

Evening Echo



Women in Business Awards launched

THE Network Cork 2013 Women in Business Awards were launched at Hayfield Manor Hotel recently.

This prestigious event will see more than 100 business women gather to discover who will win the coveted title of Cork's Top Business Women of the Year 2013.

Guest speakers will be Dragons' Den judge and Secret Millionaire, Ramona Nicolas of Cara Pharmacies, and Network Ireland President, Julia Lynes.

The Network Business Awards, which is organised by Network Cork, 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.

At the launch, Network President Deirdre Waldron said: "The Network Cork Business Awards have proved themselves an excellent platform for women in business to highlight their work and the businesses they are involved in.

"As women in business we need to take advantage of opportunities to promote ourselves and our businesses — getting out of our comfort zone and letting everyone know what great jobs we are doing. Often, we as business women are not that great at saying just how good we really are.

"Through the awards, business women in Cork can access a national platform as the three Cork finalists represent the region in the national awards and every year since the inception of the awards, someone from Cork has gone on to win one of the overall awards — showing the talent of women in business in the region. I urge all our members to take this opportunity and put themselves or their colleagues forward into one of the three categories."

Joan Walsh, the awards co-ordinator added: "This is a fantastic opportunity for each entrant to promote her business. This year is going to be one of our best years yet.

"We have received a terrific response to the awards so far. The feedback from previous winners on how the awards made a real difference to their business has had a very positive effect with

an increase in the number of applications. The judges are going to have a very tough task selecting this year's winners."

As well as receiving the prestigious award, winners will also have the opportunity of representing Network Cork at the national annual awards in October.

Last year's winner, local Cork businesswoman Natasha Lynch, Essential French, did her county proud by beating off stiff competition from all over the country to win Irish Business Woman of the Year Established Business award.

On winning Natasha said: "Being a national winner has been a huge endorsement of what the Essential French brand stands for. The media

coverage on a local and national level has been outstanding — I strongly urge every business woman in Cork to enter."

Tickets for the awards luncheon are now on sale through Network Cork and are priced at €45 for members and €50 for non members.

Awards applications should be e-mailed to: businessawards@networkcork.com.

Closing date for entries is Friday, April 5, 5.30pm. Entrants must be paid up members of Network Cork. Non-members can still enter simply by joining Network Cork.

For further information on the awards visit www.networkcork.com or for tickets email treasurer@networkcork.com.

Evening Echo



Judges Edel Clancy, Director of Communications and Corporate Affairs for the Musgrave Group; Yvonne Barry, Partner **Quintas**; Joan Walsh, Partnership Europe/Happy Tours and President of Network Cork, Deirdre Waldron, Fuzion Communications at the launch of the Network Cork 2013 Women in Business Awards.

Picture: Darragh Kane