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Hawke's Bay

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THE LAND

Steve Wyn-Harris

a win on the night p19



Pride of NZ our regional winners

REGION CAN BE PROUD: Pride of New Zealand lower North Island regional award winners (from back, left): Kathleen Mato, Kiri Swannell, Hai Tong Too, Lee Kelly (father of Wade Kelly), Colin Anderson. Front: Kevin Swannell (left) and Wayne Stevens. PHOTOS/PAUL TAYLOR HBT14262601

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

The inaugural awards recognise New Zealanders who make the most positive, uplifting and inspiring contributions to their community.

The awards ceremony celebrated finalists representing Hawke's Bay, Manawatu-Wanganui and Wellington. *Hawke's Bay Today* editor

Andrew Austin said the newspaper was proud to support the awards, due to its focus on contributing to the community, as shown by its Bring yer Boots campaign and Fighting Poverty series.

Hawke's Bay Today general manager Russel Broughton said he was glad to get behind the awards, which recognised inspiring Kiwis.

The Hits radio hosts Martin Good and Sarah van der Kley announced winners in six categories, to go on to a national awards ceremony in Auckland next month. Five of the six were from Hawke's Bay.

They included the Swannell family, Napier, who were recognised for running a mobile soup kitchen for the homeless in Clive Square with the Community Spirit Award.

Kevin Swannell said the family was stunned: "We weren't expecting this and we're really quite overwhelmed.

"[The soup kitchen] isn't a task we do - it's an expression of our lives."

Wade Kelly, of Hastings, won the Bravery/Heroism Award for saving the lives of four people who got caught in a dangerous rip Waimarama Beach. Hai Tong Too, of Napier, won

the Lifetime Achievement for being a key advocate for minority groups for more than 40 years, and Kathleen Mato, of Wairoa, won the Environmental Award for her work as Whangarei Catchment Management Group leader.

Colin Anderson, Palmerston North, formerly from Dannevirke, was the fundraiser of the Year.

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BIG NIGHT: The Hits radio hosts Martin Good and Sarah van der Kley presented last night's awards.

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