

## **NZSA Beacon Award 2017**

and

## **Business Journalist of the Year**

### **2017 NZSA Beacon Award**

This year's winner is **Rob Campbell**, Chairman of Tourism Holdings and Summerset. Chairman elect of Sky City. Professional Director.

NZSA was delighted to present him with the Beacon at a function in Auckland on Tuesday evening.

Rob Campbell says that his business philosophy "is of being open to impermanence". He qualified with a BA (Hons) in Economic History and Political Science and then an MPhil in Economics. In the 1970's he was a leading activist in the Union movement and by the 80's seemed destined to reach the very top of organised labour. However, being appointed to the boards of Government owned organisations started to bring about a change in outlook.

Rob worked largely out of public sight until elected to the GPG board during a shareholder revolt in 2011. He has since taken several high profile directorships, each in a very different segment. That suits Rob, who is known for his ability to identify the big issues and bring a keen and deeply enquiring mind to the task.

The Beacon Award guidelines talk about bravery in standing out from the crowd on issues that are controversial, about being respectful of owners and ensuring fair and equitable outcomes. NZSA has given Rob this award, not just because of the strong performance of listed companies he chairs, nor even his demonstrated ability to manage assets, build organisational capabilities or bring needed change. Rather, it is for his willingness to speak out on issues without fear or favour. His comments around directors needing to take a more hands on approach, to manage the managers, to not be "tick-box" governors, the limited imagination of some boards and the disconnect between reality and how bankers and finance professionals are remunerated may not be universally applauded. But all are pertinent and encourage necessary dialogue and debate.

Rob has spoken about directorships requiring a holistic approach. NZSA believes his career has demonstrated exactly that, and as a consequence, he is a worthy winner of the 2017 Beacon Award.

## **Business Journalist of the Year Award**

These awards were also presented on Tuesday night.

NZSA believes that quality business journalism is an important part of the overall business environment. This year we were pleased to continue the awards that were cancelled by a previous sponsor. NZSA paid particular attention to avoiding any conflict of interest. There is no corporate funding and none of the judging panel are associated with NZSA.

### **The supreme winner was – Karyn Scherer**

For her feature in NBR about the Fuji Xerox accounting scandal.

The category awards were:

- Business News – Jenee Tibshraeny
- Business Features – Karyn Scherer
- Business Commentary – Gareth Vaughan
- Young Business Journalist – Jason Walls

The independent judging panel consisted of;

Sir Rob Fenwick, former journalist and PR specialist – Chair; Reg Birchfield, journalist editor, publisher and Qantas Lifetime Media award winner; Dr Merja Myllylahti, 15 years business journalism in London. Project manager at AUT's research center for Journalism, Media and Democracy; Jane Arnott, business communications and marketing specialist and Garth Ireland, independent financial analyst and consultant.

NZSA

16 November 2017