

Central Queensland News

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Central Highlands is celebrating small businesses



BUSINESS TALK: Steve Baxter of Shark Tank fame is keynote speaker. PHOTO: ALLAN REINIKKA

A GALA dinner at the end of next month will celebrate the dedication and diversity of the Central Highlands business community while encouraging business people to foster healthy partnerships and work together.

Run biennially, the Central Highlands Business Excellence Awards is a program spread across 10 months with two components – a workshop series and the awards gala dinner.

Central Highlands Development Corporation business development

officer Raneë Parsons said 18 awards finalists across nine categories would soon be announced, with winners revealed on the night.

Ms Parsons said it was important to celebrate the efforts and achievements of dynamic businesses in the region.

“The awards recognise the contribution of local business, not only to economic vitality but to creating a strong, healthy, vibrant regional community.

“Industry-leading experts present a range of workshops around key topics that have been

identified from survey feedback and one-on-one meetings with businesses in the Central Highlands, running for 12 months from February 2017.”

The workshops allowed local businesses to connect and strengthen the small business community, Ms Parsons said, which contributed to regional vitality and cross-collaboration opportunities.

Voting for the People’s Choice Awards will be open from September 22 to October 20.

Residents are encouraged to get behind their favourite

local business and vote.

At the gala dinner on October 28, Steve Baxter – Queensland’s future Chief Entrepreneur, founder and chief executive officer of River City Labs, and managing director of Startup Catalyst – will provide the keynote address.

Mr Baxter, who was raised in Emerald, launched his first start-up aged 23 and has been a Shark on Channel 10’s Shark Tank Australia for the past three seasons.

Dinner tickets are available online via the CHDC website: <http://ehdc.com.au>.