



**MEDIA RELEASE**  
**17 February 2016**

### **NORTHSHORE LOCAL HEADS TO ORLANDO TO RECEIVE PRESTIGIOUS GLOBAL AWARD**

North Shore local Billy Gamit, has been named among the top one percent of McDonald's restaurant managers worldwide and will soon accept his award with winners from across the globe in Orlando, Florida.

Billy was one of 340 McDonald's restaurant managers to receive the Ray Kroc award – named after the company's pioneering leader - an accolade that also includes a cash prize and a trophy.

Celebrating his 10-year anniversary with McDonald's this year, Billy will be awarded his prize on April 13 at the Ray Kroc Awards Gala in Orlando, hosted by Steve Easterbrook, McDonald's president and chief executive officer.

Billy says, "I feel honoured and excited to be selected among McDonald's top restaurant managers. It's an incredible feeling to be recognised for my contribution to the business within the restaurant – let alone on a global scale.

"I'm grateful for the opportunities McDonald's has afforded me – both for my own career development, and for the fantastic people around me that the business attracts. We have a strong team at Milford. We all work hard to deliver outstanding results, and this award is really a reflection of that," he says.

McDonald's owner-operators and regional management nominate restaurant managers for the Ray Kroc Awards to recognise their hard work, dedication, and commitment to McDonald's and its customers.

David Gilbert, owner and operator of McDonald's Akoranga Drive says: "Billy was nominated for his commitment to developing talent and excellence in customer service. Staff working with Billy have told us that his support and encouragement has given them the confidence to take on more responsibility. We're delighted that we are able to recognise Billy in this way for his outstanding contribution to McDonald's."

McDonald's is committed to creating employment opportunities for people of all ages and from all backgrounds, as well as providing training and education to help people gain the skills and experience they need to progress in their careers.

In New Zealand, McDonald's has NZQA-aligned and university level training programmes. Through a partnership with Massey University restaurant managers can gain cross-credits towards a Diploma or Bachelor of Business Qualification.

McDonald's also provides opportunities for progression and promoting from within; around 90% of restaurant management began their careers as crew members.

**ENDS**

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### **About McDonald's New Zealand**

New Zealand's first McDonald's restaurant opened in Porirua in 1976. Today there are 167 McDonald's restaurants across New Zealand, 80 per cent of which are owned and operated by local business men and women. The organisation employs over 9,000 people in restaurants nationwide, and is one of New Zealand's largest employers of youth. McDonald's was awarded 'retail employer of the year' in 2011 by Retailworld. In 2014 McDonald's spent around \$183 million with local suppliers, while New Zealand producers exported over \$312 million of food to other McDonald's markets. McDonald's is the primary supporter of Ronald McDonald House Charities in New Zealand, which provides accommodation for the families of seriously ill children and other services including mobile dental care units. For more information visit [www.mcdonalds.co.nz](http://www.mcdonalds.co.nz)

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