



Scottish Council for
Development and Industry

PRESS RELEASE

“CAPTIVATING INTRODUCTION” TO THE HEBRIDES WINS TOURISM AWARD

18 September 2009

A small, family-owned North Uist travel business has been presented with a prestigious prize for insightful and delightful tours which have resulted in many repeat visitors to the Hebrides.

The Caledonian MacBrayne Award for Excellence in Tourism was last night presented to Grenitote Travel for their passion and wealth of local knowledge in welcoming their guests to and promoting the islands, and for providing them all with a truly exceptional visitor experience. Established in 1996, Grenitote Travel is run by father and daughter, Mike Bull and Kathryn Wilkie, and it offers luxury coach guided tours showcasing North Uist and Berneray.

The presentation was made by HSBC's Chief Executive Officer for Scotland, John Rendall, at the Scottish Council for Development and Industry's 10th Highlands and Islands Annual Dinner and Business Excellence Awards, which attracted 350 guests from around the region.

Mike Bull said:

“When Kathryn and I were told of the award we were very surprised and delighted to be receiving such a prestigious award. We would like to thank Caledonian MacBrayne and the people who nominated us’.

“North Uist is an island that is not well known and our main aim in operating these tours has been to open a window to let people see how beautiful our island is and hopefully encourage them to return to holiday on the island which in turn would benefit our economy.”

David Taylor, Caledonian MacBrayne's Regional Manager for the Hebrides, said:

“CalMac is delighted to award its Excellence in Tourism award to Grenitote Travel of North Uist.

“This small, family-owned business based in North Uist, provides a true insight into the wildlife, scenery, archaeology, culture and folklore of the islands through its guided tours of North Uist and Berneray. Their personal commentaries are entertaining and informative, and they have been delighting visitors to the islands for many years. Their passion for the islands and their attention to detail result in a product of genuine quality, and many visitors return to the Hebrides year after year having been captivated on their introduction to these islands by owner Mike Bull and his daughter Kathryn.”



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The full winners list of winners was:

- Caledonian MacBrayne Award for Excellence in Tourism - Grenitote Travel, North Uist
- Crown Estate Award for Excellence in a Marine Business - The Underwater Centre, Fort William
- Global Energy Award for Excellence in People Development - Alcan Aluminium UK, Fort William
- Gordon & MacPhail Award for Excellence in Entrepreneurship - Freda Newton, Owner and Managing Director, Jacobite Cruises, Inverness
- HSBC Award for Excellence in International Business - Lossie Seafoods, Buckie
- Highlands and Islands Enterprise Award for Excellence in Research and Innovation – Blueshell Mussels, Shetland
- SEPA Award for Excellence in Environmental Sustainability - Touchwood Recycling, Uig, Skye
- SCDI Award for Highlands and Islands Young Engineers Club of the Year – Tarbert Academy, Argyll
- SCDI Highlands and Islands Chairman’s Award for Outstanding Business Achievement – Marine Harvest, Fort William

This year’s event was the 10th SCDI Highlands and Islands Annual Dinner and Business Excellence Awards and it was held at The Drumossie Hotel in Inverness. The evening was hosted by Fred MacAulay and after dinner entertainment was provided by Sandi Toksvig.

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