

## **Ami McDonald, founder of La Paleta winner of Business News's 'Young Entrepreneur Award' in 21st Belmont Small Business Awards**

Ami McDonald was one of more than 25 Western Australian small businesses awarded in the 21st Belmont Small Business Awards. The winners were showcased at the 'Night of Stars Event' Grand Ballroom, Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre, Perth on October 31<sup>st</sup> with over 340 attending. This year's MC's were Belmont BEC Patron Louise Percy and Chair Cassie Rowe. Mayor Cr Phil Marks gave a business update on the City of Belmont and AusIndustry WA Assistant State Manager Julie Mizen presented a message from The Hon Bruce Billson MP, Small Business Minister.

Ami McDonald won the 'Young Entrepreneur Award' in the 2014 Belmont Small Business Awards. La Paleta produces Mexican inspired artisan ice creams and icy poles, or what are known in Mexico as paleta's. La Paleta sprang from the humble beginnings when owner Ami McDonald sought to run a small weekend job to supplement her work as a theatre designer. Ami's start-up capital was only \$800, and now she sometimes sells 1,000 per week. Ami has expanded the business to include wholesale and catering options. Ami and the La Paleta team are committed to operating an environmentally ethical and sustainable business for the long term.

The sponsor of the 'Young Entrepreneur Award' was Business News. Business News aims to be the best news and information service, providing the insights, connection and opportunities of doing business in the nation's most successful economy. They achieve this through an editorial team that is committed to delivering quality and trusted news and information and engaging with the full range of business sectors in the WA economy via print and digital platforms.

Five multi award winning business were also inducted into the Hall of Fame of the Belmont Small Business Awards. Attendees on the night enjoyed a WA Designer Showcase which was supported by House of Skye, Accesso-ride, Convict Bags, Jonte, Debbie Kelly Millinery and Ingrid Hocking Couture. Alpha Models showcased their talented development Models with hair styling provided by Pierrots and makeup by SC Make-Up Artistry. In addition, entertainer Miss Poppy performed on the night.

For further details on all winners of the 21st Belmont Small Business Awards 2014 visit [www.belmontbec.com/awards](http://www.belmontbec.com/awards)

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