



## New Zealander of the Year Awards

### MEDIA RELEASE

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For immediate release: **20<sup>th</sup> October, 2009**

Kate Willyams is an outstanding young person.

And that's why her school thinks she should be the Coca-Cola Amatil Young New Zealander of the Year.

The Dunstan High School student has been nominated in the inaugural New Zealander of the Year Awards, by Assistant Principal Alan Hamilton.

He describes the Year 13 student as a true all rounder, who is always positive, both encouraging and organising her peers in learning and extra curricula activities

“From her first year at Dunstan High School she has been fully involved. Her enthusiasm for life is infectious and she has provided exceptional leadership in services to others, cultural achievements and sporting activities.”

“She has a cheerfulness and a positive manner that her peers, younger children and adults respond to in kind. She organises things, makes them happen and does so with a positive spirit.”

Alan Hamilton says Kate's many achievements include leading the Dunstan High School Food and Nutrition Committee that won the 2008 National Supreme Award for whole school change in eating.

“Kate and a fellow student gave out fruit at school events, exam nibble packs, changed school policy on food and worked with the canteen to implement changes in the food available, (and) purchased a cold water filter system. In total, \$10,000 of funds were earned for health food initiatives at Dunstan High School.”

This work, and a love of baking, has inspired Kate's plans to study applied Sciences at Otago University, focusing on Food Science/Dietetics, as well as a degree in French.

Kate is also Deputy Head Girl at Dunstan High School and has represented the Waitaki electorate in the 2007 Youth Parliament. She plays several sports including netball, basketball and bowls, and works part-time both as a lifeguard and a librarian. She is also passionate about singing jazz and is studying, performing and competing in this genre.

“Kate is a kind, respectful and sensitive young woman who has been a wonder ambassador for our community and provided her school with excellent service,” says Alan Hamilton.

Grant McCabe, the national co-ordinator of the New Zealander of Year Awards, says young people like Kate are an inspiration.

“This nomination shows that New Zealand’s young people are capable of great achievement. I’m sure there are many other stories just like this, and the New Zealander of the Year Award committee wants to hear them.”

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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