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For immediate release

New Zealand School of Export celebrates double success with first graduate

Belinda Andal, International Trade Officer with Red Seal Natural Health is the first exporter to graduate from the New Zealand School of Export, having completed the internationally accredited Diploma of International Trade. Her success marks the end of 17 months of study whilst working full time in Red Seal's export department, as well as driving the development of soon- to- be launched products including natural toothpaste for children under the Phyto-shield brand and UMF Active Honey.

Belinda is also the proud recipient of the School's inaugural 'Founders Award' for her valuable contribution to the ongoing development of course content and organisational processes. *"The award is given in memory of the School's co-founder Dr Robin Smith who shared my vision to bring world-class professional qualifications and training to New Zealand"* says Dr Romuald Rudzki, Director of the New Zealand School of Export.

"Belinda is one of a group of pioneering exporters who enrolled with the New Zealand School of Export when it opened in 2007 and by completing the Diploma of International Trade, she will be recognised by her counterparts overseas as a 'professional exporter.'"

Red Seal Natural Health's Management asserts: *"Red Seal is currently exporting to a number of countries mainly Australia & Pacific , North Asia and the UK. This specialist course came up at the right time, when we struggled to find skilled people here. Our only option was to train one of our existing staff and we are really pleased that Belinda took the challenge, as she has been grown very quickly from being just an administrator to a really good international trade professional."*

Belinda, who was presented with her Diploma and Award at the Red Seal Natural Health offices in Avondale, Auckland had this to say: *"It has been a steep learning*

curve, arriving in NZ and finding myself in a new career that called for specialised skills. The programme has helped me navigate my way around international trade quicker, providing me with the ammunition to support my drive to serve Red Seal's offshore clients better. It had been a challenge – having to crunch numbers and digest subject matters from one time zone to another, but overall, it has been a rewarding journey.”

ENDS

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