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The Wairoa  
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# Community awards go elsewhere this year

WAIROA was represented by the Whangawehi Catchment Management Group at the 2013 Trustpower National Community Awards held in Southland over the weekend.

Last November, the group was named supreme winner at the Trustpower Wairoa Community Awards and, like 24 other winners from around the country, were invited to make an eight-minute presentation.

Presentations were made at Invercargill's Civic Theatre on Saturday, followed by the winner and runner-up being announced at the awards dinner at Stadium Southland.

Unfortunately, the Whangawehi Catchment Management Group was not named in either category.

This year's top honour went to the Mistletoe Bay Trust, representing the Marlborough District, for its creation of an eco-village and camp ground which has provided the community with "a hands-on experience in future-proofing the environment".

The runner-up was the Neurological Foundation Southern Chair of Neurosurgery, representing Dunedin.

The awards were judged by a panel of independent judges, along with each of the 25 voluntary groups in the running. Peer voting made up 50 percent of the final judging score with the independent judging panel's votes making up the other 50 percent.

The groups were judged on five criteria: volunteer input; use of resources; initiative and creativity; effectiveness of activities; and impact on district.

Mayor Craig Little attended the awards and said the Whangawehi Catchment Management Group made a great presentation and did Wairoa proud.