

WAITEMATĀ LOCAL BOARD GOOD CITIZENS' AWARDS 2019

Our first award under for Special Award for Long Service to the Community goes to **Gerry Hill**. Affectionately called the Mayor of Ponsonby, Gerry has made a significant contribution to the Ponsonby community over the last 20 years.

Gerry is a true Ponsonby personality. His passion for local history has seen him deliver booked-out talks and walks as part of the Auckland Heritage Festival.

As a heritage campaigner he has fought many battles to protect our built heritage, from pre-1940 heritage homes to Martha's corner and speaking out against the architectural integrity of restored Rob Roy Hotel. He has also been vocal supporter of returning trams to Ponsonby Road, and a passionate advocate for improved accessibility and amenities.

Gerry has further contributed to the community in the roles of Chairman of the Ponsonby Community Centre, Treasurer of Western Bays Community Group and as Treasurer of the Ponsonby Business Association.

He has also helped fundraise for Lifewise by participating in the Big Sleepout, spending the night sleeping on a piece of cardboard in the heart of winter to raise awareness about the plight of rough sleepers in our community.

Despite a diagnosis with MND, Gerry is not letting this slow him down because he's a fighter and his passion for life and his community is too great. Gerry, we're honoured to present you with this award tonight.

Congratulations Gerry Hill!