



1 April, 2015

For immediate release

## Media release Honours for top South Taranaki volunteers

Six long-serving South Taranaki volunteers will be awarded with top honours next week, when Special Olympics South Taranaki presents its 2014 Club Service Awards to volunteers who have provided more than a decade of service to the Club.

The awards will be presented before the Club's AGM on Wednesday 8 April, 2015.

Special Olympics South Taranaki Chair Sharon Waller, says the commitment and support of volunteers is integral to the Club's success, and she is very pleased to be formally thanking its long-serving supporters.

"Without the long-standing support of these volunteers it would not be possible for our athletes to travel out of town to compete in regional and national competition events, and for us to provide the level of training and competition we do for our athletes with intellectual disabilities," she says.

"These individuals all give up their weekend and personal time for Special Olympics South Taranaki and are there for our Club and our athletes 100%. A heartfelt thanks to all of our deserving recipients."

The Club Service Awards are part of Special Olympics New Zealand's national award structure. 2014 is the first year this award structure has been in place, and there are two award levels available. Level One - Senior Volunteer Awards are presented to volunteers who have continuously served Special Olympics New Zealand at Club level for 10 or more years. Level Two - Long Service Volunteer Awards, are for those who have continuously served Special Olympics New Zealand at Club level for more than 20 years.

The South Taranaki recipients are:

### Senior Volunteer Awards

- Gillian Weir
- Lynette (aka Lyn) Smailes
- Kevin William Ryan
- Jennifer Diane Rowlands

### Long Service Volunteer Awards

- Hugh (aka Garth) Weir
- John Smailes

### **Special Olympics New Zealand**

PO Box 38344, Wellington Mail Centre, Lower Hutt 5045, New Zealand **Tel** +64 4 560 0360 **Fax** +64 4 560 0400

**www**.specialolympics.org.nz **Email** info@specialolympics.org.nz

**Facebook** www.facebook.com/specialolympicsnz **Twitter** @SpecOlympicsNZ

*Created by the Joseph P. Kennedy Jr. Foundation. Authorised and accredited by Special Olympics, Inc for the benefit of persons with intellectual disabilities.*

Special Olympics South Taranaki's AGM is being held at the Black and White Café, 54 Fantham Street, Hawera, on Wednesday 8 April at 7pm. The Club Service Awards will be presented after the AGM, at 7.30pm.

ENDS

**For more information: Sharon Waller**

Chairperson  
Special Olympics South Taranaki  
027 278 6257  
[sharon.waller@xtra.co.nz](mailto:sharon.waller@xtra.co.nz)

**About Special Olympics New Zealand**

Special Olympics New Zealand is a year-round programme of sports training and competition for children and adults with intellectual disabilities. More than 7000 athletes throughout the country train and compete in 13 different Olympic-type summer and winter sports.

Founded in 1968 by Eunice Kennedy Shriver, Special Olympics provides athletes continuing opportunities to develop fitness, demonstrate courage and experience joy as they participate in the sharing of gifts and friendship with other athletes, their families and the community.

[Words Matter—Special Olympics Language Guidelines for media](#)

Special Olympics New Zealand: [www.specialolympics.org.nz](http://www.specialolympics.org.nz)