

Iconic church part of miniature NZ

EMMA JAMES

The iconic St Andrew's Church in Cambridge has been chosen to feature in a national miniature park.

Leading the Mini-KiwiLand project is Kiro Verhoef, who was born in Wellington but raised in the Netherlands.

His aim is to promote New Zealand history, architecture, transport, brands and businesses in a miniature (1:24) scale.

The white church – St Andrew's – was selected from a Facebook poll, where Verhoef uploaded 46 photos of Waikato buildings (excluding Hamilton) and asked people to vote for the buildings they thought should be represented.

Hamilton was done in a separate poll due to its high population.

"We will be making more Waikato buildings and structures. We will be adding more nominations in the future as well," he said.

Voting is open on Facebook.

As yet, there is no set location for the final placement of Mini-KiwiLand, but Verhoef said he hopes to have the first set up of at least 50 models ready for the public by February 2019.

"The collection will continue to grow to at least 300 models of New Zealand buildings.

He said his ideal location for the set up would be Kapiti, but they are also considering land around Matamata.

Other Cambridge structures for consideration include the Cambridge Town Hall, the Masonic Hotel, the band rotunda in Cambridge West, the old post office, the old courthouse and Monavale.

Those interested in learning more can visit minikiwiland.co.nz.



St Andrew's Church has been chosen to feature in a national miniature park. It has been built by 'Master Don' and project manager Kiro Verhoef.

Top award for CHS student

Cambridge High Schools' Freddie Dillon is the 2016 winner of the Trustpower Waipa District Youth Community Award.

The award was presented at the Trustpower Waipa District Community Awards held at Te Awamutu College on Monday.

Run in conjunction with the Trustpower Waipa District Community Awards, the Youth Community Award recognises secondary school students' service to the school and the community.

It is jointly run by Trustpower and the Waipa District Council.

Local high schools each recommended one student to be considered for the Award. Other finalists were Emille Hughes from St Peter's School and Renee Kemp from Te Awamutu College.

Applicants had to have given service to school or community projects, treated others with respect and been a good ambassador for the school and for Waipa.

Trustpower community relations representative Emily Beaton said Freddie had invested much into his school. He was the student trustee on the Board of Trustees, he was on the year 12 leadership group last year, was involved in the kapa haka group, and founded the CHS Leo Club last year.

He also works on local conservation projects, is a member of the Cambridge Brass Band, and has been on various committees, including Waipa Council Parks and Reserves Landscape Committee, the Waipa Council Armistice and ANZAC Day Committee, and the Gaslight Theatre Committee. He has also worked at a Cambodian orphanage.

Freddie won a trophy, framed certificate and \$500 prize money, with \$250 to go to a community group or organisation of his choice.

Other awards given out went to the Cambridge Tree Trust, who won in the Health and Wellbeing category, and the Cambridge Society of Arts, named runner-up in the Arts and Culture category.

The Supreme Award went to Te Awamutu Rugby Sports and Recreation Club.