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Kiwi-Designed Game Wins American Award

Auckland, New Zealand – June 12, 2013 – Kiwi-designed Raid the Pantry has won a prestigious Game of the Year award from Creative Child Magazine, an American publication.

Creative Child's awards program involves over a hundred guest reviewers who convene for two days in Henderson, Nevada to judge competing games and toys. SchilMil Games of Auckland submitted Raid the Pantry in the Family Card Games category where it was up against dozens of other entrants.

Raid the Pantry is a rummy-style card game for two to four or two teams of two. Players need to reach a winning point threshold by 'cooking' multicultural dishes, that is, assembling the ingredients needed to make everything from pizza to coq au vin. Over a dozen countries and cuisines feature, including New Zealand, which is represented by pavlova.

Julia Schiller and Amanda Milne ("Schil" and "Mil") developed Raid the Pantry in 2011. Their aim was to create a more strategic game than traditional favorites like Hearts and Euchre, where a player's fate is usually sealed by the cards they are dealt. Raid the Pantry's Action cards are a dynamic element, enabling players to trade, steal or even dumpster dive from the discard pile for the ingredients they need. The game's unpredictability led a commentator at Melbourne's Games Shop to declare that it has "more twists and turns than the MasterChef kitchen."

With the assistance of Milne's photographer partner, the women shot most of the food photographs and dishes that feature on the cards. They also staged the action shots and even recruited Schiller's teenage son, Nicolas Zawadzki, to serve as the dumpster diver.

The game has been enthusiastically received since its release in May of 2012. Susan Baldacci of the Afternoons with Jim Mora show on Radio New Zealand National remarked, "it would be absolutely fabulous to play this game before a dinner party with a bunch of adults," while Dish magazine recently wrote that it's "great for getting the younger members of the family interested in food." American fan Nina Hofstadler of San Diego says: "It's one of our family's favourite games. My kids love gathering the ingredients, especially the dumpster dives!"

Raid the Pantry sells for a recommended retail price of \$24.95. It is available at over 50 retailers across New Zealand, including bookshops and hobby and game stores and via SchilMil Games' online store. Its recommended age range is 8 and up.

Creative Child Magazine will formally announce the awards later in the year, but Schiller and Milne are already celebrating their success. "Our dream is for every Kiwi home and school to own a copy," says Schiller.

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