

MP+ Business Leadership Award 2012

An accounting firm which began its life when kangaroos were still bounding down the main street of what is now Joondalup's thriving business precinct, has been honoured in the Edith Cowan University North West Metro Small Business Awards. Davidson Terrace firm McKinley Plowman was awarded the 2012 Business Leadership prize at the prestigious Joondalup Business Association awards at Joondalup Resort in July. The award is fitting for a company which started out in 1997 with goals of providing exceptional client service, providing an enjoyable place to work and becoming an employer of choice.

Joondalup Business Association President Ray Foster says co-directors of McKinley Plowman, Nigel Plowman and Murray McKinley, are inspiring business and community leaders. Ray says the company, which has helped businesses prosper since being set up over 15 years ago, is renowned for the vibrant working environment it provides as well as its contributing to the wider community. The firm's clients and 40-staff are offered the same benefits of a City based accounting and financial planning services company without some of the usual parking and travel hassles.

Staff benefits include flexible leave arrangements to accommodate family and study commitments, regular overseas travel and social days. Co-director Nigel Plowman says the firm's inclusive leadership style has been shaped by a commitment to create a positive working environment. This enables the company to attract the best quality staff and in turn ensure these people are in a strong position to become leaders for their clients and coach them towards their commercial goals.

"It's a lot easier to be a good leader when surrounded by leaders," Nigel says.

"We invest in ongoing professional development and encourage development of staff by helping to facilitate their own answers when they come to us. "It's a very rewarding process for all of us. And, what's more, it's of great benefit to our valued clients."

Nigel says while McKinley Plowman has always viewed the success of clients as acknowledgement of its professionalism, he is honoured to be recognised by the Joondalup Business Association. "We had 20 staff there to help us celebrate as well as our wives Heidi Plowman and Katherine McKinley," Nigel says. "It was great to have Heidi and Katherine there and thank them for all the support they have given us in building our business over the past 15 years."



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