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PRESS RELEASE

Finalists announced for Most Beautiful Town and City in New Zealand

Keep New Zealand Beautiful has today revealed the finalists for the Most Beautiful Towns and Most Beautiful City in New Zealand for 2018.

The Beautiful Awards, run by Keep New Zealand Beautiful, aim to celebrate environmental excellence exemplified by communities, businesses, schools and individuals in New Zealand.

There are six finalists across three location-based categories: Most Beautiful Small Town, Most Beautiful Large Town and Most Beautiful City.

Each finalist must demonstrate sustainable and environmentally conscious behaviours across four key areas: Litter Prevention & Waste Minimisation, Community Beautification, Recycling Projects and Sustainable Tourism.

Keep New Zealand Beautiful CEO Heather Saunderson, says the finalists have worked hard to secure a spot in the top six.

"All finalists have strong environmental initiatives across each of our four key areas. We are so pleased to see the incredible work each region is doing to build and sustain vibrant communities. This will be a difficult competition to judge," says Saunderson.

The two finalists for Most Beautiful Small Town this year are Waihi and Raglan, with both executing exceptional waste minimisation processes and involving residents to encourage sustainability.

Waihi was selected as a finalist as a result of implementing a waste minimisation plan across the town, aiming to reduce waste sent to landfills by 13% by 2020. The town also introduced this plan to local schools.

Raglan, has implemented a number of local initiatives to minimise waste around the town. In particular a local organisation Plastic Bag Free Whaingaroa has worked with 90% of local Raglan businesses to remove single-use plastic bags from their stores.

Timaru is a finalist for Most Beautiful Large Town as it supports a thriving TAG (Totally Against Graffiti) programme; aimed at deterring tagging across the town. The town has designated tagging-friendly walls for artistic graffiti, which helps to instil a sense of pride in these areas.



Taupo is the second finalist for Most Beautiful Large Town for its sustainable tourism. The Taupo Parks and Reserves team completed a significant re-vitalisation project at tourist hot-spot Bulli Point, with divers removing over 250kgs of glass bottles from the lakebed.

Most Beautiful City finalist Hutt City Council encourages a zero tolerance for graffiti and encourages and promotes local urban art initiatives. The Council has helped to facilitate a collaboration between Chorus and local artists where seven Chorus telephone cabinets have been painted to help minimise graffiti and bring art in to everyday places.

Dunedin, the second finalist for Most Beautiful City, is encouraging recycling across the city and has implemented a recycling inspection programme to focus on behaviour change around the city by providing feedback via attaching tags to residential rubbish bins on how to best separate litter. The programme has seen an improvement in recycling quality by 27% so far.

The last phase of judging will involve the Beautiful Awards judging panel visiting the finalist towns and cities from late August. The winners will be announced at the Beautiful Awards Gala Dinner in Auckland on Friday 26 October 2018.

-ENDS-

About the Beautiful Awards:

The Beautiful Awards celebrate environmental excellence and recognise positive actions taken by communities, businesses, schools, individuals and councils, in local and urban areas to protect and enhance their local environments. This competition is open to all individuals, environmental groups, schools, businesses and councils to enter each year.

The 17 official awards are across five categories: Individuals, Communities, Businesses, Places, Small & Large Towns and Cities.

This year's judges include:

- FLOX, one of New Zealand's leading street artists
- Sally Duggan, Editor of *NZ House & Garden*
- Heather Saunderson, Keep New Zealand Beautiful CEO.

Notes to Editor:

The Beautiful Awards celebrates both environmental excellence from Businesses, Towns & Cities, Individuals, Community Groups & Schools and Beautiful Places.

Other notable awards for this year include the Best Loo Awards and Best Street.

Finalist for the Best Loo are Hot Water Beach Toilets, Benneydale Public Toilets and Te Mata Peak Park).

Finalists for the Best Street include Queen Street in Richmond, Upper Trafalgar Street in Nelson and Main Street in Gore.



For a full list of finalists, please see the table below:

Category	Award	Finalists
Businesses	Most Sustainable Large Business	Road Metals
		ecostore
		Waste Management
	Most Sustainable Business Project	UYOC
		Vendela Ltd
		Ceres Organics
	Most Sustainable Small Business	The Rubbish Whisperer
		The Falls Retreat
		Pouch Products
Towns & Cities	Most Beautiful Small Town	Raglan
		Waihi
	Most Beautiful Large Town	Taupo
		Timaru
	Most Beautiful City	Dunedin
		Hutt City
Individuals	Tidy Kiwi	Anita Goodman
		Bryan Fairbairn
		Charlotte Fisher
	Young Legend	E Wen Wong
		Rosetta Brown
		Amy Magyar
Local Hero	Wayne Davis	
Community	Community Environmental Initiative Award	Plastic Bag Free Raglan
		Timona Park Orchard Trust
		Coast Care Bay of Plenty
	Community Group Award	Plastic-Bag-Free Coromandel
		Eketahuna Chorus Building Project
		Keep Waihi Beautiful
	Sustainable Schools	Discovery School
		Dawson Primary School
		Portland Kindergarten



Places	Best Loo	Hot Water Beach Toilets
		Benneydale Public Toilets
		Te Mata Peak Park
	Best Street	Queen Street, Richmond
		Upper Trafalgar Street, Nelson
		Main Street, Gore
	Kiwi's Choice	Margaret Mahy Playground
		Castlepoint
		Taumarunui Northern Entrance

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