

'A lovely man' chosen as father of the year

By **JOEL FORD**

joel.ford@bopp.co.nz

MOUNT Maunganui's Bob Moore has been named Kiwi Families Father of the Year — ahead of 500 other fathers for the title.

The 75-year-old former farmer and father of seven was nominated for the prize by his daughter, Bev Wills, who wrote a letter to Tauranga-based internet parenting advice organisation, Kiwi Families, after the hearing about the competition on the radio.

In her letter, Mrs Wills told the story of how her father was left alone to raise five children after the sudden death of his first wife.

Mrs Wills said her father had to act as both a mother and a father to her and her brothers and sisters while also maintaining his dairy farm.

Yesterday all the love and hard work Mr Moore put into his family was recognised when he was rewarded with \$5000 in a Kiwibank account, \$3000 worth of power tools and a \$500 Prezzy Card from NZ Post.

"It is all quite exciting. I was completely caught by surprise but it was a very pleasant surprise," Mr Moore told the *Bay of Plenty Times*. "I'd always thought I was good. But not that good."

When asked what he thought made a good father, Mr Moore said a combination of creating strong boundaries for children and instilling them with strong ethics was a good start. He said showing them a lot of love also helped too.

"It's a bit old fashioned but you don't see enough of it today."

As far as the prize money goes Mr Moore said he was unsure of how he would be spending it. He



WINNER: Kerry Burrigge from Kiwi Families with Father of the Year winner Bob Moore.

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said the money was of secondary importance to the honour of being recognised for his parenting skills.

"I feel humbled. Money is not important when you get to be my age," he said.

His daughter said she didn't even have to think twice about nominating her father for the prize once she heard what Kiwi Families were looking for.

"It took me about 10 minutes to write about him. It came so easily

because it was straight from my heart," Mrs Wills said.

Managing Director for Kiwi Families, Kerry Burrigge, said deciding on a winner out of 500 contestants was no easy task. She said Mr Moore stood out for a number of reasons, including the way he took care of his family when his first wife passed away and the example he set.

"He made being part of a family fun. He's a lovely man."