



**CELEBRATING THE 2025 WESTPAC
OUTSTANDING WOMEN AWARD WINNERS**



“ As chairwoman of the board, I am deeply honoured to witness firsthand the transformative impact the Westpac Outstanding Women Awards have in Papua New Guinea. As a woman who believes deeply in the power of opportunity and equality, I have seen how empowering women can ripple through families, communities, and industries to create lasting impact. ”

Tamzin Wardley
Westpac Board Chairwoman

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OVERVIEW



Westpac Outstanding Women Awards

After a five-year hiatus, Westpac was incredibly proud to relaunch the prestigious Westpac Outstanding Women Awards in 2025. Relaunched with a renewed vision and refreshed award categories, the program reflects the evolving landscape of female leadership, innovation and impact in Papua New Guinea.

This year's awards celebrated the achievements of seven exceptional women who have made remarkable contributions to their fields and communities. Driving change, inspiring others, and setting new standards of excellence.

Selected from over 150 nominations nationwide, the winners represent the very best of Papua New Guinea's talent and leadership across seven categories: Entrepreneurship, Not-for-Profit, Private Sector, Public Sector, Sports & Arts, Sustainability and Young Achiever.

Each recipient embodies the resilience and determination that define the spirit of Papua New Guinea's women leaders.

Beyond celebrating individual success, the Westpac Outstanding Women Awards honour the collective progress of women who are shaping the nation's future, creating pathways for others and championing a more inclusive and empowered Papua New Guinea.

AWARD CATEGORIES

Entrepreneur Award This award recognises outstanding achievement by a woman with at least a 50% shareholding in an organisation.	Not-For-Profit Award This award recognises outstanding achievement by a woman in the Not-for-Profit sector, either in a voluntary position or through a role within the organisation.
Private Sector Award This award recognises outstanding achievements by a female manager in the private and corporate sector who has contributed significantly to the performance and growth of a company.	Public Sector Award This award recognises outstanding achievement by a female manager in the public sector who has contributed significantly to the performance of any government service.
Sports & Arts Award This award recognises an exceptional woman who uses her sports or artistic talents to inspire, educate, preserve cultural heritage and drive social change through creativity and innovation.	Sustainability Award This award recognises outstanding achievement by a woman working to advocate and drive significant innovative and sustainable initiatives in her community.
Young Achiever Award This award recognises outstanding achievement by a woman in any category under the age of 35.	Overall Winning Award This award recognises an exceptional woman in Papua New Guinea who fulfills the key award criteria of leadership, good governance, innovation and success, values and sustainability.



“We believe that investment in women leads to stronger economic outcomes for Papua New Guinea and provides role models for the girls and women of the country.”

Emma Low
Managing Director, Westpac Pacific

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FINALISTS

Celebrating trailblazers and visionaries, the Westpac Outstanding Women Awards finalists represent the very best in leadership, creativity, and dedication across Papua New Guinea and beyond. These remarkable women, drawn from diverse sectors, have demonstrated outstanding commitment to excellence and community advancement. Their achievements are not only shaping their respective fields but also inspiring future generations to dream boldly and drive positive change.

Entrepreneur Award Agnes Mial Tia Annette Sete Violet Bukon	Not-For-Profit Award Delsie Casper Nick Dr Rebecca Williams Ruth Injo
Private Sector Award Anita Mosby Raka Numa Raula Samania Ned	Public Sector Award Dr Janet Rangou Dr Pamela Toliman Jenny Kone
Sports & Arts Award Cecilia Kanawi Martha Aaron Rutha – Meu Omenefa	Sustainability Award Anne-Shirley Korave Jennifer Baing Theonila Roka Matbob
Young Achiever Award Chelsea Paspalau Julie Rereve Rebecca Ruga Gima	



Winner of
Entrepreneur category

**VIOLET
BUKON**

Lae, Morobe

About

Violet Bukon is a passionate solo trader and entrepreneur from Lae, Morobe Province, who transformed her love for cooking into The Eatery Catering and Cakes, a thriving SME serving major corporate clients including Paradise Foods, Credit Corporation, and Bank of Papua New Guinea. Her business stands out for its quality service and social impact, having trained over 20 underprivileged youths and mentored women with practical skills to build confidence and independence.

Violet's entrepreneurial journey began in her home kitchen and grew through strategic partnerships, market research, and a strong digital presence. She built her business not just to succeed, but to uplift others, believing that when women are equipped with life skills, they contribute meaningfully to their families, communities, and the nation. Today, Violet is creating a legacy for her daughter and future generations of women to rise, thrive, and walk boldly in the path of entrepreneurship.



Winner of **Not for Profit**
category

DELSIE
CASPER
NICK

Wabag, Enga
Province

About

Delsie Casper Nick is a passionate advocate from Enga Province, committed to empowering marginalised groups and persons with disabilities. As President of Kun Woman Association Inc. and Director of Sirunki Disability and Marginalisation Community Association Inc., she has led initiatives addressing gender-based violence, promoting peace, and fostering inclusive development. Since 2017, she has supported over 100 women, girls, and individuals with disabilities through vocational training, literacy, farming, and arts programs. Her leadership established the Sirunki Disability Care Centre, now serving 87 individuals and setting a benchmark for inclusive care.

In recognition of her impact, Ms. Nick was nominated in the Not-for-Profit category, which celebrates women driving transformative change. Her advocacy has shifted community attitudes, reduced violence, and inspired women leaders. Through community-based leadership, she has created safe spaces and uplifted vulnerable populations. Ms. Nick's unwavering dedication makes her a truly deserving nominee.



Winner of **Private Sector category**

RAKA

NUMA RAULA

Port Moresby, National Capital District

About

Raka was nominated for her transformative leadership at Comrade Trustee Services Limited, where she drives governance innovation and strategic alignment for one of PNG's largest superannuation funds. Her work has strengthened board succession planning, enhanced compliance frameworks, and improved stakeholder engagement, contributing to institutional resilience and long-term value creation. With a Master of Law and Development from the University of Melbourne and executive training from Harvard Business School, Raka brings global insight to local business challenges. She embeds inclusive leadership into boardroom culture, shaping decisions that impact thousands of members and investors.

Beyond her corporate role, she mentors emerging leaders, champions board diversity, and introduced tailored public speaking programs for women who are building a stronger, more inclusive talent pipeline for PNG's private sector. As incoming Division Director for Toastmasters PNG & Fiji and Vice President of the PNG Women Lawyers Association, Raka leads with quiet influence, courageous visibility, and a belief that true leadership is alignment, not position.



Winner of **Public Sector**
category

DR PAMELA
TOLIMAN

Goroka, Eastern
Highlands Province

About

Coming from the medical field, Dr. Pamela Toliman was nominated in the Public Sector category for her groundbreaking work in women's health and infectious disease research. As Deputy Head of the Surveillance and Outbreaks Unit at the PNG Institute of Medical Research, she has led national efforts in HIV, STIs, cervical cancer, and antimicrobial resistance for over 20 years. Her landmark research into point-of-care HPV testing enabled PNG's first National Cervical Cancer Screening Program, delivering same-day results and treatment to women in remote areas.

During COVID-19, she led diagnostic validation and variant surveillance, becoming a trusted public communicator. A recipient of the Allison Sudradjat Prize, she co-delivered the 2024 Ruth Bishop Address and joined the Pacific Friends Advisory Board in 2025. With a PhD from UNSW and a background in genetics, sociology, and gender studies, Dr. Toliman is a passionate mentor whose leadership reflects integrity, innovation, and equity in public health.

A photograph of Rutha-Meu Omenefa, a woman with short dark hair, smiling and wearing a black sleeveless top. She is holding a trophy in her right hand and a bouquet of pink flowers in her left hand. The background is a solid light purple color.

Winner of **Sports & Arts category**

RUTHA – MEU OMENEFA

**Goroka, Eastern Highlands
Province**

About

Rutha-Meu is a passionate rugby league development coach and emerging leader in youth empowerment, gender inclusion, and community health. She coaches the U17 Boys and U18 Girls teams at the PNG NRLBID Academy, where her U18 girls team made history by reaching the 2025 Grand Final. An achievement that challenged gender norms and inspired other women to pursue coaching roles.

A second-year Psychology student at the University of Goroka, Rutha-Meu blends academic insight with practical mentorship, helping young female athletes improve both on the field and in their studies. Her coaching philosophy centers on building good people and leaders, not just winning games. She also co-facilitated the ChildFund Rugby Grassroots to Global Forum, empowering 21 young women from across PNG to become leaders in sport. As a board member of Eastern Highlands Family Voice Inc., Rutha-Meu advocates for gender-based violence prevention and community wellness. Her leadership extends to health awareness, organising cervical cancer education sessions in Goroka.

With qualifications in Olympic sports management and entrepreneurship, and a history of representing PNG in rugby union and league, she is a role model for resilience, inclusion, and transformative leadership. Her story continues to inspire a new generation of athletes and changemakers, especially young women who see sport as a pathway to personal growth, education, and community impact.

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Winner of **Sustainability category**
and **Overall Winner**

ANNE-SHIRLEY
KORAVE

**Port Moresby, National Capital
District**

About

Anne-Shirley was nominated for her outstanding leadership in social entrepreneurship and women's empowerment in Papua New Guinea. A Business Accountancy graduate from the University of Papua New Guinea, Anne-Shirley began her career at BDO Accountants before founding ASK Consultants to support SMEs. In 2018, she launched Queenpads, a pioneering initiative delivering eco-friendly, reusable sanitary pads to women and girls in remote areas where menstrual hygiene products were once unheard of. Anne-Shirley's work is driven by compassion and purpose.

Through Queenpads, she has reached isolated communities like those near the Frieda mine, combining education, dignity, and sustainability to break taboos and improve health outcomes. Her initiative has earned support from CPL, the Sir Brian Bell Foundation, and Westpac PNG. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Anne-Shirley also founded OrgConnect, linking farmers to customers and demonstrating her agility and community focus. Her journey is a testament to visionary leadership rooted in empathy, innovation, and service.





Winner of **Young Achiever** category

JULIE REREVE

**Autonomous Region
of Bougainville**

About

From the Autonomous Region of Bougainville, Julie Rereve is a visionary leader driving innovation and inclusive growth in Papua New Guinea's cocoa industry. Julie was nominated for the Young Achiever Award for her work in transforming cocoa research into community impact, bridging science, entrepreneurship, and empowerment. As Research Technical Officer at the Bougainville Department of Primary Industries Chocolate Laboratory, she has led the development of value-added cocoa products such as chocolate, powder, butter, and shell derivatives earning international recognition with a Gold Medal at the 2021 World Chocolate Championship in Paris.

Julie chairs a community-based organisation supporting over 250 farmers. Under her leadership, the group has distributed 20,000 cocoa clones, built fermentaries, and provided essential tools to improve productivity. Her governance style promotes transparency, accountability, and inclusive decision-making. A passionate advocate for women's empowerment, Julie secured K372,000 in grants to enhance cocoa quality and increase household incomes by 70%. She continues to seek funding to establish a local factory and connect Bougainville farmers to premium global markets.

Julie also runs a natural hair and body care business using local ingredients. Through mentorship, she inspires women to pursue agribusiness and innovation. Her leadership reflects the bold, impactful, and purpose-driven spirit of the Westpac Outstanding Women Awards.





“ The 2025 Westpac Outstanding Women Awards has been a powerful celebration of excellence, leadership, and inspiration. Our finalists and winners are breaking barriers and making a lasting impact in their communities and industries. We are proud to honour their achievements and look forward to sharing their stories as we continue to champion women who are shaping a stronger Papua New Guinea. A heartfelt tenkyu to all our nominators, nominees, judges, and everyone who has contributed to making this program a success. ”

Andrew Cairns
Chief Executive, Westpac PNG



Westpac Outstanding Women Awards



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