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Media Pack announcing the recipients of the:

- McGredy Winder 2019 SOLGM Local Government Excellence Awards®
- Brookfields Emerging Leader of the Year Award
- SOLGM Overseas Manager Exchanges (sponsored by Civic Financial Services, Marsh and AskYourTeam)
- The Skills Organisation Scholarship

McGredy Winder SOLGM Local Government Excellence Awards® Supreme Award Winner

The winner is:

Bay of Regional Council and Te Arawa Lakes Trust, *Te Arawa Catfish Killas*

Te Arawa Catfish Killas is also the winner of the Te Puni Kōkiri Award for Bicultural Leadership. Further information about the project and what the judges said about it can be found under the Bicultural Leadership Award.

Previous winners:

- 2015 Selwyn District Council, Project Helix
- 2016 Hamilton City Council, Council Transforms A City Dump – The Restoration of Hamilton Gardens
- 2017 Waimakariri District Council, Draft Waimakariri Red Zone Recovery Plan
- 2018 Waikato Regional Council, Kawe Kōrero
- 2019 Auckland Council, Kia Puāwai

Te Puni Kōkiri Award for Bicultural Leadership

This Award recognises programmes, projects or initiatives that demonstrate outstanding results from working in partnership with Māori. Entries may come from any area of local government activity but must be able to demonstrate a commitment to partnership with Māori, with a demonstrable impact on community well-being.

The winner is:

Bay of Plenty Regional Council and Te Arawa Lakes Trust, *Te Arawa Catfish Killas*

About the winner:

The Rotorua/Te Arawa Lakes Catfish Response programme (entered under the name *Te Arawa Catfish Killas*) is a collaborative pest management initiative involving the Bay of Plenty Regional Council and the Te Arawa Lakes Trust incorporating the matauranga and tikanga of Te Arawa. We are advised that in the three years the programme has been running, some 80,000 catfish have been removed from Lakes Rotorua and Rotoiti.

The Judges said:

The programme's model of managing a biosecurity issue through co-management with Māori is widely applicable to any natural resource issue across New Zealand. The programme's blend of education, action and co-option of local communities is an exemplar of successful approaches to environmental management and good regulation.

Last year's winner:

This is a new category.

About the Sponsor:

Te Puni Kōkiri is principal policy advisor to the Government on Māori outcomes and on Crown-Māori relationships.

This is the first year SOLGM has offered this category

The BERL Award for Collaborative Government Action

This Award recognises outstanding results that have been achieved through local authorities working with other government agencies (this is not limited to local government – a project or programme that brings in central government agencies would be eligible).

The winner is:

Bay of Plenty Regional Council, *Kopeopeo Canal Remediation Project*

About the winner:

The *Kopeopeo Canal Remediation Project* was a collaborative effort by the Bay of Plenty Regional Council, the Ministry for the Environment and the community to safely remove dioxin-contaminated sediment from the Kopeopeo Canal near Whakatane. We understand the project is one of the largest successfully completed remediations and has attracted national and international attention.

The Judges said:

This was a particularly complex remediation challenge met with an approach that blended science, cultural awareness and technical innovation into a successful remediation. We also noted the steps the council has taken to inculcate the project learnings into business as usual.

Last year's winner:

Environment Southland on Behalf of the Regional Sector and Civil Defence Agencies: *Project AF8*.

About the Sponsor:

BERL is the leading provider of a broad range of economic research, analysis, advice and consultancy for business enterprises, organisations, iwi, institutions, community groups, industry associations and public sector clients in New Zealand. BERL is one of SOLGM's Principal Partner.

This is the fifth year the BERL has sponsored the Collaborative Government Action category.

The Minister for Local Government's Award for Innovation in Council/Community Relations

This Award recognises programmes, projects or initiatives that demonstrate outstanding results through innovative means of community engagement or community empowerment. Entries may come from any area of local government activity, but must have community engagement, empowerment, or partnership as a key aspect. Entries may include successful collaboration with private or community organisation. The approach taken must be transferable to other local authorities.

The winner is:

Rotorua Lakes Council, *The 2019 Rotorua Child Equity Programme Pilot*

About the Entry:

The *Child Equity Programme Pilot* brought together the council, a grouping of community and central government agencies and a decile one school. The programme provides tamariki living in deprivation with access to activities, services and experiences that enhance health and well-being. Following a successful pilot, the scheme has been extended to five decile one and two schools

The Judges said:

The *Child Equity Programme Pilot* demonstrates a successful community-based approach to well-being. The Pilot demonstrates a council identifying a local issue and taking a systems-based whole-of-community approach while the council itself has primarily taken roles as an advocate, broker and coordinator. This is the type of community-based solution that Parliament intended when it restored well-being to the statutory purpose of local government.

Highly Commended:

The Judges have also recognised:

Dunedin City Council, *Ohinepouwera (Karitāne Sandspit Restoration)*

About the Entry:

Ohinepouwera was a partnership between Kāti Huirapa Runaka ki Puketeraki, the wider Karitāne community and Dunedin City Council to co-design a sustainable solution to the erosion of Karitāne sand spit and consequent damage to property up-river. The solution agreed upon was to construct a natural driftwood windbreak to trap windblown sand and thus encourage its accumulation.

The Judges said:

Ohinepouwera shows the value of early, open and honest engagement to codesign a solution that all could agree upon. The engagement has not only created a simple, but very effective solution to the short-term issue – but has also empowered the local community to partner in the sustainable management of the sandspit and surrounding area. This is a great example of a non-engineering solution that the sector would do well to learn from.

About the Sponsor:

The Department of Internal Affairs is the sponsor for this category. The Department serves and connects people, communities and government to build safe, prosperous and respected nation. This includes a role as the Government's chief policy advisors on the local government system.

This is the third year the Department has sponsored a category in the Excellence Awards, and the second year it has sponsored this category (previously it sponsored the now discontinued Innovation in Asset Management category).

The Capability Group Award for Innovation in Organisation and People Development

This Award recognises innovative approaches to building an exceptional organisational culture or capability through the application of transformational leadership.

Entries in this category might be multi-year programmes or one-off projects but they will involve organisational redesign, human resource management, capability development or related aspects. The approach must be capable of transfer to other local authorities.

The winner is:

Central Hawkes Bay District Council, *Together We Thrive! E Ora Ngātahi Ana*

About the winner:

Together We Thrive is Central Hawkes Bay's multi-year organisational transformation and development programme – designed to align with council's wider vision for the relationship with the community.

The Judges said:

Together We Thrive is an ambitious rethink of the way an entire local government organisation thinks and acts. To have achieved the level of improvement in staff engagement in 12 months is a testament to the leadership of senior management, alongside a clear expectation from the governance wing, and a clear measurable transformation plan. We look forward to hearing more of the progress of this initiative in coming years.

Last year's winner:

Auckland Council: *Kia Puāwai* (this entry also won the McGredy Winder Supreme Award).

About the Sponsor:

Capability Group is a provider of professional development opportunities that transform individuals and workplace cultures. Capability Group partners with SOLGM to develop leadership capabilities within the local government sector.

This is the third year that Capability Group has sponsored the Innovation in Organisation and People Development category.

The Tompkins Wake Award for Better Policy and Regulation

This Award recognises the development of robust and effective evidence-based policy or local regulatory initiatives. Any policy, plan or regulatory initiative is eligible for this award.

Entrants will be expected to clearly demonstrate their initiative was based on a robust problem or issue definition, evaluation of one or more options, the development and use of an evidence base and that the initiative is transferable to other local authorities.

The winner is:

Porirua City Council, *At the Heart of Our City: Strategic Framework for Children and Young People in Porirua*.

About the winner:

At the Heart of Our City is Porirua City's overarching framework for delivering on the Council's strategic priority – *Children and Young People at the Heart of Our City*. Its intention is to improve wellbeing outcomes in health, education, connection and participation.

The Judges said:

We were taken by the clear linkages between *At the Heart of Our City* and the council's wider long-term plan objectives, its drawing in of a number of central government and community agencies in a coherent way, and the meticulous design of its monitoring and evaluation. This is another example of council's influencing community outcomes without taking a huge role in service delivery.

Last year's winner:

South Taranaki District Council, *An Innovative Approach to Freedom Camping*.

About the Sponsor:

Tompkins Wake is a leading New Zealand law firm with offices throughout New Zealand's economic and commercial heartland.

This is the second year Tompkins Wake have sponsored this category.

The Local Government Funding Agency Award for Transforming Service Delivery

This category recognises programmes or projects that result in an exceptional service experience through innovative delivery models or the redesign of business processes or practices.

The winner is:

Auckland Council, *Request for Service*

About the winner:

The *Request for Service* project saw Auckland Council move its systems for reporting property maintenance issues (approximately 150,000 such requests per year) from a 55-step, mostly manual process to a 10-step automated process.

The Judges said:

Being able to interact with council online (including self-service) is a customer expectation - particularly for a service such as reporting a property management issue. We recognise the scale of the project and of the change that has been made. We have also been impressed with the efforts the team has made to share the lessons across the organisation.

Last year's winner:

South Taranaki District Council, *An Innovative Approach to Freedom Camping*

About the Sponsor:

The New Zealand Local Government Funding Agency (LGFA) specialises in financing the New Zealand local government sector, the primary purpose being to provide more efficient funding costs and diversified funding sources for New Zealand local authorities. LGFA was established to raise debt on behalf of the local government sector in a cost-effective manner.

This is the sixth year that the LGFA has sponsored an award in this category.

Brookfields Emerging Leader of the Year Award

The recipient is:

Kane McElrea, Biosecurity Manager – Partnerships & Strategy, Northland Regional Council

The Judges said:

Kane is a deserved winner of this year's award in what was a very tough field of applications. His application was described as "energetic", and his passion for and commitment to the sector, stood out.

Kane has carved out a career for himself in the sector, starting as a student ranger for Auckland Regional Council, and transitioning to a Park Ranger role when he finished university. Kane now leads the Biosecurity Partnerships group which is responsible for the introduction of a number of significant community-empowering initiatives including Whangārei Predator-Free and Tiakina Whangārei.

The judges were impressed with how Kane's leadership is making an impact in his region as well as nationally through his work and connection networks. He demonstrated how he has enabled his team to deliver for the community, his strong commitment to the sector, and the broad reach he has that will enable him to share his learning for greater impact across the sector.

The judges wanted to commend all the applicants and it was really pleasing to see such talented and enthusiastic applications this year. In another year other applicants could easily have won the award and the judges particularly commented on how people demonstrated the impact they are having in their chosen careers.

Overseas Manager Exchanges

Civic Financial Services Overseas Manager Exchange to the United States

The recipient is:

Kym Fell, Chief Executive, Whanganui District Council

The Judges said:

Kym is a transformational leader who has led significant change in his organisation and the judges recognise his impact in the sector.

Kym is a strong communicator, and his genuineness and commitment to empowering his team to deliver for their community will gain significantly from his participation in this exchange opportunity.

Marsh Overseas Manager Exchange to British Columbia

The recipient is:

Sarah Nichols, Governance Manager, Waimakariri District Council

The Judges said:

Sarah impressed the judges by demonstrating the impact of her work on the local community, particularly less-represented groups. The reach of her work covers the areas of governance, collaboration, resilience and partnership with Māori, and the opportunities provided by an Exchange to British Columbia are significant.

Sarah is keen to learn new ideas on how other countries enable democracy through community engagement, and to share her wide experience and examples of 'good practice' built up over 15 years working in the sector.

Marsh Overseas Manager Exchange to Canada

The recipient is:

Nicola Pinfold, Group Manager Community & Planning, Dunedin City Council

The Judges said:

Nicola is fascinated by people and cities, and how they interact to form communities. She is keen to learn more about other countries' approaches to transformational projects, so she can apply this to the significant city-wide projects underway in her community such as the waterfront revitalisation project.

Nicola impressed the judges with her strong interest in regeneration of cities, and there is an opportunity to learn and share opportunities to benefit the local community through this Exchange.

[AskYourTeam Overseas Manager Exchange to New South Wales](#)

The recipient is:

Karel Boakes, Regulatory Manager, Manawatu District Council

The Judges said:

Karel clearly articulated her interest in the areas of resilience to natural events, growth, and digital services in the regulatory space and how an Exchange would allow her to seek new ideas around these challenges. She demonstrated her commitment to continuous improvement and providing clear guidance and leadership to her teams to enable them to deliver for the community.

The Judges were impressed with Karel's broad experience across many aspects of the sector, and the opportunity this provides for her to share her learning from an Exchange.

[AskYourTeam Overseas Manager Exchange to Queensland](#)

The recipient is:

Doug Tate, Group Manager Customer & Community Partnerships, Central Hawkes Bay District Council

The Judges said:

Doug impressed the Judges with his passion to see how community engagement is undertaken in rural areas of Australia, and how this can be translated to rural New Zealand. Although early in his local government career, Doug has demonstrated his ability to lead teams to deliver value for their communities, as well as the wider sector.

Doug also has reach into broader networks and clearly articulated how he would share his learnings, and provide his Exchange partner with access to wide experiences here in New Zealand.

[AskYourTeam Overseas Manager Exchange to Australia](#)

The recipient is:

Martyn Cole, Water & Wastewater Asset Manager, Kapiti Coast District Council

The Judges said:

Martyn has a career in delivering water services that spans more than 25 years, and the Judges were impressed with his experience in leading professionals to deliver projects that improve the lives of communities. Martyn is particularly interested in approaches to embedding indigenous values into his work, and the Judges felt an Exchange to Australia would provide significant opportunities to learn about innovative approaches to the challenges of water management.

Martyn demonstrated his desire to provide a rich learning experience to an Exchange partner, whilst building enduring professional relationships that can benefit his council, and the sector as a whole.

The Skills Organisation Melbourne Business School Scholarship: Leading for Strategic Success

The recipient is:

Sanchia Jacobs, Chief Executive, Central Otago District Council

The Judges said:

Sanchia was a standout candidate for this Scholarship; a high potential leader who the Judges felt would benefit from this opportunity. She demonstrated active networking across the sector and is a leader with a vision for herself, her council, and the sector as a whole.

Sanchia demonstrated contemporary thinking on how the sector needs to lead and change to support and enable their communities, with focus on technology and the role it can play in improving people's lives. She intends to use the Scholarship to increase her own capacity and capability, and provides a perfect example of thinking globally, and acting locally.

SOLGM 2020 Distinguished Management Award

The recipient is:

Basil Chamberlain, Chief Executive, Taranaki Regional Council

Basil is the longest serving Chief Executive in New Zealand, and is highly regarded by his peers, particularly in the Regional sector, for his technical and managerial expertise, and also for his counsel and mentoring. He has served in a range of capacities at the national level, mainly in the fields of resource management and biosecurity.

Basil's career started at the Taranaki Catchment Commission and Regional Water Board at a time of major gas and oil discoveries and associated energy developments. He became General Manager of the Taranaki Catchment Board aged 29, and in 1989 was appointed Chief Executive at Taranaki.

Taranaki is known for its quality natural resources and strong primary production. The Council is involved in promoting sustainable activities and regional infrastructure planning and provision. The Council has a reputation for efficiency, innovation and quality provision of services.

Basil has served in a range of capacities at a national level, mainly in the fields of resource management and biosecurity.

In the mid 90's Basil chaired the Strategic Consultative Group on Sustainable Land Management Research which provided extensive advice to the Minister for Science, Research and Technology. In 2004 he chaired Local Government NZ's Resource Management Act Improvement Project Group and at the same time he was a member of the Ministerial Reference Group advising Government on the review of the RMA. For close to two decades, he was a member of the New Zealand Biosecurity Council and its successor the Government's Biosecurity Ministerial Advisory Committee. He also previously chaired the Government's Pest Management Strategy Advisory Committee.

In 2006 Basil was appointed to Chair the Ministerial Advisory Group advising the Minister for the Environment and the Minister for Agriculture and Forestry on the Government's Sustainable Water Programme of Action. More recently, he led a cross sector steering group to investigate and promote improvements in New Zealand's approach to the management of natural hazards. He subsequently served on the Local Government Risk Management Agency Establishment Board.

Basil has also served as Convenor of the Regional Council Chief Executives' Group. He is known as a strong advocate of public participation in community governance and the need to empower and work with people to achieve vibrant and prosperous communities.

In 2013, Basil was honoured to receive the Outstanding Person Award from the Resource Management Law Association.

Basil recently announced his retirement from Taranaki after more than 40 years of service, including 31 years as Chief Executive. His intelligent, strong and pragmatic leadership is heralded by his peers.

SOLGM President's Award for Distinguished Contribution to SOLGM

The recipient is:

David Ward, Chief Executive, Selwyn District Council

The President's Award for Distinguished Contribution to SOLGM has been awarded to **David Ward, Chief Executive of Selwyn District Council** and former Chief Executive of Horowhenua District Council.

This Award is for a SOLGM member who has made a significant contribution to SOLGM.

David is a long-term and significant supporter of SOLGM. He has been a member since 2003 and has been heavily involved in two SOLGM Working Parties spanning more than 15 years.

David joined the Finance Working Party in 2004 and became Chair in 2009, a position he retained until 2017. During this time the Finance Working Party oversaw the development of significant guidance to the sector on the move from IFRIS to PCPB accounting. In 2018 he was appointed Chair of the Democracy and Governance Support Working Party.

David is also a strong supporter and mentor to the young leaders that report to him. He has supported them to attend the Executive Leaders Programme and several have gone on to become chief executives. At Selwyn David established a Young Leaders Group, which is co-chaired by two (different) young leaders each year. Under his direction they establish a speaker programme for their monthly meetings which includes both internal and external speakers. They have a framework of learning from others and learning from themselves.