

BUSINESS



FINALISTS: The teams at The Bean and Caderra are eagerly awaiting the results of the Bay Hospitality Awards in which they are finalists. Photos Troy Baker E2481-02/E2486-05

Eastern Bay eateries finalists in Bay Hospitality Awards

Alex Roa
Staff reporter

TWO Eastern Bay eateries have been named finalists in the 2022 Bay Hospitality Awards.

The Bean Café and Roastery in Whakatāne is a finalist for Outstanding Café and Caderra Ōhope is a finalist in the Outstanding Regional Establishment category.

Kevin Hayter, co-owner of The Bean, said he was overwhelmed “in a good way” to be named a finalist.

“It’s quite overwhelming. The response from the locals has just been incredible,” he said.

A restaurant association representative had also dropped a poster at the café, which locals and staff were blown away by, Mr Hayter said.

He said they sent out monthly updates to their customer phone list, including offering free coffees on members’ birthdays, and had many people respond positively to the news, coming in to congratulate the staff.

“It was almost every second customer was saying congratulations, and to my knowledge nothing like this has ever happened. It feels great, I think our staff really deserve it,” he said.

He said business had been steady and credits the “fantastic” community for their support.

A group of consistent café-goers have also began calling themselves “The Bean Brigade”, leading to Mr Hayter organising 38 T-shirts for the club and staff.

It is this “strong local base” that The Bean staff credit for their award nomination.

Mr Hayter said they were going to hire a van and take their nine staff to the awards night in Tauranga on July 3, regardless of whether they won.

He said he wanted to motivate his staff and give them something to be proud of, so he and wife Akiko decided they would pay for everyone’s tickets so they could attend.

“It’s a win-win really. They deserve it after all their hard work,” he said.

“It’s a long shot if we win it, some of those other cafes are really nice, but just to get this far is so cool.”

He jokes that if they win, he will start his speech by saying, “Whakatāne, what a place to go”.

Cadera co-owner Kathy Potter shares Mr Hayter’s proud sentiments.

“I was surprised when I found out, but really excited and happy,” she said. “We got the nomination and I didn’t

really know too much about the awards but I thought it was pretty cool; we’re really stoked.”

Like The Bean, Caderra has a strong local base, and Ms Potter credited their regulars for their success as a restaurant.

She said that times had been difficult with staffing and supply shortages but she was grateful for the work her staff put in, and the support from the community, to keep Caderra running smoothly.

“The staff are all pumped, they’re getting behind it, and we’re planning a staff party for it,” she said.

It is the first time Caderra has been nominated for the hospitality awards.

A poster is out on the counter and Ms Potter said regulars had been showing their friends and getting them to vote as well.

New Four Square owners settle in

Alex Roa
Staff reporter

FOUR Square Ōhope Beach has landed in good hands under the new ownership of Ewan and Larissa Lorney.

It has been a busy few weeks for the couple – since taking over the Four Square at the end of May, they have welcomed their second baby to their family, a little brother for 18-month-old Hugo.

The couple, originally from Mount Maunganui but with familial ties to Ōhope, previously owned the Hillcrest Four Square in Hamilton for nearly three years.

Mr Lorney said the change was more “a lifestyle change, not a career move”, as they had holidayed and enjoyed the Eastern Bay for many years and wanted to return to raise their children here.

“We moved to Ōhope, for Ōhope. We have always loved it, it’s just so nice here. Even in our previous store this has always been the store we wanted,” he said.

Mr Lorney also spent some of his younger years in Whakatāne and attended James Street School.

The community has welcomed them with open arms, and the couple have felt very supported by other local businesses and their staff.

“The locals probably already know this but the staff here are amazing. Everyone was so welcoming. The community is great; already on day one you are on a first-name basis with some of the other local businesses.

“We missed the community vibe [in Hamilton], and that is a big reason why we came over here,” Mr Lorney said.

The couple have big plans to

bring the Ōhope Four Square up to the new nationwide Four Square standards – including new stock and a fresh food drive.

Mr Lorney said they hope to “eliminate people’s need to go over the hill as much as possible,” and become a reliable one-stop shop for Ōhope residents.

“No one’s got spare time or spare fuel to go over the hill, so we wanted to make it easy for locals,” he said.

The new Four Square owners have already sponsored a golf cart at the Ōhope Golf Club and are part of a fundraiser for the Westpac Rescue Helicopter.

They will be taking on more community-based projects over the coming months.

WELCOME: Ewan and Larissa Lorney, the new owners of the Ōhope Four Square, with son Hugo. Photo supplied

