



HDC NEWS



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Chance to acclaim community heroes

Know of an outstanding community volunteer or a young achiever who deserves recognition? Nominations are now open for the Council's 2014 Citizen and Young Achiever Awards.

The annual Citizen Awards acknowledge the service of Hauraki residents who commit substantial time and effort – often involving personal expense and sacrifice – to benefit their community. Last year's recipients included volunteers who have made a difference through surf lifesaving, Search and Rescue, sport, scouting, and service clubs, to name just a few ways.

"Volunteers are glue that holds our community together," says Mayor John Tregidga.

Home is where the heart is

When a resident is awarded the Queen's Service Medal, it's recognition of voluntary service to the community or country beyond expectations. When two residents of a small town like Paeroa receive the tribute, it's a reflection of the spirit and cohesion in the community, says Mayor John Tregidga.

This month, two past recipients of Hauraki District Council Citizen's Awards were nationally acknowledged in the Queen's Birthday Honours list: Bill Rackham for services to the New Zealand Fire Service, and Alistair Buchanan for services to the community.

Some people serve the community in a myriad of ways; some are passionate about home. For Queen's Service Medal recipient Alistair Buchanan the two are the same. Paeroa has been "home" for six generations of his family – now including his children and grandchildren – and he and his wife Annette have done everything they can to help it prosper.

Alistair started his working life on the family dairy farm at Awaiti Road, and became involved with the Young Farmers Club early on. After he and Annette were married, they wanted to nurture an outward looking life not confined to farming; so Alistair joined the Jaycees and eventually became regional governor.

One memorable club project he helped with in the 1970s was

building the Daly's Clearing Hut at Waitawheta, originally known as the Jaycee Hut. "By organising everything beforehand, we did it in one weekend," he says. "On the Saturday night we slept in it, without the roof, and the next day we finished the job." The only thing missing was the outhouse. "It somehow dropped off the helicopter that was bringing it in, and couldn't be found. We had to fundraise for another one."

At about the same time, Alistair was a foundation member of the Waitawheta Camp Society.

At Netherton School, where he had been a pupil, he was a committee member during the years his three children attended. Alistair also had a major involvement with the Netherton Bobby Calf Pool, and represented local interests on the national body for about 10 years.

In 1986 he joined the Paeroa Lions Club; and he has been a key member of the organising committee (currently president) for another Paeroa institution, the annual Highland Games and Tattoo.

In addition, Alistair has used his organisational and business skills for community benefit, for instance in helping to keep the Goldfields Railway on track during a rough period, and as one of the developers of Paeroa's North View housing estate. As a founding member and later president of Positive Paeroa,

The awards are presented at a gala evening which, since 2006, has also celebrated the achievements of local 13 to 25-year-olds. Candidates for these honours can be nominated by schools, alternative education centres, youth groups, service organisations, or sport, recreation and culture clubs.

Nominations for both sets of awards must be received by July 18, on forms available from Council's offices or on the Council's website. Don't leave it too late – our judging panel needs time to ensure that any awards given truly reflect the value of the recipients' efforts. This year's presentations will be made in the Ngatea War Memorial Hall on September 24.



Above: Annette and Alistair Buchanan in the town centre they helped to shape.

some of his strong interests have included helping to shape the Freshlook streetscape and initiating the town jazz festival.

At the Paeroa Cooperating Parish (previously St Andrew's Presbyterian Church) where he has been a lifelong active member, Alistair has been at the core of ministry programmes and has played the organ for 59 years, since he was 16.

His musical talent has been appreciated, too, by the Paeroa Community Support Trust – through which he has taught keyboard to primary-aged children for many years as well as wearing other volunteer hats. Alistair likewise teaches music at Netherton and Karangahake Schools, where some of his grandchildren are students. There's no pay, and he doesn't want it. "The reward is seeing the light go on for a child," he says.

How has Alistair managed to fit in so many contributions?

He gives much of the credit to Annette, who like him grew up in Paeroa. She has not only provided immense support but always worked in partnership with him – on the farm, later in their Paeroa Farm Services business, and in community endeavours. The couple jointly received Hauraki District Council Citizens Awards in 2009.

Alistair and Annette also say their Christian faith has instilled the value of caring for others and being involved in their community. "And our lives are the richer for it," says Alistair.

While he doesn't feel he has "earned" a Queen's Service Medal, Mayor John Tregidga describes Alistair as an exceptional man. "A lot of Paeroa people wouldn't realise just how much he has given over the many, many years. His quiet commitment to the community, its young people, and the business community has been absolutely inspiring."

A lifetime on call

Bill Rackham isn't one for the limelight. He'd rather just get on with the voluntary job he's been doing for the past 46 years, for which he has just been recognised with a Queen's Service Medal for services to the New Zealand Fire Service.

Even before he joined the Paeroa Volunteer Fire Brigade in 1967, Bill was nugging boots and helmets and polishing brass buttons – part of brigade uniform when his father was a member for about 16 years until 1960. Although Bill begrudged the chore, he admits to being quietly proud of his Dad.

After taking an apprenticeship with Walmsley Builders, Bill helped to construct the present fire station. This, plus the influence of a couple of old rugby mates who were in the brigade, sparked him into signing up just before the station was completed.

Later, Bill had a big hand in constructing the adjacent tanker shed, complete with kitchen and washrooms, using the shell of a former sports shed on land provided by the Council. "Whatever skills our members have are well used," he says. The brigade included a third generation of Rackhams between 1979 and the mid 1980s when his two sons joined him; both of them continuing in Fire Service roles after moving away from Paeroa. Bill says his family's long association with the brigade and the area – his grandparents were Karangahake miners – has made his own community involvement feel all the more meaningful.

In 1975 Bill was elected junior vice president of the Thames



Above: Bill Rackham at home in the Brigade

Valley Goldfields Fire Brigades Sub Association, becoming president three years later. For 28 years he was active in annual waterways competitions – a test of skills and teamwork and "a heck of a lot of fun". It was one reason he "wanted to give a little bit back", and he still retains a strong interest that includes helping with training.

At the time of the 1981 floods, Bill was the Paeroa Brigade's deputy chief, and played a key role in coordinating emergency operations as the Fire Service's first ever disaster response task force brought together available volunteer and paid personnel from around the region.

When Bill became Fire Chief in 1991 he had "big shoes to fill". He says his predecessor Noel Thompson set high

leadership and personal standards and was extremely dedicated and community minded – qualities that were recognised with a Hauraki District Council Citizen's Award. Bill too received a Citizen's Award in 2007, which like his Queen's Service honour was "unexpected and overwhelming". He says fire brigade service is "about the team around you, and I've had wonderful support from the local team. I'm very proud of them."

The special camaraderie with his fellow firefighters has been shared through 46 years of good and bad. "There are some things you never get hardened to."

Bill says he has continued in the brigade for so long because of the support it receives from members' families, the community, the Council, businesspeople and service organisations.

He also has a personal philosophy that once he starts a job, he needs to follow it through, and his job's not finished yet. For instance, it's an ongoing and challenging mission to get smoke alarms into all the houses of the Paeroa area. Mayor John Tregidga says that in the Fire Service where 25 years of membership is significant and is recognised with a Gold Star honour, "Bill's service is approaching double that. His commitment is exceptional, and he has been a great leader."

Volunteers make a huge contribution to the community, says the Mayor, and emergency services volunteers go the extra mile in being on call 24/7. "That impacts on their extended families, who deserve to be acknowledged too."

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOMINATIONS INVITED FOR

2014 CITIZEN AWARDS

The Hauraki District Council invites nominations for deserving nominees to be considered for Council's 2014 Citizen Awards. To be eligible, nominees must satisfy the specified criteria. Further information on eligibility and nomination forms can be obtained from Council's Service Centres in Paeroa, Waihi or Ngatea, or by telephoning Customer Services on 07 862 8609 (or 0800 734 834 within the District).

Nominations should be addressed to the PA to the Mayor, Hauraki District Council, PO Box 17, Paeroa, to be received no later than 4.00pm on 18 July 2014.

2014 YOUNG ACHIEVERS AWARD

The Hauraki District Council invites nominations for deserving nominees to be considered for Council's 2014 Young Achievers Awards. To be eligible, nominees must satisfy the specified criteria. Further information on eligibility and nomination forms are available from the Mayor's Office by contacting Erin Wood at 07 862 8609 (or 0800 734 834 within district).

Nominations should be addressed to the PA to the Mayor, Hauraki District Council, P O Box 17, Paeroa, to be received no later than 4.00pm on 18 July 2014.

JP Tregidga, MNZM, JP
MAYOR

COUNCIL & COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Pursuant to Section 46 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, public notice is hereby given that the following meetings will be held during the month of July 2014 at the Paeroa Council Chambers, 1 William Street, Paeroa, *unless stated otherwise.

Judicial Committee (if required)
Monday, 7 July 2014 - 9.00am
Monday, 21 July 2014 - 9.00am

Ward Committees - Tuesday, 15 July 2014
Plains Ward - 9.00am
Paeroa Ward - 12.30pm
Waihi Ward - 2.30pm

Operations Committee
Wednesday, 16 July 2014 - 9.00am

Audit and Risk Committee
Tuesday, 28 July 2014 - 9.00am

Western Plains District Drainage Committee
*Ngatea Office, 84 Orchard West Road, Ngatea
Tuesday, 29 July 2014 - 10.30am

Ordinary Meeting of Council
Wednesday, 30 July 2014 - 9.00am

LD Cavers
Chief Executive
Hauraki District Council