



Top Businesses in County Wicklow honoured



The Winners of the Wicklow County Enterprise Awards 2010. (L-R: County Manager Eddie Sheehy, Claudine O'Meara and Derek Quinn of Movie Extras, Michael Ryan, Operations Director, the People Newspapers Group and Guest Speaker at the event, Senator Feargal Quinn).



Ciara Troy, Managing Director of Oishii Foods Ltd., Bray, with Mr. Eddie Sheehy and Senator Feargal Quinn.

The cream of local businesses in County Wicklow was honoured at the 'Wicklow County Enterprise Awards 2010', held on Monday 5th July at the Parkview Hotel, Newtownmountkennedy. Organised by Wicklow County Enterprise Board, and sponsored by The Wicklow People, Greenstar and Eolas Recruitment, over 100 businesses from all over the County entered, in eight categories.

The Winners were:

- Business of the Year Award (overall) – Derek Quinn, Movie Extras
- Women in Business Award – Monica Schaefer, IDEA Ltd.
- Green Business Award – Tomas O'Leary, Irish Passive House Academy
- Manufacturing Industries Award – Thomas O'Dowd, Astron Engineering Ltd.
- Services Industries Award – Tony Harbison, RTD Technology Ltd.
- Exporter Award – Sherry Nugent, Irish Quilting Magazine
- "SYOB Programme" Business Award - Jean Condron, Hats by Jean
- Wicklow CEB Client Company Award – Ciara Troy, Oishii Foods Ltd.

Winners received a specially commissioned Award by local craftsman Padraig O'Murchu, a Netbook, computer training in open source software, free advertising in the Wicklow People, and mentoring sessions. The overall Award of 'Business of the Year 2010' went to Derek Quinn and Claudine O'Meara of Movie Extras. Wicklow County Enterprise Board would like to wish the best of luck to Ciara Troy of Oishii Foods Ltd. She won the 'Wicklow CEB Client Company Award' and will go on to represent County Wicklow in the National Enterprise Awards to be held in the Shelbourne Hotel, Dublin in November.

Speaking after the event, Sheelagh Daly, CEO of Wicklow County Enterprise Board, praised the entrepreneurial spirit of the Award Winners, and all those that entered. "With business owners experiencing some of the most challenging and difficult conditions ever, the Awards are a timely reminder that we need to continue to both acknowledge and celebrate the energy, commitment and resilience of our local entrepreneurs."



Sheelagh Daly, CEO of Wicklow County Enterprise Board celebrates with winners in the Parkview Hotel. (L-R: Sheelagh Daly, Jean Condron, Ciara Troy, Thomas O'Dowd, Monica Schaefer, Sherry Nugent, Tony Harbison, Derek Quinn and Claudine O'Meara).



Tomas O'Leary, Irish Passive House Academy with Senator Feargal Quinn.

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## New Jobs in 2010 can be exempt from Employers PRSI

Earlier this year the government launched a new scheme that allows employers to claim an exemption from their share of PRSI on certain new jobs created in 2010. Employers PRSI can be up to 10.75% of an employee's salary, a significant cost of employment for SMEs.

In order to claim the exemption the following criteria must be met:

- The job must be created in 2010. Where the exemption is granted it will last for 12 months from the date it is granted
- It must be a new job - a new employee replacing an existing employee does not qualify

- The employee hired must have been on the live register for at least 6 months. It must last for at least 6 months and be for at least 30 hours / week
- The number of new jobs for which the exemption may be granted is restricted to 5% of the employer's existing workforce or 5 new jobs, whichever is the greater.

Further details of the Employer Job (PRSI) Incentive Scheme are available at [www.welfare.ie](http://www.welfare.ie) and from the Employer Job (PRSI) Incentive Scheme section, Department of Social Protection, Floor 2, Shannon Lodge, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co Leitrim at LoCall 1890 927 999.

## Wicklow businesses Take Off!



Claire Minogue, Manager of Enterprise Ireland's 'First Flight' Programme, John Whelan, CEO of the Irish Exporters Association, Sheelagh Daly, CEO Wicklow County Enterprise Board, and Seamus Hayes, Fitzwilliam Training & Consulting.



Sinead O'Connor, Amie Organics & Alison Banton, Brooke & Shoals at the Exporting Seminar in April 2010.

Following on from the very successful Seminar - 'Exploring Export Markets' - held in April 2010, Wicklow County Enterprise is offering a follow up two day training course on the topic of exporting, entitled 'How to Start Exporting'. This course will cover market research in a different country, cultural differences, overseas support networks, and preparing for

exporting. It takes place on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> and Friday 26<sup>th</sup> November in the Ramada Woodland Court Hotel, Bray from 9.30-5pm each day. For more information, and to book your place go to [www.wicklowceb.ie/training](http://www.wicklowceb.ie/training) or phone Louise/Tamara on 0404 30800.

## Exciting Opportunity for the Over 50s

The first specially tailored 50+ Start Your Own Business programme is starting in Wicklow on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2010. The Mid East Region County Enterprise Boards (Wicklow, Meath & Kildare) are piloting this programme as part of an overall initiative, Senior Enterprise, which has recently been approved for support by the EU through INTERREG IVB.

The 50+ Start Your Own Business programme is targeting individuals over fifty who are interested in setting up a business and will be delivered over nine consecutive Saturday mornings. The sessions are designed to equip the participants with a solid foundation for setting up their business as well as an understanding of how to approach risk management and other

issues such as developing an exit strategy. The final session in the tenth week is a residential workshop where participants from all three Counties will be brought together. For more information or to book a place on the programme please contact Tamara on 0404 30800 or book online at [www.wicklowceb.ie](http://www.wicklowceb.ie)

## Where can an SME Business access Funding?

Wicklow County Enterprise Board's October Seminar promises to do exactly what it says on the tin! – to inform small & medium businesses in County Wicklow of the options available when raising funds to grow a business. The Seminar is primarily aimed at existing businesses and will be presented by two of Ireland's experts, concentrating on different angles of the topic. John Finn will focus on the macro perspective, by painting a

picture of the overall climate for lending to SMEs in Ireland at present. Lar Burke will look at things from the perspective of the SME (the borrower) and deal with alternative sources of funding. The Seminar takes place in the Parkview Hotel, Newtownmountkennedy on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> October, from 2pm – 5pm. It is free of charge, and open to all, but places must be reserved in advance online at [www.wicklowceb.ie/training](http://www.wicklowceb.ie/training).

## Your First Step towards Funding



Did you know that an organisation by the name of 'First Step' offers loans to small businesses in Ireland? The loans are up to

a maximum of €25,000, a 9% interest rate applies, and your application must be in the form of a good Business Plan. The service applies to existing businesses as well as start-ups, and to those who have been refused funding by a bank, or need to top up bank funding secured. Wicklow County Enterprise Board is working in conjunction with First Step to assist applicants in writing a good business plan. For more information visit [www.first-step.ie](http://www.first-step.ie)

## Wicklow Displays its Entrepreneurial Spirit at Croke Park



Bill Cullen and Minister Batt O'Keefe presenting Timothy Quaid from Colaiste Bhríde in Carnew with his Award for Best Display at the National Final in Croke Park.

Young entrepreneur Timothy Quaid from Colaiste Bhríde in Carnew walked away from the National Final of the Student Enterprise Awards on the 27<sup>th</sup> April a very happy young man. He won the Best Display Award at the County & City Enterprise Boards event, held for the first time in Croke Park Conference Centre. This prestigious award included prize money, a certificate, trophy and the opportunity to meet Bill Cullen, from TV3's The Apprentice.

Timothy is a sole trader who has been running his Mini-Company The Quaid Quartet since September. Timothy and three of his siblings are gifted musicians; they recorded a CD of their best pieces and sold it in a wide number of locations. They are currently working on a new album of classical and jazz

music for the Christmas market.

The Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Innovation, Batt O'Keefe T.D., together with one of Ireland's best-known entrepreneurs, Bill Cullen, were both clearly impressed with the standard of enterprise at this year's National Final. Speaking at the awards ceremony, Minister O'Keefe commented: "With nearly 15,000 students now involved in the Student Enterprise Programme nationally, it's apparent that the spirit of enterprise has been well fostered in Irish classrooms. Thanks to the support of teachers, parents, principals and the local County and City Enterprise Boards, our student entrepreneurs here at the National Final are great ambassadors for the overall Student Enterprise Programme."

## Mná na hEireann gather in November 2010

A reminder to all women in business in County Wicklow that National Women's Enterprise Day will take place this year on the evening of Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> and all day Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November in the Strand Hotel, Limerick. This annual event is an initiative

of the County & City Enterprise Boards nationally, and aims to celebrate women's enterprise with a conference, exhibition, mentor clinics and networking. The delegate fee is €100, and all information is on the website [www.nwed.ie](http://www.nwed.ie).

## Business & I.T. Training Courses

Whether you are in the initial stages of business or are interested in growing your existing business, Wicklow County Enterprise Board has a broad selection of training supports available to you this season.

Topic	Start Date	Venue	Cost
SEMINAR "5 Steps to Becoming Self-Employed" <b>BOOKED OUT</b>	Wed 01-Sep	Glenview Hotel, Glen o'the Downs	FREE
Investigating Your Business Idea <b>BOOKED OUT</b>	Sat 04-Sep	Glenview Hotel, Glen o'the Downs	FREE
Sage Line 50	Wed 08-Sep	Wicklow County Campus, Rathnew	€150
Start Your Own Business	Thur 16-Sep	Glenview Hotel, Glen o'the Downs	€95
Tax & VAT for Start Ups	Mon 20-Sep	Wicklow County Campus, Rathnew	€100
Management Development Programme	Thur 23-Sep	Glenview Hotel, Glen o'the Downs	€400
Start Your Own Business for Over-50's	Sat 25-Sep	Glenview Hotel, Glen o'the Downs	€100
Low Cost Web Design	Thur 30-Sep	Wicklow County Campus, Rathnew	€150
Investigating Your Business Idea	Sat 02-Oct	Glenview Hotel, Glen o'the Downs	FREE
Start Your Own Business	Tue 05-Oct	Wicklow County Campus, Rathnew	€95
Start Your Own Business	Wed 13-Oct	Arklow Business Enterprise Centre	€95
SEMINAR "Where can a Business Access Funding?"	Wed 14-Oct	Parkview Hotel, Newtownmtkennedy	FREE
Driving Your Own PR Campaign	Fri 15-Oct	Arklow Business Enterprise Centre	€50
Driving Traffic to your Website <b>BOOKED OUT</b>	Mon 18-Oct	Wicklow County Campus, Rathnew	€50
Bookkeeping for Small Businesses	Mon 01-Nov	Wicklow County Campus, Rathnew	€125
How to Increase Sales in Your Business	Wed 03-Nov	Avon Rí conference Centre, Blessington	€100
Design your own Social Media Campaign	Thur 04-Nov	Wicklow County Campus, Rathnew	€50
A Step by Step Guide to Accessing Finance	Fri 05-Nov	Ramada Woodland Court Hotel, Bray	€100
E-Commerce & My Business	Fri 12-Nov	Wicklow County Campus, Rathnew	€50
How to Start Exporting	Fri 19-Nov	Ramada Woodland Court Hotel, Bray	€100
Investigating Your Business Idea	Sat 20-Nov	Glenview Hotel, Glen o'the Downs	FREE
Figuring out your Pricing Strategy	Fri 25-Nov	Wicklow County Campus, Rathnew	€50
Bookkeeping using Excel	Mon 06-Dec	Wicklow County Campus, Rathnew	€50
SEMINAR "Budget Breakfast Briefing"	tbw early Dec	Glenview Hotel, Glen o'the Downs	€15

For further information on the Autumn/Winter Training Programme or to book a place visit [www.wicklowceb.ie/training](http://www.wicklowceb.ie/training) or call Wicklow County Enterprise Board at: 0404 30800.



Investing in your future

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