



## **New Zealander of the Year Awards**

### **MEDIA RELEASE**

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More than 50 years of dedication to his community has earned 86-year-old Tom Slinn a nomination as the Ryman Healthcare Senior New Zealander of the Year, in the inaugural New Zealander of the Year awards.

A lifetime Lower Hutt resident, Tom joined the Jaycees in 1954 and became the group's president in 1963, before moving on to become a member of the Hutt Lions club and forty-six years later he's still an active member.

A former industrial chemist with Dulux and the Paint Manufacturers Federation, the 86-year-old is also a long-time member of Grey Power and spent 12 years as the organisation's Hutt president.

In nominating Tom, Wellington Regional Councillor Sandra Greig says his "sterling work" has made a huge difference to the senior citizens of New Zealand.

"Tom is out there with them making life easier for those who can't help themselves. (He) is an admirable, tenacious hard worker," she says.

She says over the last 12 years, he has attended every AGM of Grey Power and faithfully reported to his Hutt branch membership monthly.

"Tom is now teaching me his Grey Power skills and I hope one day to be bold enough to walk in his boots. "

The New Zealander of Year Awards aim to acknowledge and reward the outstanding work many ordinary Kiwis are putting into this country.

"Tom Slinn is a great example of this devotion to New Zealand. And I am sure he is only one of many working without recognition," says national awards co-ordinator Grant McCabe.

"There can never be enough thanks and appreciation for those individuals or community groups who are making a valuable contribution to our great nation."

Nominations can now be made for the following category awards:

- The Kiwibank New Zealander of the Year Award
- The Ryman Healthcare Senior New Zealander of the Year Award
- The Coca-Cola Amatil Young New Zealander of the Year Award
- The Mitre 10 Community of the Year Award
- The Kiwibank Local Heroes Awards

Winners of each of the five categories will receive \$5,000 courtesy of Kiwibank and all nominees will receive a certificate of appreciation of their achievements.

Nomination close on 20<sup>th</sup> November and application forms are available from Kiwibank and Mitre 10 branches or free phone 0508 692 927. You can also nominate online at [www.nzawards.org.nz](http://www.nzawards.org.nz)

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