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MEDIA RELEASE
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Finalists announced for coveted business women's awards

A SENIOR operations improvement superintendent, a photographer and a psychologist are among the finalists announced for the 2010 Bendigo Bank North Queensland Business Women Awards proving that there are many industries and occupations where Townsville business women excel.

The nine finalists were unveiled on Friday after judges interviewed all nominees in each of the four main award categories with entrants selected based on their business achievements in 2010. A member of the three-judge panel with a corporate and business ownership background, Deidre Walsh, said nominees showcased a outstanding and varied mix of talent and it was "extremely difficult" to select the final few.

"The education levels, achievements and the quality of the positions held was very impressive," Ms Walsh said. "It's just wonderful to see we have such a high standard of business women in Townsville and the Townsville district and in years to come they will become mentors to the talent coming through."

The finalists for the 2010 Bendigo Bank North Queensland Business Women Awards are Queensland Nickel senior operations improvement superintendent Roslyn Dalton, AECOM principal consultant communication and community Kelly May and Advance Employment chief executive officer Cathy O'Toole for the Corporate Business Woman category; Bizrich director Kirsten Gadsby and Vista Homes & Design director Natasha Whiteside for the Female Business Owner category; First Things First manager Megan Flux, photographer Rosana Kersh and Pyslution Worx psychologist/owner Kylie Lavers for the Emerging Business Woman category, and BNG Sports part-owner Glenda Woodford for the female business partner category, Glenda being the one truly outstanding applicant in her group.

The winners of these categories will then have the opportunity to take out the top award - the Bendigo Bank North Queensland Business Woman of the Year 2010.

Townsville Business Women's Network Inc (TBWN) president Penelope-Ann Sullivan congratulated all the finalists saying they were strong examples of the amazing women populating the Townsville region's business community: "These are women who often have to juggle multiple responsibilities alongside their careers and often go unrecognised," she said.





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She added that all the talented women who made it to the nominee stage also had a reason to celebrate – not only were they considered exceptionally gifted in their field by their peers who put their names forward, but two additional awards were available with the winners not announced until the Gala Awards night on March 5.

“All our nominees are still eligible to receive the Judges’ Encouragement Award, which will recognise a business woman who impressed the judges with her achievements, attitude and showed a great deal of promise for the future in her business endeavours,” Ms Sullivan said.

“Plus the Alison Wenck Community Leadership Award will be open to nominees who are financial members of the TBWN and who, in addition to working full-time, have worked tirelessly to improve the lives of others and institute positive changes in the Townsville community.”

Psylution Worx psychologist/owner Kylie Lavers started the Townsville practice in 2008 and is on the verge of opening her third location, with the mother-of-one and previous diesel mechanic saying she was proud to be listed in the Emerging Business Woman category of the annual awards.

“I was very honoured to be nominated by a fellow business owner and then to actually be announced as a finalist,” Ms Lavers said. “It was unexpected, but made me feel very proud of the team at Psylution Worx and how far we have come in a short period of time.”

The annual business women’s awards are in their 15th year after being started by the Townsville Business Women’s Network in 1995. TBWN president Penelope-Ann Sullivan said this year’s event had been scheduled to coincide with the 100th-year anniversary of International Women’s Day.

The Awards Gala Presentation will be held on Saturday, March 5, 2011. Tickets are available from www.businesswomen.com.au.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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CAPTION for Small Group Shot: Emerging Business Woman finalists Kylie Lavers and Megan Flux with Michelle Morton (centre) representing award sponsor Wilson/Ryan/Grose Lawyers.