Outstanding Māori Business Leaders Award

This prestigious award honours an individual who has made a significant contribution to business enterprise and the economy.

The list of past winners of the Outstanding Māori Business Leaders Award are:

2009  Dame Kiri Te Kanawa, ONZ, DBE, AC
2008  Peter Cooper
2007  Brett Hiirini Shepherd
2006  Rob McLeod
2005  Peter Loughlin
2004  Sir Howard Morrison, OBE
Outstanding Māori Business Leaders Award 2009

Dame Kiri Te Kanawa, ONZ, DBE, AC

Ngāti Maniapoto, Ngāti Porou

In recognition of esteemed international achievements in opera and classical music, contribution to Aotearoa New Zealand identity and culture, and mentoring of young New Zealand singers and musicians.

Dame Kiri Te Kanawa’s dominance through the times is testament to her talent and business acumen, and this award acknowledges her close association and promotion of Aotearoa New Zealand at an international level. Through her formidable drive, application and hard work she has become one of the greatest opera singers of modern times.

Dame Kiri (Ngāti Maniapoto with Ngāti Porou affiliation), had the South Pacific conquered by the age of 20, having won all the major vocal prizes available in this part of the world. She went to London to study at its opera centre and, after her sensational debut in Figaro, gained legendary status almost overnight.

As one of the most famous sopranos in the world, Dame Kiri has performed in the leading opera houses of the world, Covent Garden, the Paris Opera and Chicago Lyric Opera, to name a few. On the concert stage, her natural serenity and vocal beauty have joined with the world’s major orchestral ensembles, Chicago, Los Angeles, London and the Boston Symphonies.

She was created a Dame Commander of the British Empire in 1982 and has been conferred with honorary degrees from the Universities of Cambridge, Oxford, Dundee, Durham, Nottingham, Sunderland, Warwick, Waikato, Chicago and Victoria, as well as The University of Auckland. She is also an honorary fellow of Somerville College, Oxford, and Wolfson College, Cambridge, and was invested with the Order of Australia in 1990. Dame Kiri is also an Honorary Member of the Royal Academy of Music and was awarded the prestigious Order of New Zealand in 1995.

As well as recognising her artistic leadership as a Māori performer who followed the late great Inia te Wiata in achieving world status at the highest levels possible in opera and classical music, this award highlights Dame Kiri’s commitment to the development of young New Zealand singers and musicians through the Kiri Te Kanawa Foundation. Established in 2004, this foundation offers mentoring, financial support and career assistance to the most talented and dedicated young New Zealand singers and musicians to help them succeed internationally. In Dame Kiri’s words, it is a foundation that continues to give her enormous personal satisfaction. Her fostering of young talent to global success in such a competitive
environment is remarkable.

Dame Kiri’s career is seen to be the spiritual and metaphorical embodiment of a fully carved ancestral meeting house, which honours past, current and emergent masters.

Outstanding Māori Business Leaders Award 2008

Peter Cooper

Te Aupōuri, Ngāti Kuri, Ngāti Kahu

For outstanding business leadership developing mixed-use communities in Aotearoa New Zealand and internationally.

Peter is the founder of Cooper and Company and is actively involved in the direction and leadership of all the company’s activities.

Since 1989 he has been based in California, where he has been involved in a wide range of investment activities including property development and private and public company investments. In addition to Southlake Town Square in Texas, his real estate developments have included several other large-format mixed-use retail developments in Washington State and Dallas-Fort Worth and Houston, Texas.

Before moving to the US, Peter was executive director of Lion Nathan, chief executive of LD Nathan & Co and joint managing director of Mace Development Corporation. He began his career as a lawyer and partner at Auckland law firm Russell McVeagh, where he specialised in commercial and property law. Today he is also a director of several private companies and a trustee of Georgetown University in Washington DC. He holds a Bachelor of Laws with honours from The University of Auckland.

Cooper and Company website: [http://www.cooperandcompany.org](http://www.cooperandcompany.org)
Outstanding Māori Business Leaders Award 2007

Brett Hiirini Shepherd

Ngāti Maru and Ngāti Tamaterā

For outstanding business leadership and service to capital markets in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Brett Shepherd is chief executive of Deutsche Bank New Zealand and managing director of Global Banking. He has advised major multinational New Zealand and Australian corporates on domestic and cross-border mergers and acquisitions.

Brett has been involved in the investment banking industry for nearly two decades. He is a board member of the non-profit organisation the New Zealand Institute which focuses on developing solutions to issues that have a major impact on New Zealand’s economic and social future and can contribute to improved prosperity and social outcomes for all New Zealanders.

Brett is also an adviser to Black Grace, New Zealand’s leading contemporary dance company. He graduated from the University of Waikato with a Bachelor of Management Studies with first class honours.

Deutsche Bank New Zealand website: http://newzealand.db.com/newzealand/
Outstanding Māori Business Leaders Award 2006

Rob McLeod

Ngāti Porou

For outstanding business leadership and economic policy development in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Rob McLeod is managing partner of Ernst & Young New Zealand and is a specialist tax practitioner. He chairs the New Zealand Business Roundtable, has previously chaired the New Zealand Institute of Chartered Accountants Tax Committee and was Chairman of the Government’s Tax Review 2001. In 2008 Rob was appointed as a member of the Capital Markets Task Force and as lead negotiator for Te Haeta (Ngati Porou Treaty Settlement Committee). In 2009 he was appointed to the Maori Economic Development Ministerial Taskforce, the Independent Ministerial Advisory Panel for the Defence Review, the National Infrastructure Advisory Board and was a member of the Tax Working Group to assist Government.

Rob has been a specialist tax practitioner for over 25 years with experience in all facets of taxation. His primary specialisation has been New Zealand corporate income tax, but he has also had extensive experience in trusts, estate planning and international tax.

- From October 2004 to June 2007, Rob was a professional director and business and taxation advisor.
- From April 2002 to September 2004, Rob was chairman of Ernst Young.
- From January 1991 to March 2002, Rob was managing partner of Arthur Andersen.

Rob’s previous directorships included: Telecom New Zealand Limited and Skycity Entertainment Group Limited; ANZ National Bank Limited; Sealord Group Limited; Tainui Group Holdings Limited; Aotearoa Fisheries Limited; Raukura Moana Fisheries Limited; Gulliver Travel Group Limited; Te Ohu Kai Moana Trustee Limited, Hui Taumata Trustee Limited and Asia New Zealand Foundation.

Rob’s past appointments include: Commissioner of Waitangi Fisheries Commission; Chair of Government Tax Review 2001; Towards 2005 Taskforce; Organisational Review of Inland Revenue Department; Ministerial (Todd) Taskforce on Tertiary Education; and Government Appointed Consultative Committee on Taxation of Income from Capital (Valabh Committee).

Ernst & Young New Zealand website: http://www.ey.com/nz
Outstanding Māori Business Leaders Award 2005

Peter Loughlin

Ngāti Tūwharetoa

In recognition of his outstanding achievements as an international haute couture businessman for over 20 years.

Peter Loughlin, who founded the House of Arushi with his wife Mireille in 1989, specialises in haute couture wedding dresses and evening gowns for the women of the Middle East, including several of the region’s royal families. Based in Dubai, House of Arushi is known for exclusive jewel-encrusted and beaded dresses and is considered one of the Gulf region’s most prestigious labels. Its customers include the royal families of the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Oman. Arushi dresses can take months to make, and cost more than $200,000.

Peter retains strong family ties with New Zealand and is a frequent visitor. He supports the country’s trade delegations to the region and is a trustee of the Arohanui Victoria Memorial Trust, established in memory of his fellow designer and relative Victoria Cribb. Each year the trust provides funding for a young Māori designer to travel to Dubai and work alongside Peter, gaining experience with materials and techniques rarely used in New Zealand.

House of Arushi has grown steadily – Peter refused to budge from Dubai when many of his business colleagues left temporarily during the 1991 Gulf War – and now employs around 400 staff. The name “Arushi” is Persian and is used to express the beginning of new life, while "arusa" means bride in Arabic.

House of Arushi website: http://www.arushi-fashion.com/
Outstanding Māori Business Leaders Award 2004

Sir Howard Morrison OBE

Te Arawa, Waikato – Maniapoto, Ngāti Pukeko

In recognition of outstanding achievements as a professional entertainer and community leader for over 40 years.

The late Sir Howard Morrison (1935-2009) was one of New Zealand’s leading television and concert performers. Sir Howard was at the forefront of the entertainment business for nearly 50 years in New Zealand and Australia, maintaining excellent business relationships while generating employment for thousands of people.

His admirable business acumen enabled him to survive in a highly competitive environment. Behind his public exterior was the personal drive and organisational skills that helped him build a reputation for rallying New Zealanders to a cause without political prejudice or racial undercurrent.

In recognition of his work Sir Howard was named Entertainer of the Year in 1966 and became a distinguished member of the Order of the British Empire in 1976. In 1990 he was knighted in recognition of his talent and services to New Zealand, his people and the entertainment industry. In 1994 he was presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award from the entertainment industry. Sir Howard once described himself as not an entertainer, but being in the business of entertainment.

Survived by his wife and three children, Sir Howard is buried at Kauae Cemetery in Ngongotaha.

A Sir Howard Morrison Scholarship has been established to honour this wonderful entertainer and businessman.