



# EW Dragon Boat Annual Awards

24<sup>th</sup> May 2008-10-16

Organised by Helen Leslie, the 2007-2008 Annual Awards were held at the Le Dome Restaurant on Saturday, 24<sup>th</sup> May 2008.

President Sarah MacKay officiated and EW Deputy CEO Clare Crickett for the second year represented our principal sponsor and awarded the prizes. Clare commented on the continued success of the EW Dragonboat team and the benefits to team building within EW.

The following prizes were awarded:

1. "Most Dedicated" – the person who has been most dedicated to the cause ... either on or off the water: **Helen Leslie**
2. "Most Improved" – the person whose paddling improved the most during the season: **Virginia Comer** and **Sarah Orchard**
3. "Best Crewperson" – the person we couldn't do without when we are on the water: **Ross Wightman**
4. "Sportsperson of the Year" – the person who is a combination of all of the above and anything else to do with our team this year: **Cirina Di Pierro**

This year's prizegiving saw the introduction of another innovation, the idea of Helen Leslie, who last year championed the introduction of the "In appreciation" engraved glasses for others within the Dragonboat team/club who contributed in special ways to our success. This year those paddlers/committee members who reached 10 years services were also acknowledged with engraved glasses.

Those who received 10 Year Service Awards were:

1. **Mark (Willy) Williams** – 11 years as paddler. Willy first paddled for EW in 1995 and has at various times been Coach, Assistant Coach and committee member.
2. **Murray (Muzza) Mulholland** – 10 years as paddler with continuous service from 1998. Muzza has also been Treasurer and a committee member.
3. **Paul (Paulie) Smith** – 11 years continuous service paddling for EW

Those who received "In Appreciation" awards were:

1. **Cirina (Red) Di Pierro** – for efforts in assisting with fundraising and especially the "Balloons over Waikato" event over the past couple of years. Your time and effort has been appreciated.
2. **Jimmy (Jimbo, Coach) Heta** – for everything you have given freely to the EW Dragonboat Team both on and off the water in your role as "Coach".
3. **Allan (Big Al) Halse** – For everything you have done (or delegated) and/or given freely to the EW Dragon Boat team on and off the water in your role as "Team Manager".

Special thanks to Helen for organising the Annual Awards and for the many hours she spent researching the archives to identify and record the length of Dragonboat service of all current EW Dragonboat paddlers.