

# Our six regional winners

The Pride of New Zealand Awards' lower North Island regional winners were announced at Hawke's Bay Today, Hastings, last night. 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.



**THE SWANNELL FAMILY**  
Napier

**COMMUNITY SPIRIT AWARD**  
The Swannell Family spends its 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.

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 tough 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.

**KATHLEEN MATO, WAIROA ENVIRONMENTAL AWARD**  
Kathleen Mato is the leader of the Whangarei Catchment Management Group, which protects and improves water quality in the Whangarei 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 Whangarei Catchment Management Group which was sparked up in 2010.

She started the restoration of the Whangarei 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."  
**WAYNE STEVENS, WELLINGTON EMERGENCY SERVICES AWARD**  
Wayne Stevens has volunteered with Land Search and Rescue for the past 30 years.

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

**COLIN ANDERSON, PALMERSTON NORTH FUNDRAISER OF THE YEAR AWARD**  
Colin Anderson 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 \$7,000 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."  
**HAI TONG TOO, NAPIER LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT**  
Hai Tong Too 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.



**WADE KELLY**  
Hastings



**KATHLEEN MATO**  
Wairoa



**WAYNE STEVENS**  
Wellington



**COLIN ANDERSON**  
Palmerston North



**HAI TONG TOO**  
Napier

**BRAVERY/HEROISM AWARD**

**ENVIRONMENTAL AWARD**

**EMERGENCY SERVICES AWARD**

**FUNDRAISER OF THE YEAR AWARD**

**LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

## Pride of NZ Awards: Our regional winners

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He raised more than \$17,000 cycling for CanTeen.

The only winner from outside the region was Wayne Stevens, Wellington, who has volunteered with Land Search and Rescue for 30 years.

Hastings Mayor Lawrence Yule, who attended, said the region should be proud: "There's a lot of wonderful people that do things in our community and it's great we have these awards to recognise them."

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

The upper North Island award ceremony in Auckland on Monday, recognised Elliot Kilei, Buddhi Wilcox, Greg Brownson, Todd Hamilton, Tony Scott and Glenn Miller.

The mid North Island award ceremonies, in Tauranga on Tuesday, recog-

nising Buddy Harwood, Julie King, Maera Maki-Anderson, Tony Howe, Peter Blackwell and Jenny Edwards.

The South Island region ceremony will be held in Christchurch tonight.

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

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

On the national judging panel are broadcaster Judy Bailey, Willie Apiata VC, Sir Peter Letch, TSB Bank CEO Kevin Murphy and APN New Zealand CEO Jane Hastings.

**For more awards information, visit: [prideofnzawards.co.nz](http://prideofnzawards.co.nz)**

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