

# SPORT RECIPIENTS – ONYA FOR KNOCKING IT OUT OF THE PARK

## Jessica Penwarden

Jessica is a highly regarded member of Paeroa College Lacrosse team. This team is new to the college and has been making waves in the Hamilton competition on Saturday mornings over in Tamahere. So much so that until lockdown they were scheduled to play in the final, which is amazing as this is the first year for this sport at the college.

This young lady is the amazingly talented goalie for this team, saving many goals at every game. As a result of her outstanding talent, she was selected to play for the Waikato under 16's Lacrosse team.

The college is so very proud of Jessica, as she has been instrumental in helping lacrosse become a sport that young women in the district want to play.

She has also shaved her head to raise funds for kids cancer. In September of this year, she was part of the college team that raised over \$1,000!



## Rimu Alexander

Rimu is an up and coming sportsman in the Paeroa Community. He is a member of the Paeroa College Coulter Cup winning First 15 team, scoring the match winning goal.

He is also a member of the Paeroa College Mixed touch team and was selected in both the Under 18 and Under 21 Thames Valley touch teams, with the Under 18 going on to win gold.

From there he was selected to trial for the New Zealand under 21 team, for which he was selected to play. He was also invited to attend an upcoming talent Chiefs training camp.



This year he was awarded Paeroa College Individual Sports Person of the Year.

He is a great student to have at Paeroa College and the younger students really look up to him.

Rimu is a very talented young man at whatever sport he chooses and is someone to watch out for in the coming years.

## **Reefe Benny**

Reefe is involved in a number of community service activities in Ngatea such as umpiring netball, student mentoring and volunteering for breakfast club.

He started umpiring netball in 2018 when he was a year 10 student, after his family took part in the Hauraki Plains Netball Centre's summer competition.

This year he has dedicated upwards of 10hrs a week over the season and was selected to represent Thames Valley as

an Umpire at the recent New Zealand Under 18 Netball Championships. He was the only person selected to umpire on behalf of Thames Valley.

Both the level of commitment and achievement as a netball umpire is significant, in addition to the other hours he commits to the community.

Outside of umpiring, he mentors students at Ngatea Primary School and is an academic tutor to those who need more help at college. He is also a volunteer for the school Breakfast Club, which provides breakfast daily to more than 70 students.



Despite the hours he gives each week to community activities, he has other responsibilities and ensures that he keeps up his academic effort. He is Deputy Head Boy and the junior academic leader at Hauraki Plains College and has already achieved his NCEA Level 3 with Excellence.

He has applied for a Bachelor of Health Science and a Bachelor of Science at The University of Auckland, majoring in biomedicine, and hopes to still make time for umpiring when he has wrapped up his final year at high school this year.

## **Kyla Walker**

Kyla has been a member of the Waihi netball centre since 2012 and a qualified umpire since 2016. She has represented Waihi netball for 3 years, as well as the U15 Thames Valley development netball team and was awarded most valuable player.

She has umpired at the local Tuesday league for both primary school teams and adult teams for many years. She has also helped coach younger teams and is always available to help out at the centre when needed. She is currently the captain of her school Senior College A team, who recently came runner up in their Thames Valley league grade.

She is always willing to fill in for teams requiring an umpire and this year has also umpired for the TV B grade league on Saturdays. Some nights she has umpired up to 3 games and then plays herself. She is an enthusiastic and confident umpire and member of our netball team.

As a member of the Waihi Swimming Club and a qualified lifeguard, she has taught many age group classes to swim as well as taught holiday programs.

She is a positive team member who is always willing to cover other teachers and fill the gaps when necessary and also volunteers at the annual swimming carnival. She is a very capable and valued team member.



She is an active member of many committees such as Students against Drunk Driving, Waihi Leos, This is Me and Breakfast Club. She is Head Girl at Waihi College, chairs both the junior and senior school councils and is currently helping implement a new programme The Wellness Warriors.

She has also volunteered as a marshall many times at local events such as the nugget and trail trilogy and has recently participated in the shave for a cure, raising funds for cancer.



## **Bree McCowatt**

Bree was nominated for her immense community contribution towards Surf Life Saving.

This hard working 17 year old from Ngatea has been awarded Rookie of the year, Runner up Under 17 sportsperson of the year and U19 lifeguard of the Year awards for the Eastern Region. She has also been named Junior Life Guard of the Year, top rookie mentor of the year and most promising crew person for Waihi Surf Life Saving with a club record of 276 for most voluntary hours.

Currently she is a rookie co-ordinator committee member, volunteer lifeguard and vice patrol captain. In addition to her voluntary hours, Bree is a competitive surf life saver winning multiple awards over the last year.



In 2019 she represented New Zealand in Swimming at the 2019 World Deaf Swimming Championships in Sao Paulo, Brazil. She made both the Under 15 and the Under 18 regional netball teams and went on to compete at nationals.

This year, she was named as a recipient for the Tania Dalton Foundation Scholarship, a three year scholarship which offers financial assistance as well as mentoring, leadership, giving back, guidance and support to be the best they can be in both sports and life. This is awarded to high achieving athletes who represent their chosen sport by not only performance based results but attitude, role modelling and demonstrating a high level of dedication and commitment.



She has also been selected for the Pinnacle Programme which again selects 12 youth from around the county who have demonstrated a community spirit, leadership skills and are leaders within their community, country and globally and inspired to make a change.

In addition to her voluntary hours in surf lifesaving and swimming, she also coaches several hours each week during the summer at the Ngatea Swimming Club, is Head Girl at Hauraki Plains College and has already achieved NCEA Level 3 with Excellence leading onto a degree at the University of Auckland next year.

## **Ben Hennessy**

Ben has been a dedicated and committed Waihi athlete who for some years, having competed in cross country, athletics, swimming and triathlon events. He got his start at primary school with Weetbix Triathlons and now competes regionally and nationally and has placed at all events.

This recipient holds the Waihi College school records in cross country, 3000m, 1500m and triathlon.

He is also the captain of the College 1st X1 Football Team, competes in local events such as the Nugget, the Trail Trilogy and the Orokawa/Waihi Beach Ocean Swim and has played football for the Waihi AFC Reserve team in the men's Waikato league.

In April Ben was selected by Triathlon NZ for the NZ U19 Sprint Triathlon Team. Selection was based on his season performance at Kinloch, Marra, and Tauranga triathlons, as well as the NZ Age group Triathlon in Hawera.

He has assisted in coaching the College Girls 1st X1 and the Aims Cross country Team, is an active member of Waihi Swimming Club and teaches primary aged children in the Learn to Swim program.



He is a humble and respected role model within the Waihi community, is a House Leader at Waihi College and is well known for his encouragement and cheering on of others.

Ben represents Waihi regularly, and wears his Waihi Athletic, Waihi College or Waikato colours with pride.

# ARTS RECIPIENTS – ONYA FOR ENHANCING AND ENRICHING OUR LIVES

## Pauline Germon

Pauline has taught ballet and contemporary dance for many years in Ngatea and Turua. She has put on wonderful shows with pupils in Thames every year and goes above and beyond in providing the most wonderful costumes.

She has inspired students to go on to the highest level of training and achievement at a national and international level. Some of her pupil's recent achievements include receiving scholarships to Houston, Queensland Ballet, making the finalist line-up in the Alana Haines competition and scholarships to Alberta Ballet School Canada.



She continues to train her students this year to sit their Royal Academy of Dance and Contemporary Dance exams and rather than taking the summer off, she hosts a summer intensive, which brings students from all over New Zealand.

Keeping the highest level of curriculum available to students of the Hauraki region, the Royal Academy of Dance is very demanding and she continues to attend the professional training days and pay registration to ensure this curriculum is available to her students.



She is also called on to be an adjudicator and judge for competitions in New Zealand.

She has given the community the absolute joy of watching annual ballet shows and students in the community have greatly benefited from absolute top-notch ballet and contemporary dance training.



# SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY – ONYA FOR CARING ABOUT YOUR COMMUNITY

## Mairi Jay

Mairi has been a crucial member of the Paeroa Stream Care Trust for the last two years, when she stepped up and took over the reins from Eowyn and Ethan Starr. She is now the driving force behind the Trust, applying for funding, making submissions to the Council, organising the core team of volunteers and engaging the community.



She has applied for a number of grants which are crucial for the restoration of Paeroa's waterways, and her ability to persist in organising school planting events and engaging the community is tireless.

She has been instrumental in organising monthly plantings, weeding and maintenance of two Paeroa projects – the Millennium Forrest and Ainslie Road Stream. She has put in many hours of hard work weeding and keeping our original plantings clear as well as organising contractors.

Without her and the group, Millenium Forest would be a weedy, neglected jungle but instead is quickly becoming an established native forest, which is creating a home and food source for native birds and other flora and fauna.

Ainslie Road Stream was once the site of a toxic spill, which killed many freshwater wildlife, but she has picked up on Eowyn and Ethan's dedicated work to restore this environment and carried it on.

Without people like Mairi there would be a lot less volunteers, education and important work being completed in Paeroa to save our local ecosystems.



Mairi can see the bigger picture in all of this and is genuinely concerned for the future of Paeroa and feels an urgency to act now to protect our urban waterways.

There are very few people that share her passion and dedication to improving our local natural environment and hopefully her passion will pass on to the future generations.

## **Margaret Andreassen**

Waihi is very lucky to have Margaret. She has been feeding and tending to the abandoned cats behind the shops of Waihi for the past 4 years.

She has put a lot of her own time and money into trapping, sheltering, vetcare and neutering of these cats. She has also established a charity shop for volunteers to raise the necessary money to keep the cat population of Waihi under control.

Local cat owners have benefited from the Waihi Town Cat's group as they contribute towards cheaper neutering and the town cats are fed every night.

The group she runs also work towards taming strays for fostering and rehoming and pay for vet checks and treatment of injured cats and kittens.

The work that Margaret does helps to keep the town cats away from the main streets by feeding them and controlling their reproduction. She is tireless in her work and will help anyone who asks it of her.



## **Jana Smith**

Jana is a Head Student at Paeroa College who consistently goes above and beyond the requirements of the role.

Paeroa College have six Head Students and Jana is the stand-out, as she consistently leads to the best of her ability, is inclusive in her leadership style and inspires our younger students to do their very best.



She is also a dedicated sports woman and member of the college Open A netball team. She was the main organizer of many of the school multi-day fundraisers, leads the student council and is the student rep on the Board of Trustees for 2021.

During lockdown she has been volunteering at the college constructing and distributing food parcels to those within our community most in need.

She is an outstanding student leader and role model for younger students. She is dedicated to her studies and gives back to the community at every opportunity.





## **Sarah Keall**

Sarah is the Cultural Student Leader at Waihi College, President of the Waihi Leo Club, and student representative on the Keep Waihi Beautiful committee.

She is an amazing active volunteer in the community for the Waihi Leos, is always present at Keep Waihi Beautiful Clean-ups, and is the first to put her hand up for sports events like the nugget and in-school events. She is also a volunteer teacher at her dance school Precision Dance.

At Waihi College she restarted the Students Against Drink Driving (SADD) committee, formed the mental health awareness



group and is a recipient of the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh award.

Despite being a year 13 student with a part time job, she manages to juggle everything and still finds time to help anyone who needs a hand.

This recipient is a lovely young woman who stands by what she believes and she volunteers in so much without second-guessing herself.



## **Thomas Neil Gray**

Thomas hails from Ngatea and has been voluntarily involved with the Haurakian Charitable Trust and Thames Land Search and Rescue for over 20 years. It is impossible to estimate the number of hours volunteered.

He is a founding member of the Haurakian Charitable Trust, established in 2004 to enhance the educational, social and wellbeing outcomes for Hauraki Plains College and the local community. His experience and commitment have enabled the trust to keep progressing.

Trust initiatives he has been involved with include:

- The purchase of Hayward farm educational block for hands on agriculture, horticulture and building learning.
- The purchase of masonic lodge as a performing arts centre for dance and drama classes.
- Construction of the Centennial Centre, which is used by the college and community for hospitality classes, first aid courses, sports teams and community meetings.
- Establishment of the Hauraki Trust Farm in Waitakaruru for developing a sustainable fund to provide grants to college.
- The gift of over \$200,000 to the college for non-Ministry of Education funded purposes and \$20,000 in 2021 for an additional school councillor.

He has served with the Thames Land Search and Rescue for over 20 years as either first response team leader, president or treasurer. He has been a training officer, AGM group delegate, attends group forums and is always the first to be called for a search due to his knowledge, skills and all round ability to do the work.

He is a highly valued member of the search and rescue team and has always held an executive position on the committee. He has a great nature with teaching volunteers and the police are grateful to have such a dedicated volunteer.



## **Adam Matete**

Adam is an amazing member of the Ngatea community who organises and supports all sorts of community events. These include carrot cake making competitions, Feijoa baking competitions, car boot sales at Kerepehi Te Kohanga Reo, the annual Up in Smoke BBQ competition where all proceeds are put back into the community and the Ngatea 12 week fitness challenge where over 80 people of Ngatea have joined.

He has supported the Fire Brigades Shave for a Cure and Sky Tower Run and has organised garden clean ups at the Ngatea community garden and local resident gardens. He also coaches primary school rugby, is MC for the Ngatea Primary School big Quiz Night and has organised a committee for the Ngatea Christmas parade.



The most notable of the above is the Ngatea 12 week challenge, as it has been beneficial for many members of the community. Adam has led the way in organising extra challenges and encouraging participation in other local fitness groups, and his support, hints and challenges have kept the members going during these uncertain times.

There have been many changed lives due to his enthusiasm, encouragement, dedication and drive to make a difference in his community by bringing everyone together. He is full of community spirit and inspiration and continues to support the community on top of his job and family life.

He is hugely supportive of local businesses and promotes them on a regular basis via live video on social media. He's



constantly thinking of ideas to bring the community together and the whole Ngatea community has benefited from Adam's effervescence, humour and love.

The community love him. He is everyone's friend, mate, support, mentor, coach. He is humble and kind and never self-promotes or wants anything in return. He is just an all-around lovely guy who deserves recognition for all he has done as he has really bought the people of Ngatea together.



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

### **Walter Tye**

Walter has been involved in lots of events within the Paeroa community over the last 15+ years and is always the first to lend a hand or provide support.

He has been a strong, supportive Rotarian for over 20 years and was chair from 2011-2012 and 2018-2019. This work has involved comradery, fundraising, building projects within the community, supporting international youth and group study exchanges and helping to organise the 75-year celebration.

He has been instrumental in the organisation and running of Paeroa Rotary events such as the V8 & Motorcycle shows, the Vintage and Classic car shows and the Strange Road Charity Trail Rides.

Every year he also volunteers and organises helpers to setting up for the Paeroa Highland games. He works hard at all the community events he volunteers for, as he loves to give back to the community.

He is a committed member of the Co-op parish Committee where he supports and gets involved in garage sales and other parish events.

He is also involved in many community fundraising activities through the parish, Rotary and the Carehouse.

He has been a member of the New Zealand Jaycees for many years as well as a support member for Federated Farmers.

As a trustee for the Paeroa Community Support trust and Paeroa Carehouse, over the last 4-5 years he has been involved with the organisation and running of kids day camps and alternative learning services. He



has led the subcommittee involved with the purchase of the Paeroa Carehouse building from Council and the subsequent refurbishment which involved rallying volunteers from all over the town.

He is known as the 'dairy farmer', as well as the man of action and great ideas even though he's always running late. He is amazingly generous to his community and never says 'No' to someone in need of assistance.



## **Barry Williams**

Barry is an outstanding community minded individual, who has long standing involvement with multiple community organisations right across Hauraki. He has always lent a hand as a member of Paeroa Rotary, Paeroa Community Support Trust, Ngatea Scouts, Hauraki Plains College and Kaihere School to name a few.

He has been a Rotary District Governor as well as Paeroa Rotary Chair, and over the last 20 years he has assisted with building ideas and projects, planning celebrations, supported international youth study exchange by hosting students, helped with Homes for Humanity in Fiji and Nepal and has contributed to important decisions as part of the board of directors.

He has also helped with Rotary fundraising activities and events such as the V8 & Motorcycle shows, the Vintage and Classic car shows and the Strange Road Charity Trail Rides.

He has been involved in managing or helping at other community events such as the Paeroa Highland games, Christian camps and Paeroa Carehouse programs.

He has been a Cub and Scout leader in Ngatea, a leader at his local bible chapel, has served on the Board of Trustees for Hauraki Plains College as well as the Kaihere school committee, has been a Thames Valley farm advisor and has been a foster dad.

He is a trustee of the Paeroa Community Support Trust and is known as the camper and biker. He is a man of quiet demeanour and deep consideration who loves to share his abilities with others. He is amazingly capable and generous in all he does and is extremely practical.



His involvement with the Paeroa Carehouse has included supporting the building refurbishment as well as mentoring and guiding at the kids day camps and alternative learning programs.

His immense commitment to the youth of our community is shown through involvement in these programs as well as supporting students at both Hauraki Plains and Paeroa College through his work on the board of trustees and through Rotary.



## **Bill and Ngaire Tissingh**

Bill and Ngaire come as a team, as they have been enhancing the Paeroa community together for the last 30 plus years.

Bill started Paeroa Christian School in 1987, where he taught and continues as a Board Member and is also on the Paeroa College and Kauaeranga Valley Christian Camp Board of Trustees. Children in Paeroa benefit from Bill's input, through soccer, rugby, bible in schools, youth group and bible study groups.



He has been on the Board of Youth Encounter for the past 5 years, helping young people fulfil their potential with many outdoor & faith based programmes. He has also been involved in the Paeroa Junior Soccer Club for 10 years or more, managing, mentoring & fundraising.

He can be always be found at community events such as Waitangi Day and Children's Day in Paeroa, either helping with fundraising, looking after peoples welfare or joining in the fun with the kids.

Bill's service to others stands out. He demonstrates his faith in all he does. His approach with people is open, friendly & non-judgemental, but at the same time he does not compromise his stand for moral justice & a fair society for all.

Ngaire worked as a Radiologist until she met Bill & they started dairy farming. They moved to a farm in Rotokohu Rd where they have lived ever since.

Bill & Ngaire have raised their 11 children in Paeroa so have always been involved in pre-school, primary & college activities. Ngaire has run the Pre-school at Paeroa Christian School for many years. She has managed many Paeroa College Basketball teams over the years, travelling with them to Tournaments, fundraising & mentoring them.

Ngaire loves making crafts & growing flowers. She has organised many social evenings for women from the Christian community in Paeroa & enjoys bringing women together to socialise. She serves with Bill on the Paeroa Ministers Association and is a beautiful singer who leads the music team each Sunday morning at the Paeroa Bible Chapel.

Bill & Ngaire are Pastoral Carers through the Paeroa Bible Chapel where Bill provides counselling for the Community, as well as being a marriage & funeral celebrant for Paeroa & surrounding areas.

Bill was the director of the Open Home Foundation when it operated in Paeroa as a Foster Care provider for children and Bill & Ngaire still have an open home to any who need refuge. They have taken in and cared for many children and families over the years who are struggling or need a home for a while.



They have huge hearts, for children in particular and have shaped the lives of many. They now have 17 grandchildren, many of whom Ngaire cares for while their mothers are at work.

The work they undertake for their Community is not for financial gain, but to see people's lives lived to the fullest, especially children.