



Local woman wins eco award

Aine O'Doherty
Reporter

A CARNDONAGH woman has been awarded the JCI Donegal Environmental Leadership award.

Blaise Harvey was presented with the award during the The Outstanding Young Person Awards (TOYP) ceremony, which was held in Voodoo Vintage in Letterkenny last week.

Blaise, who founded Cycle Inishowen with partner Michael Ogden in 2012, has always been environmentally conscious and has brought these ethics to her business. A spokesperson for Cycle Inishowen said: "Cycle Inishowen are proud to be a part of the Inishowen Eco-Tourism Network, a group of **Green Hospitality** Award businesses in the area.

"The cycling itself has zero impact on the environment but Blaise and Michael also work hard behind the scenes to ensure that other elements of their holidays meet high environmental standards.

"They work with as many fellow **Green Hospitality** award businesses as possible and employ industry best practice in this regard; using biodegradable cleaning products and utilising energy from renewable sources as well as energy and water saving methods."

Blaise has recently started a campaign for a greenway from Derry to Carndonagh, and is keen to see the development of the first cross border greenway in Ireland for walking, cy-



cling and possibly horse riding. She has also put huge time and effort into marketing her company, managing to secure editorial features and mentions in many publications in Ireland and across Europe.

Blaise was recently selected as one of the official ambassadors of the new Wild Atlantic Way coastal route, and she was invited to speak at their public information meeting about the project.

JCI Donegal was set up in January 2014 and it is because of this that The Outstanding Young Person awards were held in Donegal for the first time this year.

Emma Boylan, JCI President, said: "JCI Donegal can bring so many opportunities to the young people of Donegal. These TOYP awards are only the start of what JCI will do for those who are involved. I would encourage all young people in Donegal to come to a JCI meeting to see what opportunities are awaiting them."