



## NEWS RELEASE

### BUILDER RECOGNISED AS WESTERN ISLE'S TOP YOUNG ENTREPRENEUR

*Friday 5<sup>th</sup> September 08* – Angus John MacIsaac, founder of A J Builders, has been named Western Isle's top young entrepreneur after winning a prestigious business award and a cash boost of £1000.

Angus, 31, originally from Uist, beat the business talents of Western Isle's best young start ups to win the regional final of the 2008 Prince's Scottish Youth Business Trust 'Young Entrepreneur of the Year' Awards.

Prior to setting up his own business, Angus worked as a qualified bricklayer in Barra but after seeing an increase in demand for local house-building in recent years, he decided to set up his own business and created AJ Builders. Angus successfully applied to PSYBT for a loan to purchase essential tools and materials and has created a successful thriving business with several regular contracts. As a result, Angus has been able to provide employment for one tradesman as well as taking on two apprentices. Customer satisfaction and word of mouth is especially important in a small community and this has been key to Angus' success. As well as modern bricklaying and building, Angus is also working with traditional materials such as lime to restore buildings on the Isles.

The awards ceremony, which took place on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> September in the Members Lounge, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar was attended and supported by Marilyn McDonald of Lloyds TSB Scotland who presented Angus with a cheque for £1000. He will now be considered by the judging panel to go forward for the national final taking place in Glasgow's Barony Hall on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2008. Six of the 18 regional winners will be selected to compete for the coveted national title of this year's The Prince's Scottish Youth Business Trust 'Young Entrepreneur of the Year' and the opportunity to win an additional £2,000.

The runner-up in the awards is Christine Macintosh of Heb Hostel. Christine, age 29, opened her high standard, family owned backpackers hostel in Stornoway after being inspired by her travels through different countries whilst taking a year out. After finding suitable premises, Christine opened Heb Hostel in May 2007 and has since achieved a four star rating from Visit Scotland. The 28 bed hostel is increasingly attracting regular bookings from tour groups, local groups, and tourists. Alex Macdonald, Comhairle Convenor presented Christine with a cheque for £500.

Speaking at the awards ceremony, PSYBT Regional Chairman, Roddie Mackay said, "These young entrepreneurs represent some of the most talented, creative and dedicated business people in Scotland today and we are delighted to be able to recognise and reward their achievements through these awards. They should act as a true inspiration for us all in demonstrating the necessary commitment, self belief and determination to succeed."

Manus Fullerton, Corporate and Commercial Director, Lloyds TSB Scotland added, "Entrepreneurship is essential to Scotland's future prosperity. Young people who work for themselves and set up their own businesses play an integral part in the local and Scottish economy. We are looking forward to hearing more about the individuals who are building successful businesses in Scotland as part of these awards."

## **ENDS**

For further information contact, PSYBT Regional Manager, Jane Campbell on 01851 707318 or Margaret Gibson and Louise Moore at PSYBT head office on Tel no. 0141 248 4999. Visit the PSYBT WEBSITE at [www.psybt.org.uk](http://www.psybt.org.uk)

## **Note to Editors:**

Contact details of winner: Angus John MacIsaac, 01871 890376,  
Contact details of runner-up: Christine Macintosh, 01851 709889, [www.hebhostel.com](http://www.hebhostel.com)

PSYBT was launched in January 1989 and is a national organisation with offices in 18 Regions

across Scotland. To date 8620 (10,209 proprietors) businesses have been assisted with £31.2m awarded - £27.8m in loans (89%) and £3.4m in grants (11%).