

Mayor unable to get awards rule changed

WAITOMO mayor Brian Hanna has tried but failed to have North King Country's young sporting achievers recognised at "home".

Due to eligibility changes to the region's sports awards nomination process this year, several young people who call the North King Country home but move outside the Waitomo and Otorohanga districts for competitive opportunities or education, are no longer be eligible for recognition at the local annual Sport Waikato awards nights.

Instead, young sportspeople born and raised in the North King Country such as Josh Balme (shearing), Tallis Karaitiana (rugby) and Olivia Macdonald (volleyball) will have to represent the club or school they attend at their region's sports awards such as Taranaki or Waikato.

Mr Hanna, who approached Sport

Waikato chief executive officer Matthew Cooper to make an exception for the North King Country, says the decision is final.

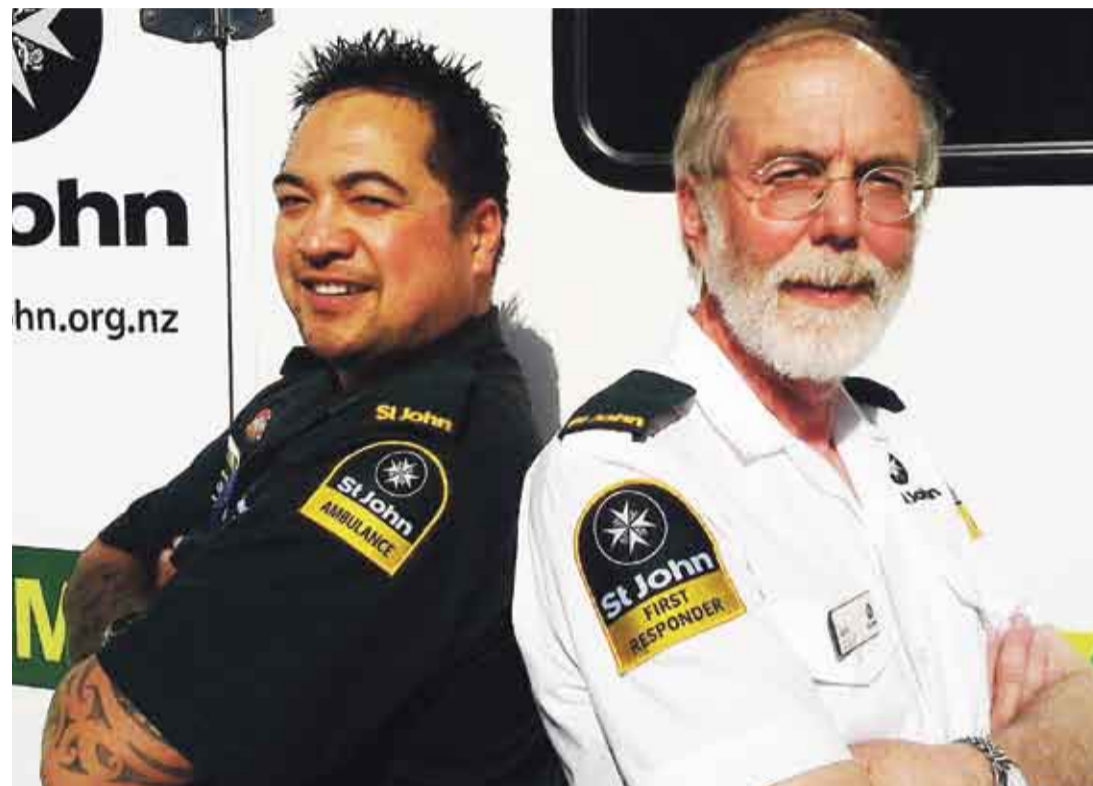
"Matthew could see our frustrations and totally understood our situation but they (Sport Waikato) had to bite the bullet this year and make one consistent ruling for all," says Mr Hanna.

"So we're looking at doing is introducing a new category (at our awards) called the Mayoral Achievement Awards to recognise young people from this district who have performed outstandingly in other regions.

"Although they won't be included in our annual Junior Sports person of the Year category, which is frustrating, we will still be able to celebrate their successes in the place they call home."

TO P7

Uniform look



ROAD TEST: Te Kuiti St John ambulance officer Winston Cotidis (left) is one of 16 nationwide staff trialling the emergency organisation's new uniform. The dark green shirt, white undershirt, green polar fleece and dark green cargo pants, designed for better wear and tear, may replace St John's well-known white shirt and black pants worn by crew members throughout the country for the past 10 years. "The material is far better wearing, the pockets are larger so it is more practical, and our badges are sewn on," says Mr Cotidis. "It gives us a fresher look." Volunteer ambulance officer Colin Scobie (right) in the current white and black uniform, says the new uniform is a welcome change. "Keeping white shirts . . . white . . . is very difficult. The green is a good look."

Inframax back in the black

WAITOMO District Council-owned roading contractor Inframax Construction Ltd has posted its first profit in years.

At the company's annual general meeting last week, it was reported Inframax had recorded a post-tax \$266,600 profit for the 2012-13 year, against a forecasted \$1.1 million loss in the recovery plan agreed by the council just two years ago.

Through "hard work" and "a shift in focus", the company achieved an operating surplus of \$402,000 in the past financial year, compared to the \$1.37 million operating loss reported the previous year.

"After financing cost and asset revalua-

tions, a post-tax comprehensive income of \$267,000 is reported, which overall represents a tremendous effort by chief executive Chris Heywood and the staff of Inframax," says company chairman Eric Tait.

"We now have a company re-established on a sound financial footing, but there is still considerable work to be done to demonstrate Inframax Construction Ltd is a strong business."

OUTSTANDING RESULT

Waitomo mayor Brian Hanna says this is the first profit declared for six years and in the context of the current tough trading

environment, the result is "outstanding".

"I congratulate the board, management and staff at all levels in the company on the respective roles they have played in this turn around in the company's performance.

"The board has worked extremely hard and spent many long hours well above all expectations to work at delivering what is best for the company."

Mr Hanna paid special tribute to the company's directors Mr Tait, Craig Rowlandson and Earl Rattray and also Mr Hayward for the turnaround in profit.

"Chris has worked tirelessly over the past year to refocus the company to deliver profit,

reduce overheads and place the company on a more sustainable pathway going forward," says Mr Hanna.

"The company has secured good future contracts and is very focussed on achieving good trading margins and delivering good customer service.

"I believe Inframax has turned the corner, and is definitely heading in the right direction."

Inframax employs more than 150 staff, and was formed in 1999, after a merger between Te Kuiti-based Waitomo Civil Construction and New Plymouth's Northgate Construction.

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