

SPORTS RECIPIENTS – ONYA FOR KNOCKING IT OUT OF THE PARK

Te Au Pounamu Warren



Te Au Pounamu, affectionately known as Tap, is a fantastic Kickboxer. He is relatively new to the sport but is quickly making a name for himself.

He is a quiet achiever and does not like to brag, but get him talking about kick boxing and you better get comfortable.

He competed for the Junior Central North Island Title on the 3rd of September 2022 and has just been to represent NZ in this year's World Kick Boxing Championship in Wales. The fact that he was invited to attend worlds in his first year of competing makes him special.

TAP received the John Pullan Trophy for the Paeroa College Most Outstanding Sporting Achievement of the Year.

Tap has also been involved in the Gateway programme where he undertook a placement in a Cafe in Waihi and has helped at many local events.



Ania Ballantine

Ania is the sports leader at Hauraki Plains College, has achieved NCEA Levels 1,2 & 3 with excellence and is a highly talented athlete representing the college in the basketball, touch, netball and rugby "first" sports teams.

She played in the Premier Touch League for the Auckland's Metro Women's Touch team in Wellington earlier in the year and was selected for NZ U16 Mixed Touch Blacks and the NZ U18 touch trials.

She received many awards at this year's Hauraki Plains College sports prize giving, which included the Outstanding Leadership in Sport Award.

She is a whanaungatanga leader - peer support for younger students and strives for best work and best self in everything she does. She is highly motivated, hard working and humble. Not only does she show outstanding dedication to her studies and sport, but she also gives back many hours each week in coaching, umpiring and providing peer support in touch, basketball and netball.



Abigail Cox

Abigail is an active member of the school and wider Paeroa sporting Community.

She is the only year 10 student in the Paeroa College lacrosse team and has been playing for two years. She has not only gained Bronze in the Paeroa College A team this year, but was also selected for the U15 Waikato Lacrosse team and invited to attend the Australian Nationals in Perth. She has also trained to be a lacrosse referee and now referees at the B division on a Saturday.



She has also been an amazing gymnast since the age of four and has taken part in a number of gymnastics competitions. She has also started to train to become a gymnastics coach and currently coaches 5-7 year olds.

She is also a member of the Paeroa Motocross team and the Junior girls Badminton team and is doing her Bronze Duke of Edinburgh this year of which sports is a part. As part of her service, she has also been helping at College breakfast club.

Her success is a community effort to which she is grateful and thankful to the opportunities she has as a small town Paeroa girl.

Josey Hansen



Josey is an amazing Sportswoman.

She is part of many Paeroa College Sports Teams including the Senior Girls Basketball Team, Senior Girls Rugby Team, Senior Girls Touch Team, Senior Gold Netball Team and Senior A Boulton Cup Team.

She not only excels in school sports, but also on the wider Thames Valley stage where she has been selected for the Thames Valley

U17 Basketball Team, Thames Valley U18 Netball, Thames Valley U18 Touch and Thames Valley Open Mixed Touch. She was the top female scorer at the Basketball NZ National U17s Tournament, with an average of 31 points per game.

She has been included in an invitational Basketball team to head to Las Vegas and Hawaii in July of 2023, and received the Most Outstanding Senior Girl Basketball Award and Colour Award for Basketball at the Paeroa College sports prizegiving.

Her ability to turn a game around and to dig deep when it counts is a great asset to have in any team and she has represented the region with pride and skill.



SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY – ONYA FOR CARING ABOUT YOUR COMMUNITY

Raymond Jenkinson



Raymond was nominated because he has been on a seven day a week crusade for the past few years to rid our beautiful community of graffiti, at his own cost.

More commonly known as Barry, he is a quiet achiever and is a regular on the streets of Paeroa. Graffiti is his number 1 dislike! You will find Barry out at work cleaning and painting over tagging as soon as it happens.

He splits the town into sections and travels the streets at least once a day looking for vandalism. He is a semi-retired painter, so has a great selection of paint, so he dips into his van to find the nearest colour match and carefully paints over it.

Barry is certainly making a huge impact on keeping Paeroa Beautiful and he takes pride in the town he has called home for the past 80 years.

Jared Sewell

Jared is an Academic leader at Hauraki Plains College. He has achieved NCEA Level 3 with Excellence and has been studying university/tertiary papers at Massey University and Canterbury University. He was also named joint Dux for Hauraki Plains College for 2022.

He has received the Bronze, Silver and Gold Duke of Edinburgh awards, which included one hour per week volunteering on each of health and fitness, personal skills development and adventure journey.

This included a 5-day Expedition in the Kaweka Forest Park, as well as volunteering for conservation efforts to help save our Kiwi. These as well as academic achievements surpass that of any previous student.

He has been volunteering at the SPCA one hour a week, has taught Piano from a church in Paeroa, peer tutors younger students in Mathematics, volunteers time to an elderly person in the community walking her dogs and helping with technology devices and is currently completing the conservation training award.



Divyash Swamy

Divyash is a Year 12 student at Waihi College and the Student Leader of Service for 2022.

He has been involved in all aspects of service this year at Waihi College, including all service events such as Daffodil Day, raising money for Ukraine, Shave for a Cure, Pride week, the Matariki concert, 40 Hour Famine and more.

He is also hugely involved in the cooking and packaging of Kai Care meals for the community every Wednesday, where hundreds of meals to go out to local families. He is secretary of the Waihi Leo's Club and works alongside Councillor Anne Marie Spicer with many community events.

Hundreds of people within the Waihi community and nationwide, have benefited from this recipient through his commitment to raising money and awareness via several charities.

He puts his hand up for absolutely everything and not only helps, but also leads quietly by example and encourages the support of his peers. He is kind, supportive and always helpful over and above almost every other student at Waihi College.



Tina Wright

Tina has had an enormous impact on the Waihi community in terms of strengthening neighbourhood bonds and ensuring people are fed. She started the Gift Box community pantry stall outside her house in 2018 as a place for donated food, nutritious home-cooked meals and essential items for residents of Waihi in need.

It has gone from strength to strength, with many volunteers and businesses contributing to its longevity. She not only rallies around to ensure donations, but also provides combined boxes of meal ingredients and even posts quick and economical recipes on community Facebook sites.

In her spare time as part of the Salvation Army, she makes beanies and other craft, with the proceeds going towards purchases for the Giftbox.

In 2021, Christmas hampers were prepared for local families in need and work has already started on 2022 hampers.

Tina has inspired the Waihi community to share, get involved, come up with more food sharing initiatives and take responsibility for looking after each other.

The fact that Tina has voluntarily run the Giftbox for 4 years and grown it to be a reliable source of food for those in the community who most need it is an outstanding achievement.



Janice Purdie



Janice has lived the Hauraki District for 23 years, attracted to this place in her retirement years because of the vision of the Paeroa Community Support Trust.

During her time here, she undertook voluntary work for both Paeroa Community Support Trust and the Paeroa Cooperating Parish. She was a lay preacher, a Parish councillor where she developed weekly programs for the children, and undertook many pastoral visits for anyone in need in the community and a volunteer hospital Chaplain bringing comfort and friendship for many in their time of need. She also organised and led worship services for those living at Ohinemuri Home for many years.

She was involved in many of the Paeroa Community Support Trust programs as a volunteer, particularly Music and Movement, Day Camps and Senior's outings.

She has just 'been there' for everyone in our community. She helps anyone in a time of need, reaching across all ages and cultures, visiting people in their homes or hospital, and keeping in contact through caring conversations over the phone.

Her quiet, unassuming and loyal friendships to many, many people in Paeroa and surrounds will be sorely missed as she leaves our community for the next phase in her life.

Peter Young

Peter has contributed to our whole community as part of his role as a Volunteer & paid member of St John for over 34 years.

In 2002, he became the first paid officer & Operations Team manager for Paeroa, which also covered the Ngatea Ambulance Station. He helped setup the station, trained and mentored the volunteers and other paid staff and helped out with the community events.

He was made a Serving Brother of The Order of St John in 2003. He retired from ambulance operations in 2021, but still has a huge role with St John.



He has been part of the Area Committee for over 20 years and is currently the Chairperson. He helps organise the building maintenance and is a volunteer for the Peer Support team



that supports fellow ambulance officers when they need to debrief and talk about job / roles as part of mental health support. He is also currently a Health Shuttle Driver, which takes local people to Hospital appointments.

Our whole community has benefited from his dedication to his various roles within St John and this recipient has gone above & beyond what is expected in a volunteer or paid role.

Hamish Buchanan



Hamish is a Year 13 student at Paeroa College who is both Head Student of Community and the student Board of Trustees representative. He was also named joint Dux for Paeroa College for 2022.

He is a young man of impeccable character, and has a history of dedicated service and outstanding academics. He goes well beyond what is required and is a humble, supportive and dedicated role model to younger students.

He established a lunch-time study group for younger students, organised "Wig Wednesday" where students shaved their heads to raise funds for cancer, has been instrumental in coordinating and volunteering for the Breakfast Club and wrangles volunteers for community events and programmes. He also invigorated the school clubs and activities programme to ensure all students have access to community involvement and afterschool activities.

He has been part of youth leadership development at Kauaeranga Valley Christian Camp and has been a leader at Paeroa Day camp.

In addition to his community work, he has a genuine love of learning, and is open minded and enthusiastic. He is hardworking and disciplined with a keen sense of personal integrity and an outstandingly mature approach to life.



TU MEKE - FOR GOING ABOVE AND BEYOND (OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY)

Krishna Buckman



Krishna has been an avid volunteer in many activities and services in Waihi, working quietly and tirelessly behind the scenes. Her main passion is for our service men and women.

As a member of Waihi Heritage Vision since 2014, she has co-ordinated the Cross of Crosses project involving the school children of Waihi, arranged Armistice and ANZAC Day services at Tunneller's Memorial in Gilmour Reserve and helped with the 100th Armistice Day at Waihi Memorial Hall. This included the construction of a phenomenal poppy cloak with 100 Tunnellers names embroidered into it.

She has also been involved with cleaning and restoring the headstones of our Servicemen at Waihi cemetery.

She has also been a member and secretary/treasurer of HELP Waihi Incorporated since 1997, who help with planting and landscape restoration and co-founded Team Beanie, who collect and distribute materials and products such as beanies and rugs to the older and sick members of the community.

She is also a member of the Royal New Zealand Women's Association, the Forest and Bird Kaimai Survey team, the Birds Bay of Plenty team and a participant in the Pukorokoro Miranda Naturalists Trust revegetation programme.



Gillian Leonard

Gill is a dairy/beef farmer in the Plains and has been an active member of the Hauraki Plains community for over 60 years.

She has been involved with many community groups, sports groups, schools and organisations within the Hauraki Plains where she has helped make a positive impact in the community.

This recipient was a Hauraki District Councillor from 2007 to 2019, where she served as Plains Ward Chair, Judicial Committee

Chair, Audit and Risk Committee member, Economic Development Committee member and had huge interests in social development and youth. She played a huge part in driving the Elephant in the Paddock campaign in 2016 to help raise mental health awareness in the farming community.

As a past student of Hauraki Plains College, she has also been involved with the school in community education, past pupil co-ordination and was a part of the Board of Trustees from 1996 to 1999.

She was also on the Board of Trustees for Ngatea Primary from 1989 to 1995 and from 1976 to 2006 was involved in the Ngatea mobile kindergarten, Ngatea swimming club, Ngatea tennis club, Ngatea athletics club, Hauraki Plains netball, Thames Valley Tennis and the Hauraki Golf Club.

She was a member of the William Grace Dementia Care Trust from 2017-2021, an area committee member for the Hauraki Plains Order of St John from 2007 to 2018, is a Haurakian Charitable Trust foundation trustee, a Justice of the Peace from and is a member of the Historical society of Hauraki Plains.

She has contributed hugely to the community in terms of supporting young people, sports, rate payers, elderly and the sick.

