

NEW ZEALAND'S COMMUNITIES AND COMPANIES CONGRATULATED AT NEW ZEALAND COMMUNITY SAFETY AND INJURY PREVENTION AWARDS

Community groups, companies, and individuals have been given a long-overdue ovation at the New Zealand Community Safety and Injury Prevention Awards.

The awards were held in Wellington at 5pm on September 1 and were attended by the Minister for ACC, Hon Maryan Street, ACC's chief executive, Dr Jan White, and Dr Carolyn Coggan, the awards' chief judge and director of the Safe Communities Foundation NZ.

"I am very impressed with the number and calibre of entries this year. Attracting 51 entries from across the country is fantastic and sets a new record for the awards," said Dr Carolyn Coggan, the Director of the Safe Communities Foundation NZ and the awards' chief judge.

"Once again it shows the depth of energy and passion New Zealanders have for improving the safety of their communities and the people who live within them," she said.

The winners are:

Category One:

Emerging community safety and/or injury prevention initiative or programme.

Winner: 'Blow the Whistle on Violence' campaign, Tauranga Safe City and partners.

The campaign ran during the Rugby World Cup targeting the link between major sports events and domestic violence. It used positive images of fathers and families, and sporting slogans reapplied to a happy family life.

Highly Commended: 'Make it a Safe Summer', ShoreSafe Injury Free and North Shore City.

Spurred by a high number of drownings in 2005, this now annual campaign targets beach users on the North Shore with water and general safety messages.

Highly Commended:

The Stratford TET Home Safety Project, Central Taranaki Victim Support Group and partners.

This project involved visiting homes in Central Taranaki, giving out free home safety and injury prevention advice with a focus on fire prevention.

Category Two:

Outstanding community safety and/or injury prevention initiative or programme.

Co-Winner: Marlborough Clued-up Kids, Marlborough Child Safety Group.

Based on a Scottish programme, Clued-up Kids taught small groups of Year 5 and 6 children safety skills using hands-on, real life scenarios. A new programme begins in November.

Co-Winner: TravelWise for Schools; Auckland Regional Travel Authority and partners.

TravelWise for Schools encouraged parents to choose alternative travel options for taking their children to school, and made the road environment safer for the children to do so.

Highly Commended: Port Users' Health and Safety Forum, Port of Tauranga.

The Forum is made up of the numerous companies who work at the port. Through collaborating together they have introduced a unified approach to health and safety at the port, rather than each company having their own ideas about safe work practices.

Category Three: Outstanding example of the New Zealand Injury Prevention Strategy framework guiding the development of a community safety and/or injury prevention initiative or programme.

Winner: Taranaki Falls Prevention Strategy, New Plymouth Injury Safe Trust (NPiS).

The strategy focuses on coordinating Taranaki's agencies involved in keeping older people upright and mobile, and improving older people's knowledge of and access to them.

Highly Commended: The Kawerau Home Safety for Preschoolers Pilot Project (KHSPPP), KHSPPP Management Group.

Preschoolers are far more likely to be injured in the home than older children, so this programme brought injury prevention and safety know-how direct to the homes of under-fives in Kawerau.

Category Four: Outstanding business or organisation that is contributing to the greater well-being of its own workforce and the community in general.

Winner: Fulton Hogan.

Contracting company Fulton Hogan takes safety seriously, both off and on the job. The Bay of Plenty office has implemented many beneficial health and safety initiatives at work, but has consistently been a part of keeping the Tauranga community safe too. This includes being part of the group that won Tauranga's International Safe Community designation.

Highly Commended: Fletcher Challenge.

As the contractor responsible for the Tauranga Harbour Link, Stage 2 construction, Fletcher Challenge works with every conceivable workplace hazard. However, through numerous safety programmes and innovations, it has kept workplace injuries to a minimum and has also taken many of its messages into the community.

Highly Commended: HMI Technologies, Safe and Socially Responsible.

Secretly nominated by a grateful client, the Waitakere City Council, HMI Technologies put safety before profits when the council wanted to stretch its budget to install 40km/h safety zones around all its 67 schools. HMI Technologies manufacture the electronic variable road signs found on New Zealand's roads and motorways.

Individual Recognition

This year the judging panel also highly commended two individuals whose work, passion and commitment has made an enormous contribution to the safety of their communities.

George Stephens, Counties Manukau Fire Safety Officer.

A New Zealand Fire Service Veteran of 36 years, George Stephens has spent the past 13 years educating his South Auckland community about how to avoid house fires, and how to survive them. Nominated by Alzheimers Counties Manukau, George Stephens' good works are said to go well beyond simply installing smoke alarms and that he always goes out of his way to help his clients and his community.

Kim Anderson, for the Safety and Beautification of Smeaton Drive.

When Kim Anderson moved to Whangarei's Smeaton Drive, the area was crime and graffiti-ridden, run-down, and not a positive place to live. With grit and determination – and several pots of paint – she has united her community, got children off the streets, wiped out graffiti and reinvigorated this forgotten suburb.