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### Merry Christmas and a Happy Business New Year!

2009 has been a challenging year for many businesses globally, but as the year draws to a close, figures indicate that New Zealand's business landscape is set to improve next year.

But no matter how the economy has fared, we've enjoyed bringing you all the news and events that connect, inspire and facilitate businesses in the Wellington region, and will continue to do so in 2010.

In the meantime, we hope you're able to take some time off during the festive season to relax and enjoy the company of family and friends. From all of us at Grow Wellington, Merry Christmas and here's to a successful, high-growth new year!

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## Find and Fund Offer

Global Expert can help your business save time and money, get products to market faster, make better decisions quickly and get the world's best on your team.

When you engage an expert found through the Global Expert, TechNZ will fund the first \$2,000 of the expert's fees. This offer is available to businesses who meet TechNZ criteria, one offer per business.

Additionally, the first 50 companies to use a Global Expert search by 28 February 2010 receive fully funded expert fees up to \$2,000 and can apply for more expert funding on a matched 50/50 basis.

Call Global Expert on 0800 EXPERT (0800 438 397) or email [globalexpert@frst.govt.nz](mailto:globalexpert@frst.govt.nz)

For more information [click here](#)

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## Congratulations go to...

Creative HQ company Womama, who walked away with the Best Micro Business Award 2009 at the first ever Wellington HER Businesswomen Awards.

The Petone-based company, who produce lingerie for mothers-to-be and nursing mothers, were one of seven category award winners at the awards which were presented in early December.

For more information [click here](#)



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## Getting crafty

Need to find some unique, beautiful Christmas presents?

Then head down to the new Frank Kitts Market which launched in early December and is set to run every Saturday at 10.00am.

More than 80 stalls feature artistic goodness including pottery and mosaics, musicians, food, flowers, jewellery and jugglers. Santa will be in his cave this coming Saturday and vouchers for free Celcius Coffee will also be on offer.

For more information [click here](#)

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## And more craft...

Support local artisans - and get some economical Christmas presents - at a craft market being held at the Thistle Hall in Upper Cuba Street from Friday 18 December to Thursday 24 December from 12noon to 7.00pm.

The market is cash only and organisers promise "heaps of good stuff" from just \$5.

Local artisans represented include Genevieve Packer, Gabby O'Connor, Lucy Adams and Suni Gibson.

For more information [click here](#)

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## Growing world class companies

Grow Wellington is a TechNZ partner, delivering the TechNZ business investment programme on behalf of the Foundation for Research, Science and Technology. TechNZ is focused on growing world class New Zealand companies through innovative technology.

Grow Wellington can work with you through the application process, help you to achieve your Research & Development growth plans more effectively and also help to identify the most appropriate experts to work with on your R&D. We are actively looking to work with innovative companies who are interested in taking their R&D plans to the next level.

For more information [click here](#)



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### CONTACT US

Phone **+64 4 3...**  
Fax +64 4 382 0098  
Email: [info@growwellington.co.nz](mailto:info@growwellington.co.nz)  
Level 5, 50 Manners St  
PO Box 10-347  
Wellington 6143, New Zealand

[www.growwellington.co.nz](http://www.growwellington.co.nz)

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