



**Media Release  
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### **New Zealand Demolition and Asbestos Association announces the winners of the 2023 Demolition & Asbestos Awards**

The New Zealand Demolition and Asbestos Association (NZDAA) is pleased to announce the winners of the Demolition & Asbestos Awards 2023.

The Annual Awards Evening held in Auckland last week was attended by 150 people from 16 companies. The NZDAA made some changes to the awards this year with the introduction of some new asbestos specific categories, as well as changing the names for some of their demolition categories to align with their best practice guidelines.

The 2023 Award Winners are as follows:

- **Health & Safety Best Practice Award:** Central Demolition
- **Environmental Best Practice Award:** Nikau Contractors
- **Class A Asbestos Removal Best Practice Award:** McMahon Services
- **Restricted Demolition Best Practice Award:** Ward Demolition
- **Unrestricted Demolition Best Practice Award:** Nikau Contractors
- **Assessor of the Year:** Emrhys Sheldon from Astech Consulting
- **Services to Demolition Award:** John Stil – Nikau Contractors
- **Contractor of the Year:** Nikau Contractors

The awards are judged by independent industry experts who are invited to be part of the judging panel. The NZDAA thanks each of the judges not only for their support of the awards platform, but also for their time and effort in reading every submission and carefully evaluating each category. The 2023 awards judges were: Mark Anthony – International Journalist & Founder of Demolition News.com, James Williams – Health & Safety Consultant and Dr Terri-Ann Berry – Associate Professor at Unitec’s Environmental Solutions Research Centre.

The judges all made comment on how selecting the winners gets harder and harder every year as the calibre of the projects not only increases, but also the quality of the submissions with photographs and videos to really showcase the work undertaken. International judge Mark Anthony said, “some of the entries this year have been really exceptional.” Judge James Williamson who has been involved in the awards since their inception said, “it’s really challenging to separate the projects particularly when the quality is so high, it ends up coming down to minor details. We commend each of the companies who submitted projects for review for the amazing work they are doing”.

The Contractor of the Year Award is chosen by the judges from across all the entries that were received. The winner may be selected for the range and quality of projects they entered and not necessarily because they won a specific category. This year's Contractor of the Year award recipient was Nikau Contractors who were commended by the judges for the diverse range of projects they submitted for the awards this year.

Contact:

Sarah Tohill

NZDAA Communications

[nzdaa@nzdaa.com](mailto:nzdaa@nzdaa.com)

[www.nzdaa.com](http://www.nzdaa.com)

## **2023 Award Winner Summaries**

### **Health & Safety Best Practice - Central Demolition**

Central demolition implements a robust safety system to ensure that everyone is covered when it comes to Health and Safety. Their strategy fits around 4 key areas; communication, training, inclusion, recognition and leadership. One of their key focuses is around mental health and in particular, men's mental health. They have a number of support strategies including an inhouse counselling service and guest speakers. As a result of their support activities they have seen improvement in moral and a decline in numbers requesting support.

### **Environmental Best Practice – Nikau Contractors**

Nikau Contractors Ltd undertook a significant demolition project for Corteva Agriscience (formerly DOW Chemicals) in New Plymouth. This particular site held historical significance as it was involved in the production of the herbicide 2,4, 5-T from the 1960s to 1987. This herbicide notably contained the highly toxic dioxin TCDD and was a crucial element in the United States military defoliant known as Agent Orange. Nikau Contractors faced the substantial responsibility in ensuring the safe and complete removal of all infrastructure while meticulously managing potential environmental risks, given the site's historical association with toxic substances.

### **Class A Best Practice - McMahon Services**

McMahon Services were engaged to remove asbestos at Waikeria Top Jail that had been severely damaged by fire. The scope of work included 15,000m<sup>2</sup> of buildings and an additional 15,000m<sup>2</sup> of grassed areas, roads and hard standing. Due to the size and complexity of the job, numerous challenges were encountered on site, such as unexpected asbestos finds, contaminated land, inaccessible areas and high contamination areas. It was assumed that most of the waste would have to go to a contaminated site, however McMahon's thorough approach and methodology ensured that the majority of the waste was able to be recycled and only a small proportion went to a contaminated landfill.

### **Restricted Demolition Best Practice - Ward Demolition**

Ward Demolition were tasked with the demolition of the Mercury Southdown power station, a cogeneration facility located in Penrose Auckland. The project presented a massive challenge aiming to clear a 2.2-hectare site for future use. Challenges included the deconstruction of a wet surface air condenser (cooling tower) situated within the vicinity of a high-voltage live site. Any misstep had the potential to create serious safety hazards and could even disrupt a significant portion of Auckland's power supply infrastructure. Ward achieved a 100% recovery rate for all the structural materials onsite. All concrete was crushed on-site and repurposed for the site's foundation and metals were transported for recycling to minimize carbon emissions.

### **Unrestricted Demolition Best Practice – Nikau Contractors**

Nikau Contractors were tasked with reshaping the engineering landscape with the enlargement and replacement of 3 x generator turbines at the Karapiro Dam site. The scope of project was immense and included dismantling steel discharge rings and backing concrete within 17-meter-deep, 5.8-meter-wide shafts. Many obstacles emerged in the form of dust and fume emissions during demolition and the intricate manoeuvring required within confined spaces for access and egress. Nikau's innovative approach and commitment to precision and safety not only conquered the complexities of this project but is now one of their benchmark projects for intricate demolition works.