

Service Histories of Rodney Community Service Award Winners



Ruth Walker – Coatesville

Ruth has a long history of service to the Coatesville community. For over 30 years she has served as the guardian of the Coatesville Hall.

Ruth has proven to be a trusty guardian of this community asset as during all this time she has never lost the key to the hall. Her nominators say that it is largely due to Ruth's efforts that the hall can now support itself without major fundraising being required as it has become such a popular venue.

Ruth is a well respected and liked member of the community.

Nick Davidson – Warkworth

Nick provides voluntary service to the Warkworth community in a number of ways.

For a number of years Nick has delivered the Rodney Times to local businesses for rural residents to pick up. He also coordinates the Mahurangi East Fire Brigade Meat Raffle which involves selling tickets and distributing prizes. The raffle is a popular fundraiser for a vital local service, and it attracts around 120 participants each week.

Nick also helps local businesses in a variety of other ways, and spends around 20 hours a week doing unpaid community service.

Nick is described as "always cheerful, trustworthy and reliable" and his work is very much appreciated by the people of Warkworth.

Jennifer Ferguson – Warkworth

Jennifer Ferguson has been a volunteer with the Warkworth Visitor Information Centre for the past 17 years and has been a key part of the centre's operations since its opening in 1992.

Jennifer is also a volunteer for three other Warkworth organisations. She is currently the treasurer of the Warkworth A& P Show and of the Warkworth Museum.

She has also been and active member of the Warkworth Brass Band for over 40 years, and has been the treasurer for many years.

Jennifer is described as a “well respected, capable and active” member of the community, “who takes every opportunity to promote our village and district to the many people she meets.”

Kath Rhodes – Orewa

Kath is a long serving volunteer at the Orewa library and has provided a quarter century worth of service to community since she started work at the facility in 1984.

Kath has also been active in helping to preserve and protect Rodney's natural environment as a member of the Forest and Bird Protection Society. In this role she has undertaken a wide variety of activities including carrying out voluntary tree planting at Wenderholm Regional Park .

Kath has also been part of the Orewa Croquet Club for 25 years. She has been responsible for organising book sales on Sundays during the Summer holidays which have been a tremendous success and have raised \$18,000 for the club to date.

Thelma McLeigh – Dairy Flat

Thelma has dedicated her time to helping a wide variety of local organisations since coming to live in Dairy Flat some 25 years ago.

One of her roles is that of secretary to “The Luncheon Club” – which is a club providing food, friendship and support to older members of the community. Thelma has organised catering rosters, transport, entertainment and helped out with fundraising at the Club.

Thelma is also a member of the Silverdale and Districts Historical Society and has assisted the society in many ways, including helping out in the grounds, restoring old buildings, cataloguing and storing artifacts, and providing tours.

In addition to this Thelma has served as a volunteer at Orewa library for the past 22 years and as a Meals on Wheels volunteer for a number of years.

Her nominators say that, “countless people say that it is a privilege to know her.”

Thelma is 85 years young and continues to devote her life to the service of others.

Kendall and Cheryl Attwood – Manly

Kendall and Cheryl will be well known to many Hibiscus Coast youngsters and their families.

Both have been involved in the Whangaparaoa Scout Group for the past 9 years. Kendall has served as a group scout leader and quartermaster of the Scout Den and Cheryl as a Group Cub and Scout Leader. This involves 2 – 3 nights work each week and countless weekends spend fundraising, at camps in leadership training and committee meetings on top of their regular jobs.

The fact that the scout group has a waiting list and currently has around 100 children involved in the group programme every week is a testament to their success in these roles.

Their nominators say:

“They are respected by the children, and admired by the parents, for their humble dedication... these are the people who make it happen.”

“Kendall and Cheryl have made a difference for many children in the region and I can think of no more deserving people for this award than them. “

David Bott – Helensville

David is a well known and much respected personality in Helensville. David has headed the Helensville Riverside Heritage Team since its creation in 2001.

The Heritage Team has worked to transform the heart of Helensville by clearing rubbish from the banks of the Kaipara River and working with the Council to create a walkway and boardwalk, and develop a pontoon and planting along the banks of the river.

David is also a member of the Helensville Railway Station Trust, the Helensville Freemasons and a volunteer for the Helensville Information Centre.

The Railway Trust has worked to restore and retain the historic station which has recently come to life through regular commuter train services to the benefit of the wider community.

David has been a member of the Helensville Heritage Day committee from its inception and his work has helped make the inaugural day the success it was.

His nominators say that, "David can always be relied upon not only helping with strategy and planning but also a hands on approach. He is a real asset to the community and deserving of recognition."

Theresa Butler – Ahuroa

Theresa Butler is an example of someone who has made a real difference to a community by creating an asset that will continue to be enjoyed for years to come.

Theresa was responsible for the refurbishment of the Ahuroa Swimming Pool.

Pictures of the pool prior to its refurbishment show it looking more like a water garden than a pool. Without a local facility, for the past ten years the local community had to travel 17km to Warkworth for a swim.

Theresa worked tirelessly to coordinate the refurbishment of the pool. This involved heading a fundraising effort which successfully obtained \$30,000 in funding and also coordinating the physical works and pool opening.

Theresa has created "a resource that brings our community together, provides the opportunity for children to learn essential and potentially life saving water skills and for community members to exercise at a facility that is within 10 minutes drive from their home."

Thanks Theresa – you're a local hero.

Joy Boniface – Snells Beach

Joy has a rich and varied record of service to the Rodney community.

Since 1951 Joy has been a Member of the Women's League of Health and Beauty, now called the Fitness League.

Joy has used her knowledge of health and fitness to help many people in the community. She has served as a volunteer at Totara Park Day Centre during the day since 1991. In this role she teaches elderly clients exercises to music, entertains them and provides their carers with a well deserved break. Joy has also been a volunteer at Warkworth Hospice since 2005.

Joy has been member of the Inner Wheel Club Warkworth since 1991 and has previously served as its president.

Joy has provided much needed medical care to countless individuals. She has been a member of NZ branch of St John since 1974, and has served as Divisional Manager of the Warkworth Division since 2005.

In what little spare time she has available Joy is also the joint Custodian at Sandspit Yacht Club.

Joy was awarded the title of Joint Volunteer of the Year 2001 in recognition of her service. She was also nominated as a Rural Woman Volunteer of the Year in 2005.

Brian and Colleen Cave – Wellsford

Brian and Colleen Cave are well respected and active members of the Wellsford community.

Colleen has been President of the Wellsford CMA (Centre for Mutual Aid) for the past 10 years. The centre provides a wide range of services to older people. Colleen also helps out at the Warkworth/ Wellsford Hospice and Heritage Rest Home every week.

In addition to this she is involved in the Catholic Church and knits for charity in her spare time. She is described as, “a very caring and likeable person.”

Brian also undertakes a lot of voluntary work for the Catholic Church in Wellsford. He is the treasurer of the Wellsford CMA and provides assistance with transport and home calls. Brian is also a member of the Wellsford Golf Club.

Brian is described as, “always ready to help others... a good personality and well liked.”