

Covid delays inspire a new approach for Kudos Trust

In 2020 Covid19 changed the world we live in. Two years on we are in combat with another foe; misinformation. Regardless, science has remained at the forefront and has been our most reliable ally in keeping Aotearoa and our world safe.

Due to the major impact on the events sector especially regional and national events, the Kudos Science Trust recently made the call to hold off the 15th annual Kudos Awards (planned for 3 March 2022) until later in the year. The Trust believes this is a great opportunity to innovate.

"Instability around the events sector means we constantly need to review how we do things. This brings an opportunity to reset and make sure we're still delivering an impactful and purposeful event while ensuring we're using our valued sponsorships wisely," says Kudos CEO, Soteria Ieremia.

Since 2007 the Kudos Science Trust has recognised over 300 scientists at its annual Kudos Awards celebrations and has awarded prize money to help scientists further research, buy tools and attend international conferences. Many Kudos scientists have gone on to make enormous scientific contributions to research and innovation all around the world.

The window for annual events has narrowed each year since the pandemic which has influenced the Trust's decision to run one major science showcase event. This showcase will replace the call for nominations for 2022, however the Kudos Awards will return in 2023. This year's Kudos event aims to highlight the 2021 winners, and also launch the inaugural Kudos Hall of Fame, spotlighting past Kudos scientists whose work has taken the region and New Zealand onto the international stage.

Kudos Chair Ross Lawrenson explains "We're excited about this year's event, not only will we be recognising our 2021 scientists, but we'll have an inspiring showcase of past and present, highlighting the contribution some of our regional scientists have made over the past 15 years, not only to the Waikato but to New Zealand and the rest of the world."

This move has been supported by our loyal sponsors. "There is a depth of science expertise and knowledge in Hamilton and Waikato that deserves recognition," says Hamilton City Councillor Ryan Hamilton, Economic Development Committee Chair. "This is a great platform to showcase this calibre of science talent and highlight the successful journeys of scientists from our own backyard."

The Kudos Science Trust expanded in 2015 to bring the region's scientists and schools together to support Science and STEM education and in 2020 cast its net wider to include science organisations and schools in the Toi Moana/Bay of Plenty and Rotorua.

The date for the new Kudos Science Showcase will be announced shortly.

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