

## AWARD HIGHLIGHTS VALUE OF ACCOUNTANTS TO MAORI

The New Zealand Institute of Chartered Accountants' Outstanding New Member says Maori organisations need to be a lot smarter about getting professional advice.

Leon Wijohn from Te Rarawa, Tuhoe, Ngai Tahu and Ngati Whao picked up the award last week, including \$38,000 of prizes.

He runs a small accounting firm in Auckland, and also serves as a director of the Te Rarawa Asset Holding Company and treasurer of Maori accountants' network Nga Kaitatau o Aotearoa.

Mr Wijohn says many small Maori organisations lose time and money by not getting financial help early.

“Accountants can knock things into shape within a few months versus some of these organisations that go round in circles for years without the right sort of policies, procedures and reports in place. We’ve got some skills so people need to get out there and use them,” Mr Wijohn says.

He says improved technology has made regular financial reporting more affordable than before.