



IWB Businesswomen's Awards 2026

IWIB Best Business 2026

*proudly sponsored by **White Lady Funerals***

IWIB Best Small Business 2026

*proudly sponsored by **Wallawa Traffic Group***

IWIB Best Home Based Business 2026

*proudly sponsored by **Better Business Accounting***

IWIB Best New Business 2026

*proudly sponsored by **Access Law Group***

Presentation at the IWIB Businesswomen's Awards Lunch

11.00am – Friday 24th April 2026

At The Fraternity Club, Fairy Meadow

Applications are now open for the IWIB Businesswomen's Awards 2026!

Illawarra Women in Business is proud of the achievements of women in the local business community, and wants to recognize and celebrate their success through our IWIB Awards.

Entering awards are a vital part of our personal and professional development and gives those entering the opportunity to analyse themselves and their business – which in turn can help you develop professionally.

The awards are open to ALL businesses in the *Illawarra (which are either owned or operated by a female or are a female friendly working environment) that best demonstrates energy, vision, as well as a tangible business success and is an Australian registered business, company or organisation. This includes partnerships, franchises, community organisations, registered charities, commonwealth & state government departments, agencies and local government bodies.

1. APPLICATION FORM (please include this page in your application as page 2)

Name of Business:

ABN Number:

Address of Business:

Name of Applicant (person attending the judges interview):

Position in the Business:

Applicants Telephone number:

Applicants Email:

Referee 1

Name:

Business Name:

Phone Number:

Referee 2

Name:

Business Name:

Phone Number:

2. DECLARATION

I, being () warrant that the information provided is true and correct as at the time of completing this nomination. I understand and abide by the rules as stated on this entry form I agree to abide by the conditions of entry as stated.

Signature of Applicant:

Date

Signature of Business Owner or CEO:

Date

3. CATEGORY ENTERING *Please include this page as page 1 of your application*

Tick the category you are entering – tick only **ONE** box (**you may only enter one of the following categories**)

☐ **IWIB Best Business 2026**

*proudly sponsored by **White Lady Funerals***

This category is open to ALL businesses in the *Illawarra (either owned or managed by a female or are a business with a female friendly working environment). The business in this category will employ 10 or more full-time employees, the business must have been operating for a period of over 24 months.

OR

☐ **IWIB Best Small Business 2026**

*proudly sponsored by **Wallawa Traffic Group***

This category is open to ALL small businesses in the *Illawarra (either owned or managed by a female or are a business with a female friendly working environment). A small business is one which employs less than 10 full-time employees, the business must have been operating for a period of over 24 months.

OR

☐ **IWIB Best Home Based Business 2026**

*proudly sponsored by **Better Business Accounting***

This category is open to ALL businesses in the *Illawarra operating from home (either owned or managed by a female or are a business with a female friendly working environment). A business in this category is one which employs 5 or less employees or are sole traders - the business must have been operating for a period of over 24 months.

OR

☐ **IWIB Best New Business 2026**

*proudly sponsored by **Access Law Group***

This category is open to ALL businesses in the *Illawarra that have been operating for **less than two years** (either owned or managed by a female or are a business with a female friendly working environment).

4. QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED IN YOUR APPLICATION:

Please answer each question on a separate page – **word count maximum 400 words per question** – include the question and question number at the top of each page – (not included in word count)

1. Provide a general overview of your business, including a brief history and summary of your current operations
2. Describe your products and/or services. What makes your business unique and sets you apart from your competitors?
3. Describe the journey of your business and what inspired you or motivated you to take this journey.
4. Describe your business strategy for now/the future and how it delivers for your business.
5. What does your business do to satisfy its customers and how is their satisfaction measured.
6. Do you communicate a clear vision, mission and strategy?
7. Show how you innovate either technically or in other aspects of your business such as people management or marketing
8. Do you have good stakeholder relationships - for example with: customers, investors, employees, community, environment and media - please evidence this.

OR FOR Question 8 if you are a sole trader –

List your key personal achievements that have contributed to the success of your business.

HOW WE NEED YOU TO PUT YOUR APPLICATION TOGETHER:

Please put your completed Application together in the following order:

- ✓ **Category Entering** (tick **ONE** box only) – see No. 3 of this application as your Front page
- ✓ **Completed Application Form** (No. 1 of this application) as your page 2 WITH **Declaration completed** (No. 2 of the application)
- ✓ **Your Answers to Questions 1 – 8** (No. 4 of this application).
Each question is to be on a separate page with a maximum 400 word count per question – include the question you are answering at the top of each page with the question number
- ✓ The full application must be emailed (**one complete application in ONE PDF FILE**) email to events@iwib.com.au
- ✓ You will receive confirmation of receipt of your application by email, within **48 hours**. If you do not receive this confirmation, email us at events@iwib.com.au
- ✓ You may include an index & testimonials
- ✓ **Do not** email newspaper clippings & articles separately – scan them and place at the back of your application – to be included in the 1 pdf file for your application.
- ✓ If you are entering **MORE** than one (1) category – each category is to be on a separate application. Each category application needs to be emailed in it's own PDF file – 1 PDF file per category entered
- ✓ All FINALISTS are to attend the IWIB Business Women's Award Day on Friday 1st May 2026

All entries must be EMAILED to events@iwib.com.au in **ONE** PDF FILE – to be received before 5pm Monday 2nd March 2026 deadline.

No entries will be accepted after this date.

JUDGING

- ✓ All applicants will be notified within one week after 2nd March 2026 and advised if they have made it to a shortlist of finalists.
 - ✓ All shortlisted finalists will be asked to a judging day. Your category Judge will contact you regarding the date & time.
 - ✓ The winner will be announced at the IWIB Business Women's Awards Day on Friday 1st May 2026
 - ✓ A Judging Panel made up of well respected and experienced members of the Illawarra business community will judge the awards. Two (2) judges will conduct the interviews with the successful candidates who reach this stage.
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- The winner will be announced at the IWIB Business Women's Awards Day on Friday 24th April 2026 – **all finalists are to attend the Awards Presentation celebration**
 - **Tickets to the event will go on sale 8th February 2026**

Terms and Conditions

- Entries for the 2026 Awards are now open
- IWIB Business Women's Awards Sponsors and their employees are ineligible to enter the IWIB Business Women's Awards
- All entries must be emailed to events@iwib.com.au in **ONE PDF FILE** to be received before **5pm Monday 2nd March 2026 deadline**.
- No entries after this date will be accepted.
- You will receive confirmation of receipt of your application by email, within 48hours. If you do not receive this confirmation, email us at events@iwib.com.au
- The IWIB Businesswomen's Awards are free to enter and open to any female over the age of 18 provided they operate or work as an employee in a business located in the *Illawarra.
- IWIB defines the *Illawarra area to cover the local governments of Wollongong, Shellharbour, Kiama, the Shoalhaven & Camden LGA's. Applicants must conduct their business in one of these areas of local government.
- The business can be a sole trader, a private or public limited company, a partnership or limited liability partnership, a business unit within a company or a not-for-profit organisation. Businesses can operate in any trading sector.
- **It is a condition that entrants must declare** whether they, or the business they represent, are involved in (or could be involved in) any dispute or judgement that could in any way significantly interfere with the proper conduct of the Illawarra Women in Business Businesswomen Awards.
- Responsibility within the scope of these conditions cannot be accepted for any failure of confidentiality. Entrants will be expected to protect those aspects of their business that may be patentable, registerable or otherwise secret and governed by intellectual property, copyright or similar legislation.
- All information provided will be considered as confidential by Illawarra Women in Business and will only be accessible to the directors of Illawarra Women in Business and to the Judging Panels. Judges will observe the requirements of confidentiality and will declare any possible conflict of interest.
- Winners may refer to the competition in their own publicity material following approval by the organisers of such material.
- By entering the competition, applicants agree that their name may be held on an awards database.
- By entering the competition, applicants agree that their name and photo may be used in any future promotion of IWIB and similar IWIB awards, and used in any media releases associated with IWIB
- There can be no appeal against the decisions of the judges and these decisions must be accepted as final in respect of all matters concerning the IWIB Businesswomen Awards, including the interpretation of the conditions of entry.
- All applications will be destroyed 3 months after the Award Day
- No correspondence will be entered into

WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR APPLICATION

The IWIB Businesswomen's Awards 2026 are an initiative of IWIB Pty Ltd.

We thank you for entering the awards and wish all candidates the best of luck!

PLEASE NOTE

*All completed applications must be **emailed** to events@iwib.com.au*

*1 full application in **one** (1) PDF File only*

*To be received before **5pm Monday 2nd March 2026***

No entries will be accepted after this date.

All finalists must attend the IWIB Businesswomen's Awards Day event on Friday 24th April 2026

Tickets to the event will go on sale 8th February 2026