

SPORTS RECIPIENTS – ONYA FOR KNOCKING IT OUT OF THE PARK

Michael Read

Michael is a creative and inspiring tutor with a depth of knowledge of the Martial Arts.

Many have been impressed with Mike’s natural talent for instructing and his ability to convey his knowledge to his pupils. He is driven by a love of the art which benefits his students in their both skill levels and self-defence ability. There is no sense of competition in his classes, only personal challenges.

He has instructed a large dojo of mixed ages and has bought through a large number of students to black belt and higher. Through his instruction and example he has managed to instil the principles of hard work, discipline and respect for other people regardless of their age.

He has averaged over three thousand and eighty two hours of voluntary teaching over 23 years.



Thomas Kereoma, Taylor-James Adamson, Everitt Remnant, Sam Remnant, Luke Johnstone, Max Wicks, Bailey Soppet-Main and Hemi Smith.



Next up we have an outstanding group of young men who have played for the Maramarua Junior Rugby Club in the 12th Grade division of Counties Junior Rugby.

In the 2023 season these boys and their team mates went through the round robin season undefeated, won the semi-finals and the final, making them the Counties 12th Grade Rugby title winners, the first time in 31 years this age group, representing the Maramarua Club, has won the title.

Winning against Pukekohe in the final means the boys also brought the Grayson Bravery Shield back home.

Taking away the Maramarua Junior Rugby Club Team of the Year Award!

The team as a whole has students coming from five schools, and the stronger bond that they achieved this season with the new players to the team was amazing.

These young men have led by example for their peers at school, within their club and within their communities showing that hard work, commitment and perseverance eventually pay off.



Julie-Ada Tana

Julie does so much for the Paeroa community when it comes to sports.

She is the Netball Junior Coordinator for the Paeroa Netball Centre, the Junior Touch Coordinator for Paeroa Rugby & Sports Club, Manager of the Thames Valley Men's Netball team and has played a major role in the return of the Hauraki Tigers Rugby League Club.

She does all of this voluntarily out of pure love for sport and the enjoyment our youth and senior sportsmen get from participating.

Julie-Ada runs the Wednesday netball module for kids and mixed teams, runs the Touch module on Thursdays for Junior to Senior teams.

She is the 'go to' person for general sporting events, ensuring all of these sports running effectively and smoothly to enable all of our youth and seniors to play the sport/s they love.

Julie-Ada has several medical conditions that make movement hard, but she never ever complains, she always has a big beaming smile, a positive attitude and has never let her conditions stop her or let her down.

Julie-Ada has her own whanau to care for, including four children, yet nothing is a bother but rather a challenge that she takes on for the betterment of her community and the people she supports.

Julie-Ada is the epitome of community in every sense of the word.



ARTS & CULTURE – ONYA FOR ENHANCING AND ENRICHING OUR LIVES

Naelene Donaldson



Naelene is the student leader of Te Aō Māori at Waihi College. In this role she has been the primary rangatira and kaiako for the Waihi College Kapa Haka Rōpū.

Naelene has not just tutored the students of Kapa Haka, but has been an inspiration, guide and taskmaster for the whole group.

She has raised the standard of Kapa Haka to extremely high through her knowledge of Te Ao Māori and Māori performing arts.

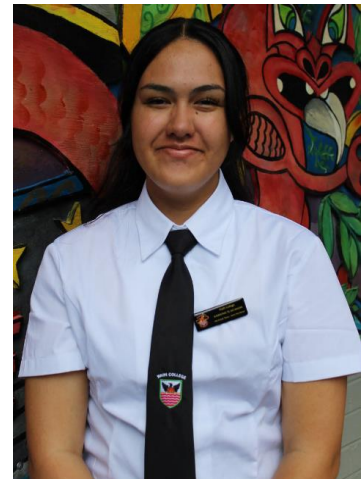
She has led the group as the primary performer and has welcomed students from Year 7 through to Year 13.

She has helped with the coordination of the Matariki Community celebrations and was cast in a starring role in the school production of Grease.

Naelene has taken on a full day of tutoring of our tamariki and has shown that she has the mana to take on a role that would be traditionally an adult Kaiako.

She has brought mātauranga māori to the students as she teaches with explanations of the waiata and haka that they perform.

She has captured the respect and admiration of our younger students who aspire to reach her high standards of delivery and performance.



Sheryl Krissansen



Sheryl is heavily involved in the dance and theatre community in Paeroa. She has a senior's tap group, of which the oldest is 88. She is also involved in senior ballet classes, who recently sat the ballet and tap exams.

She works at the local rest home, co-ordinates activities and has other dance groups.

She always puts people first and takes time to find the right music so everyone has fun and joins in. She is a very qualified teacher and brings our community together. She is always willing to welcome new members to the exercise group, with over 20 attending.

She is skilful and kind and supports the group to achieve. She is positive, considerate and uplifting.

She goes the extra mile in enabling people of all ages and capabilities to enjoy and feel invigorated.

She provides tap, ballet, jazz, children's theatre classes, strength and balance. Her coaching style instils confidence, encouragement, reassurance and belief in oneself.



Luke van Vliet

Luke has been with the Kerepēhi brass band for around 6 years. He is a very accomplished brass musician and was a member of the band for a few years before he took on the Presidents role.

He has supported the club to increase membership from six to twenty-seven, helped purchase more instruments and organised to play around twenty-seven musical events in the Thames/Hauraki areas including the 75th Anniversary of the band.

Luke has a very energetic approach towards the band, which helps to enthuse members to do things they would never usually do. His strong leadership and ability to form good relationships is part of Luke's approach to his activities in the community and with the band.

The development of the children's group has been a highlight over the past 2 years, after Luke and others toured local schools to sign up potential players. Several children recently won a prize in a regional competition. In addition, a seniors group has been established for those who do not want to play at concerts and public events.

Luke fosters a sense of pride amongst the players, in not only their standards of musicianship, but also in their appearance and the standard of their uniforms. The work involved in the club is entirely voluntary and the growth of the band is largely because of his hard work and perseverance.



SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY – ONYA FOR CARING ABOUT YOUR COMMUNITY

Sam Morrison

Sam was nominated for his many years volunteering at the Paeroa Library.

Approximately 7 to 8 years ago, the former Paeroa Library Manager Lesley Young took Sam on as a volunteer and trained him in the many duties involved in volunteering at the library.

Except for a break during the Covid-19 pandemic, Sam has come to the Paeroa Library every Thursday for an hour and quietly shelved books, which he does with great reliability and accuracy.

Sam has done this job thoroughly and reliably for many years, which has helped the library staff immensely.

This volunteer work gives him the opportunity to give back to his local community and his long service, reliably given without fuss, is hugely appreciated by staff and customers.



Grier Buchanan

This capable young woman and the recipient of the next award is the Paeroa College Head Student of Community for 2023.

As such, she gives back to our community on a regular basis.

She is not only an active volunteer with local Rotary, Lions and other community events, but also coordinates students to help.

Grier works with the community to ensure our students are there and supporting all community activities and fund raising opportunities.

She also leads the college student council, coordinates volunteers for the daily breakfast club and captained the Lacrosse team.

Grier is a phenomenal student, earning excellence in each of her NCEA qualifications, the Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award and recently Paeroa College DUX for 2023.

She is an excellent role model for younger students, consistently going above and beyond expectations.

She consistently strives for excellence in everything she does.



Jamie-Lee Owen



Jamie is a Year 13 student at Paeroa College and the Head Student of Wellbeing for 2023.

She has been instrumental in lifting the profile of wellbeing in our community and raising community-wide understanding of mental health, particularly amongst the younger generation.

She organised the Run for a Reason fun run event in June this year as well as a Marmite for mental health event in October, which together raised thousands of dollars for the mental health charity I Am Hope.

She speaks weekly in school assembly to highlight the importance of mental health and wellbeing and to encourage conversations around it.

She participates regularly as a community volunteer and is an active sports woman and team member of the Paeroa College Lacrosse team.

Jamie-Lee is outstanding in every way. She has taken her role as Head Student of Wellbeing to new heights and is an inspiration to many younger students who aspire to lead as she does.



Meg Thomas

Meg is the leader of Community at Waihi College for 2023, as well as Leo Club President.

During her time as a Leo, she has helped with the Garden Ramble fundraising BBQ, the Book Fair, Heads up for Kids and Keep Waihi Beautiful Clean Ups.

She has an impressive academic record, was awarded Proxime Accessit of Waihi College 2023 and has represented Waihi College in the Senior A's Football Team for the past 3 years.

Meg graduated the Police pathways programme class of 2022, winning the Victoria Lemon PT trophy and has given back this year as the class of 2023 Student Leader.

Whether it is making Valentines cards as a part of the Save the Children Fundraiser or toasting muesli and packaging up food for the local gift-box, Meg always grabs opportunities to help and support her school and community.

Meg is a hard worker in and out of school and a true team player.



Ian Bradshaw



Our next recipient has contributed to many community organisations and projects in Waihi over the past 30-40 years.

Ian is a rather reserved character but has a very strong and caring relationship with the Waihi community in which he has lived.

He has been a member of the Waihi Lions for 30 years, was on the Waihi College Board of Governors/Farm Unit Committee 1985 to 1990, is a Habitat Enhancement & Landcare

Partnership (Waihi) Inc. founding member, was a member of Jaycees and was Waihi Branch Chairperson of Forest & Bird 2003 to 2013,

As a Lion, Ian helped to establish the Black hill walking track, planting native trees around the Martha mine and was involved in many other events during his time with the Club.

Ian has played a crucial part in many community-planting projects including the Waikato Forest & Bird project in the Waitekauri Valley, the Forest and Bird Millennium Forest in Morgan Park, Waihi, school plantings, plantings around the Waihi basin and the Hauraki District Council Millennium Forest. He contributed many plants, labour and organised community contribution.

Ian has acted as a mentor to many people in the environmental field and still contributes plants and advice.



Josephine Jebb

Our next recipient made the move to the Hauraki District in 2014 to retire.

Since then, she has taken on a mammoth workload of community work and organisation.

She is part of the Waihi Lions, Waihi CAB, Waihi Best Book Club, the Wednesday morning walking group and the Waihi Arts Centre and Museum.

Within the Lions she is involved in the book fair, the Garden Ramble Committee, the Trade and Community Directory Committee and is co-chair of the Waihi Art & Street Festival, doing most of the work since the events inception, including secretary, fundraising, collating donations and organising stallholders.

Each year the festival has grown and been a roaring success, which is in part due to Josie's passion, drive and community spirit.

As part of the Waihi University Third Age, or U3A for Art, Josie formed an art group to encourage and support growing confidence for drawing and painting.

Jose has been a valued member of the Waihi Best Book Club for most of the 12 years it has been going. Josie's ideas are wide, forward thinking and always with the Waihi Community in mind.

Josie is great at initiating and managing community art events at the Waihi Art Centre and Museum, is very inclusive and good at involving the children who are the artists of the future. She supports and encourages other artists and collaborates with art initiatives.

"The world would be a much better place if there were more people like Josie Jebb"

