



The toast of Network

Peter Horgan

The top three businesswomen in Cork were announced this week as Network Cork held its annual awards luncheon, with Dragon's Den star Ramona Nicholas a special guest at proceedings.

Ellie Redmond, Carol O'Leary and Sharon O'Donoghue were all named in their respective categories as awards winners in front of 120 of Cork's businesswomen.

"These are three very worthy winners who will go on to represent the region's women in business at the national finals, but we are all winners and deserve a big pat on the back for surviving and thriving in really testing times and I like to think we do so by making the most of our Network organisation, helping each other, sharing contacts, experiences and expertise," said Network Cork President Deirdre Waldron.

Ms Redmond, director of Movie Junction secured her award as businesswoman of the year in the new business category while Carol O'Leary, general manager of EazyCork scooped the title in the employee category.

However it was Sharon O'Donoghue, sales and marketing director at Brook Catering, who took home the overall title of businesswoman of the year, along with the self-employed category top spot. Ms O'Donoghue was presented with the Keane's Jewellers perpetual trophy.

Strong

"Network Cork is a



Ramona Nicholas, Cara Pharmacy, Yvonne Barry, Quintas, Sharon O'Donoghue Brook Catering, Joan Walsh Partnership Europe and Deirdre Waldron President Network Cork at the Network Cork Business Awards Luncheon at Hayfield Manor **Photos: Gerard McCarthy**



New Business Award winner Ellie Redmond, director Movie Junction, overall winner and Established Business Award winner Sharon O'Donoghue, Brook Catering and Employee Award winner Carol O'Leary General Manager Eazycork pictured at Network Cork Business Awards Luncheon at Hayfield Manor.

strong and well established business network," said Joan Walsh, Network Cork awards and event coordinator.

"Our annual awards event is a highlight in the

Cork business calendar. The high attendance and record number of applications for these prestigious awards is testament to that."

The awards were held in

Hayfield Manor Hotel with a prosecco reception sponsored Erne Drinks Company in association with the Dublin Wine Rooms which was followed by a four course luncheon with

wine also sponsored by Erne Drinks Company in the Kane Kirby Suite.

Julia Lynes, President of Network Ireland stated, "The Network business awards are such a fantastic way to promote your company and the standard gets higher year on year. It's important for us to recognise and celebrate the achievements of our female peers in this way".

Dragon's Den and Secret Millionaire star Ramona Nicholas was guest speaker at the event and spoke on her passion for female entrepreneurship, saying "I feel that the women of today have so much to offer in terms of their talents and unique qualities."

The winners received numerous prizes, most of which sponsored by Network Cork members including a bespoke Network Cork business award trophy, exclusive business/marketing/web optimisation mentoring from a panel of experts, hotel breaks and spa treatments.

Judges for the award were Edel Clancy, director of communications at Musgrave Group, Yvonne Barry of Quintas and Conor Keane, business editor at Irish Examiner.

The Network Business Awards, which is organised by Network Cork, ins part of a national organisation for women in business, profession and the arts, is one of the main highlights of the organisation's busy calendar, with winners of the Cork Awards being shortlisted for the National Awards in October.

For any business women interested in learning more about Network Cork please visit www.networkcork.com.