Kerrie White was inspired by her daughter Gracie to start the business who has her own range of artwork called “Made it by Gracie”.

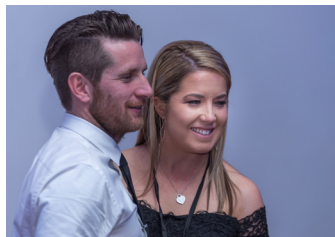
The opportunity to learn, work and grow in the business is an opportunity for Gracie that may

otherwise have been difficult to come by due to her diagnosis of Autism, ADD and Development Delay.

Gracie’s Boutique also stocks Afribeads jewellery, a fair trade product made by women in Uganda. In 2018, Kerrie will travel to Uganda to work with the women on new products for the Australian market.



Wyndham Business Awards





Avalon Airport Ideal for Wyndham Business



Justin Giddings
CEO Avalon Airport

Justin Giddings is excited. The Avalon CEO has just left a business briefing in the airport terminal and the response was terrific.

The event was part of the recent Wyndham Learning Festival, of which Avalon Airport has been major sponsor for the second year running.

Guests arrived (several via SkyBus) to network and discuss with Justin how Avalon can strengthen its partnership with the Wyndham business community.

When the Victorian Government secured Jetstar in 2015, it secured a piece of infrastructure vital to business operators and residents in Wyndham.

Avalon is only 20 minutes from the heart of Werribee – the airport is essentially Wyndham’s local. It’s an easy drive with plenty of parking directly out the front of the terminal.

SkyBus launched a new direct Avalon to Werribee service in February this year, with a stop opposite the RSL in Synnot St.

The airport’s destinations are very popular, including five flights a day to Sydney and a daily service to the Gold Coast. The commute is a quick one from

Werribee and the flights are generally around 20% cheaper than comparable flights at Tullamarine.

“Travel time, SkyBus direct connection and lower operating costs make Avalon ideal for Wyndham business and locals to travel interstate,” says Justin.

Likewise, there are opportunities for Wyndham based tourism operators. Sydney, Hobart and Adelaide flights bring in a large proportion of inbound VFR and Leisure passengers. They’re the perfect market to attract to special events and tourism destinations in the Wyndham area.

With the rise of inbound China travel comes further opportunities for the local tourism sector.

“Many Chinese tourists head straight down the Great Ocean Road from here and then back to Melbourne,” says Justin.

“I encourage you to work on strategies to promote a stop in Wyndham.”

Justin ended the night by reiterating how keen he is for Avalon to work with the Wyndham business community to encourage visitation to the Wyndham region.

“I look forward to strengthening the partnership between us and Wyndham. Having an airport nice and close is a huge regional asset.”



Cr Kim McAliney, Deputy Mayor Wyndham City
with Justin Giddings and Peter Dorling, Avalon Airport