



Franchise Council of Australia Media Release

FCA CONGRATULATES WINNERS OF THE QLD/NT EXCELLENCE IN FRANCHISING AWARDS

Monday 10 April

Queensland and Northern Territory franchisees celebrated success at the FCA Excellence in Franchising Regional Awards.

The Franchise Council of Australia (FCA) honoured franchising's best in Brisbane last Friday at the FCA QLD/NT Excellence in Franchising Regional Awards for 2017.

Celebrating at the Hilton, winners of the night included Tim Spreadborough of Hire A Hubby who won Field Manager of the Year and Sandra Carrington of FAD Cheer and Dance who took home the coveted Franchise Woman of the Year Award.

"I'm honoured to represent women in franchising. Rewarding and recognising women in business for the achievements they've made is really great encouragement, it's wonderful recognition for 20 years in the industry both as franchisee and franchisor and it means a lot to my brand," Carrington said.

Other winners of the night included Mark and Joanne Skews, from Pack & Send, who won Single Unit Franchisee of the Year less than two staff Award, Russell Hampton of Hire A Hubby, Single Unit Franchisee of the Year two or more staff, and Dione Mauric, Finn Franchise Brokers winning the Multi Unit Franchisee of the Year Award.

When Dione began with Finn Franchise Brokers, she was the second broker in two territories. Since then, the company has continued to successfully grow to 22 brokers nationally.

"It's real recognition of the value that our business brings to the franchising industry," added Mauric. "We work very closely with all franchise business across all brands in Sunshine Coast and Northern Queensland, and it's a real honour to be recognised for all that hard work. We're a professional services business so it's really important that the franchisees and the clientele within our network territory understand what we do and the value we can add. So we spend a lot of time actually out in the field talking to franchisees on a day-to-day basis, helping them with their exit planning strategies."

With their combined backgrounds in transport that spans over 30 years, Mark and Joanne were keen to have one last adventure and decided to make the jump from New Zealand to Australia to work in Pack & Send and utilise their skills. "We understood the Pack & Send franchise in New Zealand and Joanne also has a background in running a very successful retail business. We loved visiting Queensland, and when we saw the business for sale it was just the next logical step. So we spent the next three months going back and forth for meetings and setting it all up we basically jumped off a cliff and it worked!" said Mark Skew.

Joanne acknowledged that the Awards process is tough, which makes winning all the more satisfying.

"It's a lot of work but it makes you appreciate what the franchising industry is all about. If you work hard, it really pays off. There's been a lot of mistakes made along our journey, but the biggest thing we've learnt is to stick to our strong business plan. We assess the plan every day and because of that, we have taken huge leaps. It's our to-do list."

Following their success, all winners have qualified as finalists for the FCA National Excellence in Franchising Awards. The Gala Dinner will be held at the RACV Royal Pines on Tuesday 10 October at the culmination of the National Franchise Convention (NFC17).

WINNERS

QLD/NT Multi Unit Franchisee of the Year

Dione Mauric, Finn Franchise Brokers

QLD/NT Single Unit Franchisee of the Year - two or more staff

Russell Hampton, Hire A Hubby

QLD/NT Single Unit Franchisee of the Year less than two staff

Mark and Joanne Skews, PACK & SEND

QLD/NT Franchise Woman of the Year

Sandra Carrington FAD Cheer and Dance

QLD/NT Field Manager of the Year

Tim Spreadborough, Hire A Hubby

Images available [here](#)

Please enter the password **fcaqldnt17** to access the photos.

ENDS

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