



Cawthron Institute director Dr Di McCarthy, Marlborough mayor John Leggett, Conservation Minister Eugenie Sage, and awards chairman Peter Jerram at the environment awards launch last Friday.

Awards raise awareness of protecting environment

By Bill McElhinney

Dog Point Vineyard, an organic vineyard that demonstrated conservation with a commercial edge, was the supreme winner in the 2017 Cawthron Marlborough Environment awards.

Entries are now open for the 2018/19 awards, held every two years to showcase businesses or community projects that are good for the environment.

The awards have been running for 20 years, during which time 246 organisations have entered.

For many, entering the Environment Awards makes them look at their operations through a fresh set of eyes and interacting with the expert judges is a learning experience.

“A healthy environment is the basis of a healthy economy and human health and wellbeing,” Conservation Minister Eugenie Sage said at the launch of the 2018-19 awards on Friday at the Rangitane Cultural Centre, Grovetown.

The Minister commended the Marlborough District Council and the Cawthron Institute for supporting the awards.

“The awards encourage people to protect

nature, use land and water sustainably and help strengthen connections across the community,” Eugenie says.

The council has supported the awards since they started in 1997, Mayor John Leggett says.

He is encouraging businesses and community groups to share their experience in looking after our land and water and using resources and energy efficiently.

“Achieving the balance between protecting and using the environment is an important message to get out to Marlborough and the rest of New Zealand,” John says.

There are seven award categories – marine, farming, forestry, wine industry, landscape and habitat enhancement, community innovation and business innovation.

Each entrant receives an independent judges’ report that is like a free audit, highlighting positives and suggesting improvements.

Winners also receive between \$1000 and \$3000 in prize money. Entries close on September 28.

More information and online entry www.cmea.org.nz