



MENTOR

Fostering Excellence in Hospitality

About the Lewisham Mentoring Programme

The Lewisham Mentoring Programme, aimed at providing practical, hands on and accountable assistance to emerging hospitality professionals in Auckland was launched at the forth Lewisham Awards ceremony on 28th May 2006.

Now in its fourth year, The Lewisham Awards is an established event in the Auckland hospitality environment, where the best in the business are nominated and honored by their peers. At the time of establishment in 2002, the main objective of the awards was to encourage excellence in the city's hospitality community, with a view of raising the standards in all facets of the industry.

The Lewisham Mentoring programme has been created as a responsible way of deploying the surplus funds generated from the running of the awards and is administered by a stand alone task force, in consultation with, but independent of the awards committee.

Each annual intake will support two or three hand picked candidates for a period of three years per candidate. The candidates are to be Auckland based individuals who are establishing their businesses and who show the required entrepreneurial promise that justifies the investment. The invited mentors are those in the Auckland hospitality environment who have "made it". They are experienced, respected and who care enough about the city and its industry to invest their time and wisdom in the process, and their mentees.

The programme itself has been structured in the first year to take the mentee through the often nail biting establishment phase of setting up a business with practical, hands on support.

The remaining two years are designed to help the mentee consolidate on the first year, with the mentor taking on a more "counseling" role. The entire programme requires commitment from both parties and a thorough selection procedure has been implemented.

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