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Barker's SC's finest business

BARKER'S of Geraldine has been named South Canterbury's supreme business.

The food and beverage company received the top accolade at last night's South Canterbury Chamber of Commerce Business Excellence Awards.

Barker's, which buys about 1000 tonnes of fruit annually from New Zealand growers, was also recognised with the Primary and Manufacturing Award.

The family-owned business expanded its operation in 2008 when they extended their Geraldine plant to incorporate house production of the Anathoth brand of jams and pickles.

Barker's was founded in Geraldine in 1969 by Anthony Barker and employs about 120 people in its operation.

As well as acquiring Anathoth, Barker's is in partnership with

Christchurch-owned Tandoori Palace. The brand's range of Indian cuisine simmer sauces is produced in Geraldine. Barker's is also a major producer of sauces, fillings and processed fruit for bakeries and restaurants in New Zealand and Australia.

Judge Stephen McFarlane said he was impressed with the standard of entries, and in particular the finalists.

"The judging process was an insight into local businesses that are not just leaders in their sectors in South Canterbury, but also in New Zealand and in one or two cases, internationally.

Mr McFarlane said the awards were an opportunity to celebrate excellence in the business community.

Guest speakers at the awards ceremony were broadcaster Bill Ralston and Weta Studios general

manager Tim Launder.

AWARD WINNERS

Hospitality and Tourism:

Glacier Explorers, Aoraki Mt Cook Alpine Village

Primary and Manufacturing:

Barker's of Geraldine

Exporter: Smart Energy and Starwood

Retail: Placemakers

Technology and Innovation:

Industrial Controls South Canterbury

Community Organisation:

Bidwill Trust Hospital

Service: Grant Jenkins Contracting

Supreme: Barker's of Geraldine



Supreme business: Michael Barker, from Barker's of Geraldine, received a standing ovation at the South Canterbury Business awards last night.

Photo: JOHN BISSET