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NIBA announces awards for top insurance brokers

The National Insurance Brokers Association (NIBA) has announced the ACT/NSW regional winners of two awards which recognise excellence in the broking profession. The awards were announced at today's annual NIBA NSW Awards Lunch at the Sofitel Wentworth in front of an audience of more than 350 insurance professionals.

The Broker of the Year Award, sponsored by Zurich Australia Insurance Limited, goes to an individual broker who is deemed an inspirational role model for the broking community, who has demonstrated excellence in broking practice and client advocacy, as well as leadership, innovation and creativity. The winner is Tony Bourke, Director of AIIB Insurance Brokers' Newcastle Office. Cara Donnelly of Hornsby based Paul Donnelly Insurance Brokers is the runner-up.

The Young Professional Broker of the Year recognises the broking industry's rising stars under the age of 35. Candidates must have appropriate qualifications and experience and have demonstrated a commitment to the development and promotion of the insurance broking industry, to their personal development and to the team in which they work. The award has been sponsored by Vero Insurance Limited since 1990.

Adam Hines, the NSW General Manager of Gibbcorp, claimed the young broker award ahead of Drew Ferns from OAMPS' Wollongong branch and Eric Lowenstein of Aon.

ACT/NSW winners

Broker of the Year

Winner: Tony Bourke, AIIB

Runner up: Cara Donnelly, Paul Donnelly Insurance Brokers

Young Professional Broker of the Year

Winner: Adam Hines, Gibbcorp

Runners up: Drew Ferns, OAMPS Insurance Brokers; Eric Lowenstein, Aon

NIBA CEO Dallas Booth said: "Once again we offer our congratulations to all the finalists here today, who exemplify the highest standards of professionalism and competence in the broking profession. There was a great deal of broking talent on show and we wish Tony and Adam the best of luck ahead of the national awards."

The national Broker of the Year and Young Professional (the Warren Tickle Memorial Award) will be chosen from the State and Territory winners and announced at NIBA's National Convention in Adelaide on 14-16 September.

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NIBA is an independent industry association representing 500 firms and more than 2600 intermediaries, who handle almost 90% of the commercial insurance transacted in Australia. Brokers play a major role in insurance distribution, handling \$18 billion in premiums annually and placing around half of Australia's total insurance business.