



Energy honours humble execs

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Two Taranaki energy executives have been awarded New Zealand's highest honours in their fields.

The Deloitte Energy Excellence Awards were held in Auckland last week to recognise achievement and excellence in the New Zealand energy sector.

Rob Jager, Shell New Zealand chairman and chief operating officer, won the Energy Executive of the Year award, while Karen Frew, asset management maturity manager at Powerco won the Young Energy Executive of the Year award.

Jager was recognised for his outstanding leadership of Shell and the entire petroleum industry this year and in years gone by.

The judges described him as a cheerleader for the petroleum industry who put had New Zealand back on the map, citing Shell's exploration in the frontier Great South and New Caledonia Basins.

Jager said it was gratifying and humbling to receive the award.

"I'm more often than not at the

more visible end of the business.

"I'm the guy who kind of gets the accolades."

But, he said, the award was really a reflection of the complete business, its staff, contractors and sub-contractors.

Jager, who has been in the industry for more than 35 years, started with Shell BP and Todd in 1978.

"It has been hugely fantastic and rewarding, it's a fantastic industry to be part of.

"I'm passionate about the industry, I'm passionate about the role of energy in our day to day lives and I'm passionate about New Zealand."

Frew, a chartered electrical engineer and mother of four, also felt humbled by her award.

"I see this as recognition not just for myself, but for the brilliant team of people at Powerco."

She acknowledged the flexibility Powerco had provided, which allowed her to do her best at both home and work.

"Being a mother will always be my top priority, but I feel I have been able to successfully juggle work and home because of the flexibility offered by the company."

Her ability to work across both technical and commercial parts of the business impressed the award judges.

"Karen's achievements in the past year are impressive," they said.

The chairman of the judging panel, Richard Westlake, said the calibre of this year's entries was very high.

"The judging panel has been in the privileged position of seeing the work of New Zealand's best energy businesses and learning of their successes," Westlake said.

"It was a real challenge to select finalists and ultimately winners from the diversity and high quality of entries."

DELOITTE ENERGY EXCELLENCE AWARD WINNERS

- Innovation in Electricity Award - Counties Power.
- Energy Project of the Year - Contact Energy - The Wairakei Bioreactor.
- Excellence in Health & Safety Award - Contact Energy.
- Environmental Excellence Award - Contact Energy - The Wairakei Bioreactor.
- Young Energy Executive of the Year - Karen Frew - Powerco.
- Energy Executive of the Year - Rob Jager - Shell New Zealand.
- Lines Company of the Year - Northpower.
- Energy Retailer of the Year - BP.
- Overall Energy Company of the Year - Transpower.
- Editor's Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Sector - Bob Thomson.



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Karen Frew