

Kiwibank New Zealand Local Hero of the Year

Frequently Asked Questions

What makes a Local Hero?

The Kiwibank Local Hero Awards aim to identify and reward everyday people doing extraordinary things in their local communities. The awards recognise the enormous contribution, sacrifice and commitment of Kiwis who make their local communities a better place.

How long have the New Zealander of the Year Awards been running?

The Awards are now in their ninth year, the first honours were awarded in 2010.

Where do nominations for this year's Local Heroes come from?

We seek nominations from all fields including the arts, sport, community service, health, public service, the environment, volunteers, tourism, business, rural, education, entertainment, science, technology, innovation and cultural development to name a few.

Last year, we received 586 nominations throughout New Zealand with the judging panel selecting 352 Local Heroes to receive medals.

How can I nominate someone?

Any member of the public can nominate an individual or community organisation in the Awards programme.

Nominations for the 2018 New Zealander of the Year Awards closed on 18th September 2017.

How are the Local Heroes being recognised?

From late November, special ceremonies are being held to honour Local Heroes in 16 regions across New Zealand. All recipients of Local Heroes awards will be presented with a Kiwibank medal in recognition of their inspiration and contribution to their communities.

What happens after the medal presentation ceremonies?

The Local Heroes Awards will celebrate one national winner at the New Zealander of the Year Awards Gala in Auckland in February 2018. The winner will be selected from three finalists, who will be sent on an all-expenses paid trip to Auckland to attend the Awards ceremony.

In late December, the judging panel will announce the 10 Local Hero of the Year semifinalists.

What have previous winners done?

The 2017 Kiwibank New Zealand Local Hero of the Year Hayden Smith was concerned about the trashed state of New Zealand's marine environment. Hayden persuaded the then five Mayors of the greater Auckland region to sponsor him and for the past 14 years he has been cleaning up shores in not just Auckland, but all over the world. He is the only recipient of the Clearwater Award outside of the USA for his work in engaging communities to help clean up the environment.

Who's on the judging panel?

The judging panel comprises a range of people from all walks of life. They include representatives of all the awards, patrons, presenters, sponsors, community leaders and independent experts.