



# COMMUNITY AWARDS

## Youth Spirit

The first finalist that we will recognise is a compassionate and dedicated young man from Rotorua Lakes High School. Well done to **Matt Gatenby**.

Matt is a Year 13 House Captain and Deputy Head Boy which means he is involved in a variety of activities that support his school and peers. From helping at parent open days, running of the Peer Support Programme and mentoring year 9's as well as leading school sports events and contributing to school prizegivings.

His passion for the development of a well-functioning community has led him to giving his time as a Hockey Coach for Mokoia Intermediate, a Hockey umpire and is a member of the Lake Tarawera Fire unit.

Matt plans to study Operations Research or Engineering with a focus on the environment and using our resources in a sustainable way.

Matt is an excellent ambassador for his school and Rotorua and we wish him the very best with his future plans.



# COMMUNITY AWARDS

## Youth Spirit

The next student that we will recognise as a finalist for the Trustpower Youth Community Spirit Award is **Nathan Kenah** from Rotorua Boys High School.

For the past 5 years Nathan has shown his passion and school spirit through the many activities and sports he has been involved in within his school and community. He is the Deputy Head Prefect, vice- captain of Rotorua Boys First XI hockey team and is an active umpire in the community also involved with assisting in teaching junior umpires. Last year he was selected to umpire at the national U15 hockey tournament. Aside from Hockey, Nathan also donates his time to the arts – this year being heavily involved in organising Stage Challenge while also directing and running Shakespeare and theatre sports at school.

With all this going on Nathan has still found time to contribute to the community in other ways too. He has given time to volunteer at the NZ Speedgolf Open and Crankworx Rotorua – supporting the smooth-running of these events. This year he was an usher at the Lakeside concert and once or twice a week spends time at St Andrew's church preparing and serving dinners to Rotorua's homeless.

Nathan says it's the happiness you can bring people when they excel in what they are doing that motivates him. You are an inspiration to your peers, teachers and the wider community and we can't wait to see what the future holds for such an outstanding person.

Congratulations!



# COMMUNITY AWARDS

## Youth Spirit

That leaves us with the winner of the 2017 Trustpower Rotorua Youth Community Award, and it goes to Georgia Williams from John Paul College.

Georgia is a stand-up student at her college with many achievements already under her belt. She is a school Prefect, is a member of the Interact club and is a tutor to younger students in the homework club. She also coaches the Year 7 & 8 Girls Football team and through school she volunteers her time to the Fulfil Van which gives out food to families in need.

Out in the community, Georgia volunteers at the Sunset Breakfast Club and has collected funds for Women's Refuge, the Heart Foundation and the RSA Poppy Day appeal. She also volunteered as a swim instructor at the Owhata School Free Learn to Swim Programme.

Georgia intends to go to University to study Biomedical Science and then progressing into Medical school.

Well done Georgia, we can see from your academic brilliance, giving heart and dedication that you have what it takes to achieve your goals and we wish you all the best!



# COMMUNITY AWARDS

## Heritage and Environment

In our first category Heritage and Environment, the Runner Up award goes to a group whose aim is to provide a place of wellbeing for volunteers whilst maintaining the museum and providing the community and visitors alike with educational and interesting day out. Congratulations to the **Te Amorangi Trust Museum Inc.**

Up to 500 hours per month are spent by this dedicated group doing a variety of activities to keep this museum thriving. The group are responsible for maintenance, restoration and care of artefacts but are also involved in the entertainment and educational side of the museum. This can range from churning butter and hand laundry operations to categorising artefacts and creating displays.

An ongoing project of the group is to catalogue the new artefacts that are donated to the museum by the general public which is a list of between 14,000- 20,000 pieces.

They have open days for schools, participate in the Santa Parade, A & P show and in the past have held afternoon high teas, and a 1920s dinner to raise funds. The volunteers also help each other such as helping with renovations to a senior previous volunteer and they helped another previous member move home.

In turn this provides a place where the volunteers can have a place to socialise, while utilising their knowledge and skills in a positive environment.

These volunteers have done an incredible job at enlightening the public and protecting this history, so a big thank you and well done.



## COMMUNITY AWARDS

### Heritage and Environment

Keeping one of our iconic tourist attractions alive during its temporary closure is the winner of our Heritage and Environment category. Give it up for the **Rotorua Museum Outside the Walls Walking Tour Guides**.

On November 14<sup>th</sup> 2016, Rotorua experienced an earthquake that led to the closure of the Rotorua Museum Bath House to ensure the safety of visitors. This prompted the volunteer co-ordinator to develop the Rotorua Museum Outside the Walls Walking Tour. The free of charge tour provided tourists and guests to the attraction a comprehensive and informative walking tour that could take anywhere between 1 ½ - 2 ½ hours.

A group of about 25 volunteers had to learn quickly about all different types of information to share as hosts from the history of the buildings, geology, battles in the area to the plantings and pruning of trees. Two tours every day and three on Wednesday were offered between the 18<sup>th</sup> November 2016 and the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017 in which they had 1,540 people take part in.

The result – huge success, despite sometimes dreary weather, visitors were enthusiastic and grateful towards the tour – some commenting it was the highlight of their visit to New Zealand so far.

Congratulations to this outstanding group who made the best of an unfortunate situation and showed a bunch of travellers how classic kiwi ingenuity can go a long way!



# COMMUNITY AWARDS

## Health and Wellbeing

The first commendation in the Health and Wellbeing category goes to an organisation who provides lifesaving service around the clock for the people of Rotorua and the wider Bay of Plenty – congratulations to the **BayTrust Rescue Helicopter**.

In 2016 alone, they carried out 169 (they say potentially, we say impressive) lifesaving missions, and a volunteer was involved in every single one of them. In each of the rescue missions, the volunteer crewman or woman helps the pilot prepare the helicopter and equipment, carries out critical pre-flight checks, and even assists the pilot in landing the helicopter, especially in tricky locations.

Most of the volunteers also have full time employment, so helping out the BayTrust Rescue Helicopter takes up a large portion of their personal time. We think it's safe to say that without the help of these wonderful volunteers, the amazing work the BayTrust Rescue Helicopter does simply wouldn't be possible.

For being 'angels in disguise' and looking after our friends, families and our communities, thank you.



# COMMUNITY AWARDS

## Health and Wellbeing

Our second commendation in the Health and Wellbeing category goes to Rotorua CommUnity Kai.

These volunteers bring unity to the community through food, by providing food free and freely without prejudice.

Volunteers get busy every week, putting together an entire meal from scratch, which of course is followed by dessert – and then dishes!

The weekly event for the whole community provides a place for people to gather in a family environment and a platform for socialising, meeting and greeting and creating friendships.

As you can imagine, putting on this community meal every week is a huge task, and from January 2016 to December 2016, Rotorua CommUnity Kai humbly served over 3,000 individual servings of soup, bread and bakery items, dinner and dessert.

Thank you for keeping the bellies of your community full, you do a great job at it, well done.



# COMMUNITY AWARDS

## Health and Wellbeing

Runner up in the Health and Wellbeing category goes to St John Health Shuttle.

St John provides a free Health Shuttle service to help people with health or mobility problems get to medical appointments. This free transport service is used by young mothers and their children, elderly people and anyone with mobility or health problems, where attending a medical appointment without assistance could be a real challenge.

Many of the health shuttle users would not be able to attend their appointments without the help of the volunteer run service, and sometimes the hospital will book the shuttle for clients because they know from past experience, that they have failed to turn up as they have no transport.

Volunteers are at the heart of this service, so it is a pleasure to recognise their efforts this evening, congratulations.





# COMMUNITY AWARDS

## Health and Wellbeing

That leaves us with the winner of the Health and Wellbeing category, and it goes to a group of volunteers who are empowering women in our community to achieve their own goals and become a role model in their family and in their community. Congratulations to Dress for Success Rotorua Charitable Trust.

Volunteers of Dress for Success Rotorua are empowering women who are looking to change their life, gain employment and create a sustainable financial income for their families.

To do so, they work with many other agencies across community programmes that grow confidence and self-belief, that encourage personal development.

Programmes that Dress for Success Rotorua volunteers run include CV and cover letter preparation, interview skills, they run a career centre for job searching and the Going Places Programme which is an 8 week engagement and skills development programme. They run the dressing programme which provides women with interview and work ready clothing as well as a 4 week financial skills programme and a Professional Women's group - a job retention programme for women who have secured a job.

Without volunteers, Dress for Success would not exist so a big thank you for your ongoing efforts, to change the lives of women in your community.



# COMMUNITY AWARDS

## Arts and Culture

Runner up in the Arts and Culture category, goes to a group of volunteers brightening up Rotorua. Well done to the Rotorua Yarnbombers.

The Rotorua Yarnbombers started in 2015, when they created a Yarnbomb Tree at The Arts Village. This project set alight an excited interest from the Rotorua community in the art of Yarnbombing, and fast forward to 2017 they haven't showed any signs of slowing down.

Every winter they install knitted crocheted hats and scarves on the three wooden sculptures in the Redwood Grove on Long Mile Road. As well as providing enjoyment for locals and visitors, it also serves as a reminder for people to wrap up warm and be prepared when walking and running in the forest.

The Rotorua Yarnbombers co-ordinated a seven month long project to yarn bomb the QE Health and Wellness Spa, to commemorate 75 years since the hospital was built to provide rehabilitation for soldiers returning from World War 2. Volunteers organised and ran free workshops for the community to learn crochet and knitting and more than 200 people from the Rotorua Lakes and the Bay of Plenty community contributed to this yarn bomb.

Such a neat way to bring the community together, keep up the great work.



# COMMUNITY AWARDS

## Arts and Culture

Please join me in congratulating the winner of the Arts and Culture category, well done to The Arts Village Rotorua.

Volunteers of The Arts Village Rotorua ensure that anyone who would like to be able to participate in arts can. They achieve this through programmes, events, and gallery spaces. They also provide affordable meeting spaces for arts groups.

Last year saw some fantastic events and programmes made possible by the contributions of volunteers, such as Colour the Night. This annual event aims to bring colour and creativity to Rotorua for a great night out. With stations and activities set up all around the city, volunteers are relied on to bring the manpower to the event.

Every school holidays The Arts Village runs a school Holiday Programme for 5-12 year olds. By providing a space that inspires and fosters creativity for young people, they are doing a great job at increasing participation in arts, and volunteers make sure each child has a great experience.

Thank you for continuing to create a vibrant, creative community, where everyone has the opportunity to participate in the arts. Well done.



# COMMUNITY AWARDS

## Sports and Leisure

A commendation in the Sports and Leisure category goes to Netball Rotorua.

As well as the normal running of Saturday netball, Netball Rotorua have undertaken a new scheme to encourage Junior Umpires to the sport. Umpiring can be seen as a thankless job, but without Umpires, the games cannot be played.

Over the past year a group of 12 young students, mostly school age, have been encouraged to become qualified umpires. Regular classes have been provided, as well as on court support and training.

The group have also been taken to other Centres around the Bay of Plenty to give them further experience and confidence.

A testament to these efforts is that all of the young students passed their Centre Theory and Practical Exams and are now eligible for Waikato Bay of Plenty Zone Theory.

It is great to see young people coming through and taking up the whistle, but none of this would be possible without the dedicated volunteers working hard to make it a possibility.

Thank you and congratulations.



# COMMUNITY AWARDS

## Sports and Leisure

Runner up in the Sports and Leisure category goes to the Rotorua Mountainbike Club Incorporated.

Founded in the 1990's the club's mission has changed over the years, with the most recent change being the separation of the trails development function to the newly established Rotorua Trails Trust allowing the club to become rider focused.

The group have now initiated a first response function in the Whakarearewa Forest for injured riders, and have become proactive at a national level on injury prevention in the sport of mountain biking. With approximately 500,000 biker and recreational user visits to the Whakarewarewa Forest annually, it is clear that this group has responded to a crucial need, in order to keep people safe.

After sourcing national funding, the Rotorua Mountainbike Club have professionalised the existing voluntary First Response Unit, with the service having recently moved to weekends, school holidays and public holidays.

Over the course of a single summer of operation, the Clubs First Response Unit has become an integral part of the emergency services landscape.

With the network of trails increasing, so does the incidence of injuries to riders, so a big thank you to the volunteers who continue to do an incredible job. Thank you and congratulations.



# COMMUNITY AWARDS

## Sports and Leisure

Congratulations to the winner of the Sports and Leisure category, Swim Rotorua.

Swim Rotorua is a friendly non-profit swim club with a strong emphasis on developing young people through teamwork, aquatic skills and confidence. They offer squad swimming for all ages and abilities and encourage athletes to strive for personal excellence.

Swim Rotorua is involved in a number of significant events on the calendar such as the Primary and Intermediate School Swimming Championships, National events, Regional Championships and training camps, along with community events such as the Swim the Lakes Series. Swim Rotorua's volunteer base co-ordinate and run this event, setting up safety boats, kayak personnel, timing of results and much more. All proceeds are then donated back into the community.

Regular swim clinics are held and the club facilities and volunteers are freely available to help schools with their swimming sports and aquatic programmes.

Thank you to Swim Rotorua for breaking the costs barriers to swimming and for supporting participation and fun, more children in Rotorua are competent and safe swimmers, thanks to your efforts. Congratulations.



## COMMUNITY AWARDS

### Education and Child Youth Development

Runner up in the Education and Child Youth Development category goes to the Kimiora Community Trust.

Over the last 12 months, the Kimiora Community Trust has offered five programmes for 'at-risk' youth and their whanau.

The first of these is the Emerge Programme, which sees volunteers working with up to 20 at risk 8-12 year olds through after school hubs, Whanau days and holiday camps.

Parenting programmes provide input and support for parents, while the Youth Mentoring programme helps youth enhance life skills and encourages leadership development.

The Extend Programme is aimed at High School aged students, and is based around performing arts that teaches skills in two different arts and culminates in a public performance.

As well as these programmes, SHARP is a volunteer reading programme run in Sunset Primary School to assist with phonetic reading and encourage reading mileage.

All of these initiatives work together to create an interconnected community and an environment where children and their whanau can thrive. A huge undertaking that these volunteers do so well, congratulations.



# COMMUNITY AWARDS

## Education and Child Youth Development

Winner of the Education and Child Youth Development category goes to Mamaku Home and School Committee.

This group of volunteers certainly have been busy over the last 12 months, raising funds for various projects to support Mamaku School's learning environment. The fundraising activities were wide and varied and offered a little something for everyone. They raised over \$20,000 but just as importantly, they provided opportunities for students, parents, whanau and the wider community to connect and strengthen relationships.

Through key fundraising events such as the school gala, raffles, discos and phone book delivery, to name a few, the group funded food for the senior camp, classroom furniture, improvements to the school swimming pool, literacy and maths resources, as well as a range of other contributions that adds a huge amount of value for the students, and creates opportunities that students would otherwise not be able to partake in.

Many hours are put in organising, managing, purchasing and rallying people to join in and lend a helping hand, and your efforts don't go unrecognised. Congratulations on this award.





**Supreme Winner:** Rotorua Museum Outside the Walls Walking Tour Guides