Kāpiti News
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From apprentice to laureate

Brosnahan honoured as this year's Hall of Fame inductee.

Leanne Warr

"Boom!" It drew amusement from the hundreds at the Electra Business and Innovation Awards – Mark Brosnahan's punchline after discovering the first criterion for the Kāpiti Business Hall of Fame: ***you have to be alive.***

He joked that being told in advance gave him time to write a spiel.

"When I was told, I was extremely surprised, grateful and honoured to be inducted into the Kāpiti Hall of Fame," he said. "So when I was told, I looked it up."

Kāpiti Coast District Mayor Janet Holborow introduced this year's laureate, saying it was a tough time to be in business and particularly special to come together to celebrate the hard work and determination it took to succeed.

She spoke of visiting a local business where she received personal service – "the kind of connection that our businesses have with our communities".

"And an extraordinary example of that tonight is Electra, and all the other businesses who sponsor this event, and all of the businesses who sponsor so many events and projects and community organisations.

"In Horowhenua and Kāpiti, we lean on that support. Without the support of our local businesses, so many projects and activities and organisations would not be able to happen or do what they do."

Holborow introduced Kāpiti's laureate: Mark Brosnahan, owner of Brien Electrical, saying the company had proudly served the Kāpiti Coast since 1962, making it the oldest electrical company in the area.

Under Mark and his wife Monique's ownership, the business had grown from a small local operation into a team of 33, with an "impressive 350 years of combined experience".

Mark's story began in Paraparaumu, and he has spent his life connected to the town. He bought Brien Electrical while completing his apprenticeship.



Mark and Monique Brosnahan on stage at the awards. Mark was inducted into the Kāpiti/Horowhenua Hall of Fame – a recognition built on the couple's nearly 40 years working side by side in the business. PHOTO / Captured By Friday

"Since then, Mark and Monique have worked side by side, raising their four children in and around the business, with the next generation preparing to carry Brien Electrical into the future.

"That depth of knowledge is one of the reasons the company is so trusted by customers across the Kāpiti Coast, Wellington and beyond."

Holborow said Mark was widely regarded as a pillar of the community – "someone whose commitment, reliability and generosity have made a lasting contribution to the people and places around him".

She said the company's reputation was built on values that matter: being professional, reliable and efficient.

"Those values are reflected in the loyalty of their customers and the strong support Brien Electrical has given to local causes, including sporting groups, charities and community initiatives."

Brosnahan spoke of the privilege of joining a list of distinguished people who had served the Kāpiti Coast over the years.

When he took over Brien Electrical, it was not long after the 1987 sharemarket crash. "And I was given plenty of advice that now is not a good time to start a business. But I was young, dumb, and full of enthusiasm, and thought I knew better."

He said the Coast had changed immensely over the years, and Brien Electrical had also changed and grown in size and professionalism. "But the community spirit doesn't change."

Being in the trade meant accountability to the community, he said. "Our clients are people we bump into regularly, my staff are locals and all part of the community, and our reputation is extremely important to us."

Brosnahan said he and his company supported more than 30 community groups and organisations on the Kāpiti Coast, including sports, the elderly, the less fortunate and youth. "We've survived economic crashes, supply issues and everything else, purely because the people on the Coast back local businesses – and for this we are eternally grateful.

"An award like this may have my name on it, but it actually belongs to the people who got me here."

He acknowledged his team – apprentices, qualified electricians, the admin team and management – "who do all the heavy lifting". He also acknowledged Monique.

"Like they say, behind every great man is an even greater woman."

He said she had worked tirelessly in the business from the beginning, including late nights doing paperwork, and thanked his children, who had listened to endless shop talk. "You've all been my why behind the business. It's been a privileged ride and long may it continue."

Reach me at my Kāpiti office

Kāpiti Office
Corner of Te Roto Drive and Kāpiti Road • 021 851 206 • kapiti@parliament.govt.nz

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Tim Costley MP for Ōtaki

Authorised by T Costley, Parliament Buildings, Wgtn.

