

Volunteers leading the way for sport in the Wairarapa

This years SPARC Volunteer Awards yet again highlights the significant contribution volunteers make in our communities towards sport and recreation. Firstly the amount of quality nominations coming out of the Wairarapa was far greater in comparison to our population. This was also reflected in the finalists with two finalists in two of the three categories coming from the region. However the highlight has to be; Bruce Forbes winning the *Lifetime Achievement Award* for his service to Pony Club.



Photo c/o Andrew Bonallack at City Life News

The Lifetime Achievement award for volunteering was presented to David Moss, President of the Wairarapa/Wellington Pony Club on behalf of Bruce Forbes, the 92 years old stalwart of the sport who still volunteers! David spoke of Bruce's passion and determination in supporting Pony Club since the 1950's at every executive role nationally and locally.

The Wairarapa can be especially proud of the achievements of both Bruce and Ivan Karaitiana a finalist for the *SPARC Volunteer Awards* for his work in organising the Cancer Society Dragon Boating team. Not only do both go beyond the call of duty to ensure the success of their chosen code, but they also represent their sports and the Wairarapa with integrity and passion.

The day however belonged to Bruce, and while this award is in no way a fair return on the time and energy Bruce has invested into his sport, it is great to see that he is highly regarded and appreciated by the organisations he has made a contribution to as reflected in this excerpt of his nomination:

Bruce Forbes has spent 54 years giving tirelessly of his time and energy to Pony Club. His dedication to Alfredton Branch, North Wairarapa Pony Club and Wairarapa/Wellington Area and NZ Pony Club at national level is extraordinary. He has been President of Alfredton Branch for 53 years, District Commissioner of North Wairarapa for 13 years, Wairarapa/Wellington Area Chairman for 20 years and the WW Area Committee of Management Delegate from 1973 until 1998. He has been the Patron of the NZPCA since 2001. If anyone personifies pony club it has to be Bruce. As well as fulfilling his management roles he has been hugely involved in all the practical aspects of Pony Club too. He has instructed, examined, coached teams, built cross country courses and been a Technical Delegate. He is always there to help in any way possible and is highly valued and much loved.

The SPARC Volunteer Awards recognizes volunteering at its highest level and Sport Wellington-Wairarapa is proud of our regions contribution to these awards and looks forward to seeing more nomination, finalists and winners coming from the Wairarapa in the future.

For any queries regarding these awards please feel free to contact Quentin Parr of Sport Wellington-Wairarapa on: quentinp@sportwellington.org.nz