

How not to stuff up your business

Keynote speakers at this year's Bizzone Business Expo in Auckland (2-4 June) will be telling business owners how not to "stuff up" in business.

Their key message is - if you're making mistakes in business you're not alone. Two of the keynote speakers, Ross Hunter and Steve Bonnici also star in the 20-minute Stuff Up™ documentary that's running for the duration of the expo presented by WHK where eight business leaders share their stuff-ups.

This year's dynamic three keynotes – Sarah Gibbs, managing director Trilogy, Steve Bonnici, managing director Urgent Couriers and Ross Hunter co-owner of Harvey's Real Estate – will share the passion and drive that has taken them to the top with people attending the expo.

"So many people have these great ideas but they've got no plan," Ross Hunter says. "The great thing about planning is where you've got a plan, you've got all these dates and times of when things are going to happen - it keeps everyone focused to achieve certain benchmarks. And if you take a left turn instead of a right turn, get the road map out and very quickly you will find your way back to the highway. "

"In the first year I took on a partner but we didn't find out about each other enough and after a year we just didn't see eye to eye and had a fairly serious falling out," Steve Bonnici says. "I lost a significant chunk of my business in 3 months. But I haven't dwelled on the past. We have innovated and grown and built a business that has lasted 20 years."

The National Bank Seminar Series runs for all three days of the Bizzone Business Expo with 40 expert speakers. The keynote speakers will be on at 1pm on each day during 2-4 June.

"The seminar series has been run at all of Bizzone's annual expos and is gaining more popularity each year because of the very practical advice given out by the speakers," Bizzone managing director Sarah Trotman says.

"The people at Bizzone and the National Bank really understand the issues that business owners are facing and they tailor the speakers and the topics to ensure they are relevant and that they really do help and support business owners to be successful," Andy Somerville General Manager for National Bank Business Banking says. "The response is great and we have received feedback from customers who have attended telling us that the seminars helped them to spend more time achieving their goals in the business.

"It has been a difficult and challenging 12-18mths in business and the seminar series presents an opportunity for those attending to take some time to work on their business and not just in it," he says. "There is something for everyone no matter what business stage you are in and is possibly a chance to network with other business owners who are really focussed on their business.

This year's seminar series theme is around managing money with a special 'Money morning' on Thursday, 3 June from 9-30 am. Experts will discuss money matters including Khoon Goh, senior economist with The National Bank who will speak about 'Life after the Global Financial Crisis'

The National Bank Seminar Series is free to all attendees at the Bizzone Business Expo – New Zealand's largest event for business. To get a ticket go to www.bizzone.com

The Bizzone Business Expos are on at:

- Auckland from 2-4 June at the ASB Showgrounds,
- Wellington 21-23 July at the TSB Bank Arena
- and Christchurch 11-13 August at the Convention Centre

Ends

Please contact Jane Parlane for more information or for interview opportunities with Bizzone Managing Director Sarah Trotman on 09 372 7668 or 021 912631

For further information please contact Lisa McCallum on

Phone: +64 9 361 6760

Mobile: +64 021 5472 99