



Napier Pilot City
Unity Day 2025 – Award Presentations
Presented by Mayor Kirsten Wise

Misbah Abdulla – nominated by Maria Roberts & Neill Gordon

Misbah is an outstanding rangatahi citizen of Ahuriri Napier. He was a Napier Youth Councillor last year and is a leading light for tangata tiriti in Te Matau-a-Māui.

Aged 17, Misbah is an eloquent and powerful speaker with a strong sense of social justice. When the Hīkoi mō te Tiriti moved through Heretaunga last year reports claimed: “It was the kōrero of one young local which captured the crowd's attention”.

"I am an Indian," Misbah said. "India is my motherland. Aotearoa is my homeland. As I strive to be worthy of India, I strive to be worthy of Aotearoa. I strive to live by manaakitanga and kaitiakitanga, to respect this land and its people. And I say to everyone here - tautoko te Tiriti, support the Treaty! Be worthy of the land you stand on." 52

Ruiha Kawana Te Pohe Makarette Crawford - nominated by Alyson Bullock

Ru is an enthusiastic and caring volunteer for several organisations around Ahuriri; and a capable, reliable friend to kaumatua and whanau.

She's been involved with Pukemokimoki Marae since it opened 16 years ago, being part of the whanau that is responsible for the marae's care, support and maintenance.

Ru is support crew for the **Maraenui Kaumatua Group** and takes members shopping. She also volunteers for Age Concern, Grey Power, and at the popular Fry Bread caravan at the popular Sunday Market on Marine Parade. 40

Alistar Young – nominated by Jenny Pearce

As a Citizens Advice Bureau volunteer Alistar demonstrates compassion and dedication. He's an active board member and consistently fosters relationships that better serve Napier.

He supports kaumatua in Maraenui; he's treasurer for Tū Tangata Maraenui Panui and the Multicultural Association; he helps out at Eastern Bridge and engages with churches to promote CAB services.

Alistar is described as a true volunteer. He makes a meaningful impact through selfless service and works quietly without seeking recognition. 33

Greg Miller – nominated by Napier Mayor Kirsten Wise

A leading chef for over 25 years, Greg bought Valley d'Vine Restaurant located at Linden Estate Winery in Eskdale 12 years ago, transforming it into an award-winning hospitality venue and so much more.

Greg is a dedicated community supporter. He regularly hosts important fundraising events, and played a crucial role in Eskdale's recovery following Cyclone Gabrielle. Even though he was an affected business owner too, he was driven to help feed, shelter and support displaced local residents.

His resilience and unwavering commitment to his community define him, and his dedication and kindness make a lasting impact. 40

Hans Rook – nominated by Annette Brosnan

Hans retired from DOC 11 years ago, after 42 years of service, and continues to work tirelessly for conservation, protecting habitats across the region and the motu.

He has developed nationally recognised methods for protecting endangered birds, and championed site conservation for spawning whitebait.

Hans is pivotal in initiatives that manage predator and weed control, plus restoring wetlands – most notably our precious Ahuriri Estuary.

Hans continues to build deep relationships across the community. With vast knowledge and expertise he is a valued mentor to many, ensuring future conservation efforts achieve meaningful, lasting results. 45

Charlizza Matehe Ngati Kahungunu, Ngāti Porou & Ngā Puhi – nominated by Mark Cleary

Charlizza is an award-winning entrepreneur, playwright and youth development practitioner dedicated to creating opportunities for rangatahi Māori.

She is founder and director of Toi Matarua, a rangatahi research company. Focusing on Indigenous youth health, wellbeing and social justice issues; Toi Matarua has facilitated wānanga on youth health locally, nationally, and internationally for over a decade.

Also a busy mum, Charlizza is completing a doctorate in Indigenous Studies, and she also founded *MokoBoys*; there's more on that soon. 44

MokoBoys – nominated by Mark Cleary

MokoBoys is a rangatahi-led service established in 2011 by Charlizza and Toi Matarua.

It was initially established as a ‘by rangatahi for rangatahi’ performing arts group focusing on mental health. But responding to changing needs, MokoBoys evolved into an initiative that connects rangatahi and kaumātua in purposeful, practical ways.

Services include lawn mowing, gardening, māra kai, window cleaning, rubbish removal, light household cleaning, IT assistance and kōrero.

All MokoBoys are trained, mentored and supervised by local, experienced tradesmen and kaumātua, with all profits going towards leadership and development opportunities for local rangatahi. 44

Coven Ratima nominated by Mark Cleary

Coven is a qualified Level 4 trainer in Health and Fitness and runs free group exercise sessions in Maraenui.

And if he’s not taking training sessions, you’ll find him at Maraenui’s EIT Hub, tutoring the Level 1 Certificate in Health and fitness.

Coven’s passion for health and fitness is relatively new. While working in a job he didn’t enjoy, he felt overweight, unfit and frustrated he didn’t have the time or energy to spend with his beautiful growing whānau.

A chance session at the Meke Pod changed all that, and Coven acknowledges the impact Levi Armstrong has had on his life: *‘He saw something in me that even I didn’t know was there’*. 44
