



## **A Green Ribbon for Environmental Excellence**

We live in a unique and beautiful country. New Zealand's environment is at the core of our national identity and our way of life. We must commit to protecting and conserving it. The Environment Ministry's Green Ribbon Awards recognise environmental excellence. They are an opportunity to commend those individuals, businesses, and organisations in New Zealand who have made outstanding contributions to protecting our unique environment.



*"This year marks the 20<sup>th</sup> Green Ribbon Awards. During this time more than 100 environmental champions have been awarded for their initiative, commitment and dedication to tackle environmental issues. The large number and diversity of the nominations this year is a testament to the hard work and the many different ways that New Zealanders are working to protect our environment," Hon Dr Nick Smith*

Last night's award ceremony was fantastic! Green Ribbon awards give well-deserved recognition for the ingenuity and determination of those who make a positive impact on New Zealand's environment. The awards also serve to inspire the rest of us. For the 2010

awards, 143 nominations were received across 12 categories. Leading by example, these nominees are ordinary New Zealanders doing extraordinary things for our natural landscape.

It was great to have an opportunity to meet so many people dedicated to making a difference to our environment. Thirteen organisations, from across New Zealand, were winners on the night. The categories reflected the Government's environmental priorities, and the many different areas in which New Zealanders contribute to reducing impacts on the environment.



The supreme winner was Kaharoa Kokako Trust for its impressive predator control efforts, and their significant role in the national kokako recovery programme. Based in the Bay of Plenty, the Trust has increased the number of kokako from 12 pairs when they started in 1997 to an impressive 121 adults in 2006.

The other 2010 winners are:

- Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust for its work with landowners to conserve biodiversity on private land
- Landcare Research for its efforts in reducing greenhouse gas levels through the CarboNZero programme
- Waitakere City Council for improving streams and waterways in Auckland through the successful Project Twin Streams
- Envirofert Limited for diverting large quantities of waste from landfill by recycling organic waste into compost

- Sleepyhead Manufacturing Company Limited for its new technology allowing for environmentally-sound manufacturing
- Sustainable Coastlines Incorporated for its projects that help improve coastal environments
- Hukanui Primary School for its eco-classroom – planned, designed and built by the students
- Environmental Education for Resource Sustainability Trust (EERST) for increasing recycling rates and environmental awareness in schools
- Splashroom Limited for inspiring action on environmental issues through film-making
- The New Zealand Wine Company Limited for making quality wine with minimal environmental impact
- Resene Paints Limited for producing environmentally friendly paint products
- Palmerston North City Council for its successful resource recovery centre

**Click here for more details about the exciting work of these people:**

<http://www.national.org.nz/Article.aspx?ArticleID=33086>

Every nominee has a fascinating story but as a one-eyed Cantabarian I am particularly interested in the work of both the Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust and Landcare Research. Both organisations do brilliant work although they deal with totally different environmental issues. I would also like to acknowledge the enthusiasm and hard work of Charlie B's Backpackers in Christchurch who were finalists in the sustainable small business category.

Last night was a real highlight for me. So often government has to use legislative sticks to encourage environmental good practice. Last night we honoured those who are voluntarily and passionately committed to doing their bit for New Zealand and a better environment!

Best regards,

Nicky



**PS.** If YOU want to help look after the environment. **Join me at the Bluegreens Forum** at Akaroa on October 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> Full details here

<http://www.bluegreens.org.nz/index.php?/pages/forum.html#>

We are now in our new Christchurch office at 222 Bealey Ave, on the corner with Madras St.

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If you are in Christchurch do feel free to pop in and visit.

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