



**MEDIA RELEASE – 28<sup>th</sup> October, 2009**

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For immediate release:

The search is on for New Zealand's Senior Achievers.

Nominations are being sought from around the country for the Ryman Healthcare Senior New Zealander of the Year Award as part of the inaugural New Zealander of the Year Awards.

This award is open to those aged 60 and over, and celebrates an ability to continue to achieve and to contribute to the nation.

The Senior New Zealander of the Year Award provides kiwis of all ages the opportunity to express their appreciation and admiration for the achievements and endeavours of our senior New Zealanders.

Nominees could be involved in business, sport, arts, education, clubs, community groups or volunteering and will have contributed to the welfare of our nation through achieving excellence in their chosen field of endeavour; they will present a significant, positive image of aging and be a role model to the wider community.

New Zealander of the Year Awards Coordinator Grant McCabe is encouraging all New Zealanders to nominate someone over 60 years of age for this prestigious award.

Mr McCabe says "There are so many senior New Zealanders who are and for many years have been making exceptional contributions to their communities and our country and these people deserve recognition for their commitments".

The Senior New Zealander of the Year award is sponsored by Ryman Healthcare and their CEO Simon Challies says "As a young nation many of today's seniors have helped shape this country during their life time. Their commitment, ambitions, talents and achievements have made a difference in their regions, towns and local communities. This award provides New Zealanders of all ages with the chance to express their appreciation and admiration for the contribution and endeavours of our seniors."

The winner of the Ryman Healthcare Senior New Zealander of the Year will be awarded their trophy and \$5,000 prize money at the awards gala in Auckland in early February 2010. All nominees will also receive a certificate of appreciation to mark their inclusion in the inaugural awards.

Nominations close on 20<sup>th</sup> November and application forms are available from Ryman Healthcare's 21 retirement villages nationwide, Kiwibank and Mitre 10 branches or by free phone 0508 692 927. You can also nominate online at [www.nzawards.org.nz](http://www.nzawards.org.nz) or [www.rymanhealthcare.co.nz](http://www.rymanhealthcare.co.nz)

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