

# Our regional winners/finalists

The Pride of New Zealand Awards' lower North Island regional winners were announced at *Hawke's Bay Today*, Hastings, earlier this month. Supported by the *New Zealand Herald* and APN regional newspapers, with The Hits radio station and TSB Bank, the inaugural awards recognise New Zealanders who make positive contributions to their communities.



## Bay takes almost all lower NI spots

**H**AWKE'S BAY will be well represented at the inaugural Pride of New Zealand Awards in Auckland next month.

Five of six winners from the lower North Island hail from the Bay, and were recognised for their positive community contribution during a regional ceremony at *Hawke's Bay Today's* Hastings office, on Wednesday August 6.

The lower North Island area also encompassed Manawatu-Wanganui and Wellington.

Local finalists include members of the Swannell family from Napier, who run a mobile soup kitchen for the homeless in Clive Square and took out a Community Spirit Award; Wade Kelly, of Hastings, who claimed the Bravery/Heroism Award for saving four people caught in a dangerous rip at Waimarama Beach; Napier's Hai Tong Too, whose role as a key advocate for minority groups, won a Lifetime Achievement award; and Kathleen Mato, of Wairoa, who secured the Environmental Award for her work as Whangawehi Catchment Management Group leader.

Colin Anderson, from Palmerston North, formerly from Dannevirke, was the Fundraiser of the Year, coming up with \$17,000 cycling for CanTeen.

The only winner from outside Hawke's Bay was Wayne Stevens, of Wellington, who volunteered with Land Search and Rescue for 30 years.

Regional awards were judged by Silver Fern Maria Tutaia, The Hits radio personality Polly Gillespie, Yealands Estate Winery owner Peter Yealands, Starship director of fundraising Jo Cowie and *NZ Herald* editor Shayne Currie.

A national award ceremony, to name overall category winners and winner of the TSB Bank People's Choice vote, will be held at Auckland War Memorial Museum on September 10.

At a judging conference in Auckland

### Award ceremony

■ Pride of New Zealand Award winners and the TSB Bank People's Choice Award will be announced during a national ceremony on Wednesday September 10 at Auckland War Memorial Museum.

yesterday celebrity judges Mad Butcher Sir Peter Leitch, former news anchor Judy Bailey and Victoria Cross hero Willie Apiata helped to decide the winners.

APN chief Jane Hastings and TSB Bank head Kevin Murphy were also part of the panel.

Profile videos of the 24 finalists were shown to judges, who then selected their favourites for each category.

Sir Peter said the calibre of nominees had made for some tough decisions.

Pride of New Zealand Awards are supported by the *New Zealand Herald* and APN regional newspapers, alongside The Hits radio station and TSB Bank.

An upper North Island award ceremony was held in Auckland, recognising Elliot Ikilei, Buddhi Wilcox, Greg Brownson, Todd Hamilton, Tony Scott and Glenn Miller.

A mid-North Island ceremony in Tauranga named Buddy Harwood, Julie King, Maera Maki-Anderson, Tony Howse, Peter Blackwell and Jenny Edwards as regional winners.

Christchurch hosted the South Island regional ceremony where Kyle Paki Paki, Philip Walker, Adam Black and Gary Miller, Rachel Jenkinson, Jan Bourke, Ian Price, Jayne and Mike Rattray and Tihi Puanaki were recognised.

■ People can cast their vote for the TSB Bank People's Choice winner, at: [prideofnzawards.co.nz](http://prideofnzawards.co.nz), until 11.59pm on Sunday September 7.

## Award-winners the pride of Hawke's Bay



HONOURED: Award-winners Colin Anderson, Kevin Swannell, Kiri Swannell, Hai Tong Too, Lee Kelly (father of Wade Kelly), Kathleen Mato and Wayne Stevens.

PHOTO/AUL TAYLOR/HBT14262602

Community

Bravery/

Environmental

Emergency

Fundraiser

Lifetime







## Community Spirit Award

■ People who contribute to society in a meaningful way, and are doing something for the good of others, because they believe it's the best thing to do.



### Winner

**The Swannell Family** spend their spare time feeding Napier's homeless with their mobile soup kitchen.

The Taradale family have often featured in *Hawke's Bay Today* for their efforts serving hearty, winter-warming food to those living rough. The "soup truck" has operated on a weekly basis for more than a year at 6pm on Mondays in Clive Square.

Kevin Swannell said he was "overwhelmed" by his family winning the Community Spirit Award at Wednesday night's Pride of New Zealand Awards regional ceremony in Hastings. The Swannells were at the ceremony with five of their six children.

"We weren't expecting it," Mr Swannell said. "I'm really quite overwhelmed."

Kiri Swannell said she wanted to get her family involved in the community and running a soup kitchen was a natural way to help people where they needed it most. "We have all the kids come out with us except if somebody is crook or a teenager decides to stay home."

### Finalists

■ **Marcia Guest-McGrath**, the person behind 'Loved 4 Life', a non-profit community organisation that welcomes every new baby born into the Te Horo community with a special bassinette, quilt and home-cooked meal for the family.

■ **Rebecca Culver**, who started 'Just Zilch', a free-food store that receives surplus goods from various suppliers and distributes it, along with fresh produce from their own garden, to those in need throughout the community.



## Bravery/Heroism Award

■ Recognising those who have disregarded their own safety in order to help or save the life of another.



### Winner

**Wade Kelly**, of Hastings, saved the lives of four people who got caught in a dangerous rip at Waimarama Beach.

The surfer was involved in a dramatic surf rescue when the four people were swept 70m offshore last year.

Mr Kelly was on the beach when he heard screams for help from distraught onlookers, before he entered the ocean with his surfboard.

As he paddled out through the breaking surf he realised he would have to rescue one person at a time.

"I just tried to keep them calm because obviously they were a little bit panicked."

He said his first priority was to bring the two kids ashore and he started with a 12-year-old boy.

The Hastings man made two more tiring trips through the breaking waves, bringing a man and woman back on his surfboard next, each time waiting for a trough in the oncoming waves to paddle in and save one of the four.

Mr Kelly's father, Lee Kelly, accepted the Bravery/Heroism award on his son's behalf at the Pride of New Zealand regional awards ceremony in Hastings.

He said he was "very proud" of his son, who now lives in Melbourne, Australia.

### Finalists

■ **Gianna-Lee Moore**, for her courage after their car spun off the road and landed in a river, knocking her mum unconscious. Gianna-Lee freed her younger sister from the practically submerged car and carried her to the safety of the riverbank.

■ **Matamaru Rere**, who carried her son, niece and nephew to safety when their family house burnt down earlier this year.



## Environmental Award

■ Those whose actions make a real difference to the environment, for generations to come.



### Winner

**Kathleen Mato**, of Wairoa, is the leader of the Whangawehi Catchment Management Group, which protects and improves water quality in the Whangawehi catchment area.

The Mahia environmentalist has a simple philosophy when it comes to seeking positive change.

"You have to step forward and you have to do something - don't just sit there and talk about it," she said of the Whangawehi Catchment Management Group which was sparked up in 2010. She started the restoration of the Whangawehi water project on her own, but gradually the support grew and so did the determination to achieve a result.

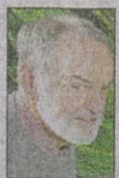
She described the Environmental Award, which she received, as "a milestone for Mahia".

"It makes what we're doing all the more worthwhile."

### Finalists

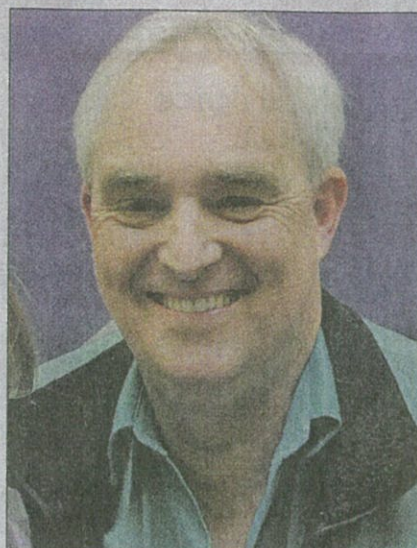
■ **Don Bell**, environmental champion of the Mangatarere Restoration Society, providing his valuable expertise to the group free of charge, helping improve water quality, educate people and plant trees in the area.

■ **Colin Ogle**, a Friends of Gordon Park volunteer, who is instrumental in leading the twice-monthly meetings to clear rubbish, weeds, gather seeds and do restoration planting at the park.



## Emergency Services Award

■ Professional or volunteer emergency service members who have gone beyond the call of duty to either protect or enhance their community.



### Winner

**Wayne Stevens**, of Wellington, has volunteered with Land Search and Rescue for the past 30 years.

Mr Stevens, Wellington, has also been a volunteer paramedic with Wellington Free Ambulance for eight years.

When he isn't busy saving lives, he can be found running a reading programme at Windley School in Cannons Creek, Porirua.

"I love working with the team, getting out and helping people. It's a busy life but it's just great to be able to do something for others."

Mr Stevens said he was "speechless" at receiving the Emergency Services Award at the Pride of New Zealand Awards regional ceremony.



### Finalists

■ **Mike Harrison**, a volunteer firefighter for more than 30 years who has been instrumental in the on-going development of the Tikokino station. Including being involved in its design and build - and fundraising for a new water tanker and emergency response vehicle.

■ **Dr Chris Lane**, founder of the Kapiti Emergency Medical Services Team, a dedicated group of volunteers who provide pre-hospital care to the community. His nominator said that Dr Lane, who is recently retired, was the "key driver" of Kapiti EMS for more than 20 years.

## Fundraiser of the Year

■ Recognises people who go to inspiring lengths to raise money for charitable causes. It acknowledges those who are able to give a financial boost to people in need in their community.



### Winner

**Colin Anderson**, of Palmerston North, has cycled more than 16,000km and raised more than \$17,000 in support of CanTeen. The former Dannevirke man, 66, is an endurance cyclist and a fundraiser "in for the long haul" for cancer sufferers.

He has had to face his own cancer battle, in the form of prostate cancer surgery in 2008. Late last year, only a month after heart surgery, he celebrated his 66th birthday by completing his 66th lap of Lake Taupo. And riding round and round "the pond" as he calls Lake Taupo, for three months early last year, 65 times in 60 days covering 10,600km, Mr Anderson raised \$7000 for CanTeen.

At the awards ceremony, Mr Anderson said he never sought recognition for his fundraising efforts. "It was just something I had always wanted to do

### Finalists

■ **10-year-old Jayden Drinnan**, who raised more than \$2000 for cancer research by doing "Shave for a Cure" — Jayden organised to have his head shaved in front of the whole school and sold a photo of it being done on TradeMe for \$250.

■ **Simon Thompson**, who, after learning of a leukaemia diagnosis in the family, decided to run the London Marathon — twice, in under 8 hours. That included him taking public transport back to the beginning of the race. He raised more than \$10,000 for Starship.



## Lifetime Achievement

■ Those whose ongoing commitment to their cause has helped enrich the lives of others, and made New Zealand a better place to live.



### Winner

**Hai Tong Too**, of Napier, has been an advocate for minority groups in the region for more than 40 years.

He is the past president of the Multicultural Association Hawke's Bay. From 1997 to 2009, he served as the Hawke's Bay Chinese Association president and is also a founding member of the Ethnic Association in the area.

Now retired, he puts even more effort into his voluntary work with minority groups and helps to organise events such as the local Diwali Festival and The Asian in the Bay Awards.

Mr Too said he was "humbled and surprised" to be named winner in the Lifetime Achievement category.



### Finalists

■ **Rex Allen**, who has contributed more than 50 years of voluntary service to the community, firstly through his involvement in the Deerstalkers Association, then the Farm Workers Association. He joined Toastmasters, where he eventually became Area Governor, and was involved in Search and Rescue, and the Mountain Safety Council where he went on to chair both organisations.

■ **Roy Sefton**, a surviving veteran of the British nuclear test series, and now chairman of the New Zealand Nuclear Test Veterans Association, Roy has for the past 40 years, laboured to gain both recognition and care for his surviving comrades who have been affected by the levels of radiation they were exposed to during their service.



