

Havoc owner Sheryl Abbott and birthday girl Libby, 6, displaying the award-winning coffee and the new olive oil, in Sheryl's special coffee-roasting room.

By NICHOLA LOBBAN (Wanganui Chronicle)

LOCAL COFFEE roaster Sheryl Abbott has once again taken her place amongst New Zealand's best, after winning two bronze awards at the New Zealand Coffeefest in Auckland last weekend.

Her coffee, Havoc, won the bronze awards in the Supermarket Filter category and the Supermarket Plunger category at the festival, judged from among more than 240 entries by international judges under blind-tasting conditions.

Sheryl started her roasting business three years ago to satiate her love for fresh coffee, as she was unable to buy it here.

Despite being entirely self-taught, within the first year her Supermarket Filter brand had won gold at CoffeeFest. This year she only entered at the last minute, packaging her coffee and sending it off to be judged, just to see how it compared to other brands

“Only a few people get medals and some go home without – it's really nice to let people know that the coffee they drink is up there with the best in New Zealand.”

Her business, which has been “well-supported” in Wanganui, has grown three-fold since she opened it in 2005. Although she wants the business to stay roughly the same size as it is now, she recently opened a coffee cart known as the ‘UCOL Espresso Bar’, a venture that has given great exposure to her coffee.

This weekend Sheryl will also launch a new olive oil called the Olive Grove, which will be produced only once a year.

In fact, Sheryl was not even there to collect her coffee awards, as she spent last weekend pressing her homegrown olives.

“It's a challenge, I like to learn these things,” she said.

The olive oil is now being bottled and will be sold at market day and on the Havoc website.