

## **Evening Echo**

# Ladies mean business at awards

By ANN MURPHY

**THE marketing and sales director of a catering company whose clients include the Rose of Tralee festival has been honoured by fellow businesswomen in Cork.**

Sharon O'Donoghue of Brook Catering was the overall winner of the Network Cork awards announced yesterday at the Hayfield Manor Hotel.

She has been with the Glanmire-based company — which also has a Dublin office — since 2006.

Among Brook Catering's clients are the Rose of Tralee festival and Cork Chamber.

Former clients include the prestigious Waterford and Dublin Tall Ships festivals.

Guest speaker at yesterday's lunch event was Ramona Nicolas of Cara Pharmacies, who is one of the 'dragons' on TV's *Dragons' Den*. She also took part in *The Secret Millionaire* programme on RTE.

"I feel very passionate about female entrepreneurship and I also feel that the women of today have so much to offer in terms of their talents and unique qualities," she told the gathering.

Network Cork president Deirdre Waldron said: "There 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."

The judges for the awards were the director of communications with the Musgrave Group, Edel Clancy; Yvonne Barry of **Quintas** Cork, and Conor Keane of the *Irish Examiner*.

The winners from yesterday's ceremony will go forward to contest the national awards in October.

Network Cork provides women in business in the region with a forum for exchanging ideas and making new contacts. Members meet every month.



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At the Network Cork Business Awards were Emer Cassidy and Oonagh Connolly of AIB with Colour and Image Academy's Joan Cashman.

Picture: Gerard McCarthy



Vivienne Barrett, Vicki Creen and Christine McGowan of AIB, at Hayfield Manor for the awards event.

Picture: Gerard McCarthy



## THE WINNERS

THE winners of the Network Cork awards are:

- **Overall winner:**  
Sharon O'Donoghue, *above*, of Brook Catering, who took home the Keanes Jewellers Perpetual Trophy in recognition of her outstanding achievements in business.
- **New Business Award:**  
Ellie Redmond, director of the Movie junction drive-in cinema at Fota Retail Park, Carrigtwohill.
- **Employee Award:**  
Carol O'Leary, general manager of Eazycork (short term accommodation agency).
- **Established Business Award:**  
Sharon O'Donoghue, sales and marketing director of Brook Catering.



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**Celebrating excellence in business at the Network Cork Business Awards luncheon at Hayfield Manor were president Deirdre Waldron, Joan Walsh of Partnership Europe, special guest and Dragons' Den entrepreneur Ramona Nicholas of Cara Pharmacy, and Julia Lynes, president of Network Ireland.**

Picture: Gerard McCarthy