

Whangawehi group proud of nomination

THE WHANGAWEHI

Catchment Management Group is honoured to have been named a finalist at the New Zealand of the Year awards.

The group was one of three finalists in the community of the year category alongside Canterbury Charity Hospital Trust from Christchurch and Auckland's Pillars.

Group project manager Nic Caviale-Delzescaux said the awards celebrated individuals and groups for the way they made a difference to their communities and the country.

The Whangawehi group was one of 18 groups out of 750 applicants to make it to February's final awards.

The awards evening saw around 800 guests enjoy food, wine and awards entertainment with Mr Caviale-Delzescaux and members Pat O'Brian and Arthur Bowen attending.

Mr Caviale-Delzescaux said presentations of each of the six categories were given from a variety of established and well-known figures throughout New Zealand.

"Unfortunately the Whangawehi Catchment Management Group were not winners of the community section this time round with that honour going to the Canterbury Charity Hospital which provides free medical treatment to people who don't fit the criteria for public health system or who can't afford it otherwise.

The group already has a raft of national awards up their sleeve.

Jacinda Ardern presented The New Zealander of the Year award to Kristine Bartlett, an advocate for caregivers in the aged care sector who shocked the country when she won a landmark equal pay victory for them.

Mr Caviale-Delzescaux said it was an honour to be the only environmental group at this year's awards.

"These awards help raise the profile of the group especially when the work they perform is in such an isolated part of the country."

The group already has a raft of national awards up their sleeve.

Founder of the group Kathleen Mato was the winner of the environmental section for the 2014 Pride of New Zealand awards. In 2015, Rae Te Nahu took away the Kiwibank local hero medal for her services to the group.

Then in 2017, the group won the most prestigious environmental award for the country, The Green Ribbon Award.

The Whangawehi River is the only river in the Hawke's Bay district to be bucking the trend. Water quality is up by 15 percent, and the group still has



□ Whangawehi Catchment Management Group were one of three finalists in the community section of the New Zealand of the Year awards.