

Laurie Dowling Memorial Award

2026 Nomination Information Pack

Presented within the Napier Port Hawke's Bay Primary Sector Awards.

Recognising selflessness, service, and lifelong contribution to agriculture in Hawke's Bay.

Celebrate those who uplift our sector – quietly, generously, and without seeking recognition.

1. Overview & Purpose

The Hawke's Bay A&P Society owns and manages the Napier Port Hawke's Bay Primary Sector Awards, which celebrate excellence, success, innovation, and growth across Hawke's Bay's rural industries. These awards have a long history of telling the story of excellence within rural Hawke's Bay and play an important role in recognising leadership, innovation, and contribution across the sector.

The Laurie Dowling Memorial Award recognises an outstanding individual who has made a significant and often unrecognised contribution to agriculture in Hawke's Bay – through their work, voluntary service, or lifelong commitment to supporting and advancing the rural community.

This award honours the legacy of the late Laurie Dowling, a respected agricultural consultant whose passion, integrity, and tireless efforts helped shape farming across the region. It celebrates those who reflect his values: humility, service, community commitment, and an unwavering dedication to the betterment of agriculture.

2. Why Nominate?

Nominating someone for this award is an opportunity to acknowledge individuals whose influence, service, and generosity may otherwise go unrecognised.

All nominees:

- Are invited to attend the Primary Sector Awards Dinner
- Connect with farmers, growers, businesses, sponsors, and industry leaders
- Receive an annual membership to the Hawke's Bay A&P Society

Winner receives:

- Recognition as the 2026 Laurie Dowling Memorial Award recipient at the Napier Port Hawke's Bay Primary Sector Awards Dinner
- Entry into the Laurie Dowling alumni network of past recipients
- Media exposure and acknowledgment as a valued contributor to Hawke's Bay agriculture

3. Eligibility & Nomination Conditions

This award is open to individuals who:

- Have made a significant, positive, and often voluntary contribution to agriculture in Hawke's Bay
- Work or volunteer within the agricultural sector or wider farming community
- Demonstrate selflessness, humility, and a commitment to sector-good
- Have contributed over time, in ways that benefit farmers, rural communities, or agricultural progress
- Are respected by peers for their integrity, service, and commitment

Nominations may be submitted by colleagues, employers, farmers, organisations, or community members.

4. Nomination Criteria

The Laurie Dowling Memorial Award recipient will typically demonstrate:

- Long-standing service to agriculture or the rural community
- Unselfish contribution, often voluntary or carried out without seeking recognition
- Positive impact on people, farms, organisations, or the wider sector
- Commitment to sector-good and improving agricultural outcomes in Hawke's Bay
- Practical influence through advisory work, mentoring, community involvement, or leadership
- Values reflecting Laurie Dowling's legacy – humility, passion for agriculture, and dedication to helping others

5. Judging Criteria & Process

Nominations will be assessed by a select panel of independent industry leaders.

The judging panel will consider:

- Contribution & Service – nature, scale, and impact of work or voluntary service
- Sector Benefit – how the nominee's actions have supported agriculture or rural communities
- Legacy & Influence – long-term benefit or lasting impact
- Character & Values – integrity, humility, generosity, and commitment
- Alignment with Laurie Dowling's ideals

How Judging Works:

- Panel reviews all written nominations.
- Judges may seek clarification or contact referees if required.
- Final results reflect both the written nomination and referee insights.

6. What You Need to Prepare Before Nominating

To help you prepare, the online nomination form will guide you through providing the following information about your nominee and their contribution to agriculture:

Nominee Information	This section captures basic details about the nominee, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Contact details• Current role or connection to agriculture• Farm or organisation (if applicable)
Nominator Details	This section captures basic details about the nominator, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Contact details• Relationship to the nominee
Nomination Statement	This section asks you to explain why the nominee should be recognised, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The nominee's background and involvement in agriculture• Their contribution to farming, rural communities, or agricultural organisations• Examples of voluntary service, mentorship, advocacy, or unrecognised work• The impact of their actions on people, farms, or the wider sector• How their service reflects the values of selflessness, humility, and commitment to agriculture <p>You will be asked to provide a written response of approximately 150-500 words.</p>
Referees	Provide contact details for two referees who can comment on the nominee's contribution and alignment with the award criteria.
Supporting Material	You may upload any supporting material that strengthens the nomination, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Testimonials or letters of support• Case studies or examples of their service• Articles, media coverage• Industry awards or governance involvement• Other relevant documents

All submitted material will be kept confidential unless used for agreed promotional purposes. Runner-up names will remain anonymous.

7. How to Nominate

1. Complete the online nomination form
2. Upload the required files listed in "What You Need to Prepare Before Nominating" as part of your online nomination
3. Ensure the nominee is available to attend the Awards Dinner (2 April 2026)

8. Key Dates - 2026

Nominations Open	1 October 2025
Nominations Close	28 February 2026
Judging	March 2026
Awards Dinner	2 April 2026

9. Contact

For questions or more information, contact:

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Email: psa@hbap.co.nz Phone: 027 342 6071

10. Acknowledging Our Sponsors

With thanks to Napier Port, and our valued sponsors who make these awards possible.