

ONYA AWARDS

The OnYa Awards celebrate everyday people doing extraordinary things – the quiet achievers, the helpers, the ones who roll up their sleeves and get stuck in. Past winners were nominated by someone who simply thought, “You know what? They deserve to be recognised.”



Award Categories and previous recipients...

ONYA for caring about your community

Celebrating individuals who consistently give their time, aroha and energy to help others.

Peter Young (2022)

Peter Young has dedicated over 34 years to serving the community through his roles with St John, including pioneering the Paeroa Ambulance Station and mentoring countless volunteers. His unwavering commitment has made a lasting difference to the well-being of many in the rohe.



Sam Morrison (2023)

Sam was extremely proud to receive the award, which was for his volunteer work at the Paeroa Library every week for the past 8-9 years.



Ian Bradshaw (2023)

Ian Bradshaw has devoted over 30 years to Waihi environmental and service organisations in which he played a key role in establishing walking tracks, leading numerous native planting projects, and mentoring others in conservation efforts.

Mairi Jay (2021)

Mairi was a driving force behind the Paeroa Stream Care Trust, leading restoration efforts for Paeroa's waterways and native environments. Her work gained funding, school and community involvement, and ongoing care to projects like the Millennium Forest and Ainslie Road Stream.

Divyash Swamy (2022)

Divyash (on the right) was a driving force behind countless service initiatives at Waihi College and in the community. His dedication and generosity have made a lasting impact on his school and community.



Tu Meke for going above and beyond

Special award for outstanding service to the community.

Krishna Buckman (2022)

Krishna has given countless hours to honouring our service men and women in Waihi. She has helped organise ANZAC and Armistice commemorations, created a remarkable poppy cloak with the names of 100 Tunnellers, and led the Cross of Crosses project with local school children. Krishna's tireless efforts also supported local environmental work and community care through Team Beanie, and has been an active member of HELP Waihi Incorporated for over 25 years.



Bill & Ngaire Tissingh (2021)

“Ngaire and I were both humbled and encouraged to be recognised at this time. It means a great deal to us to have the community we have been part of for over 40 years value not only what we have been involved in and achieved, but more importantly, who we are as people and the values we have sought to live by”.

ONYA

for working together to make a difference

Community Group Award – recognising groups who've made a real impact.



Together today,
tomorrow and in
the future, we say

GOOD
ONYA



ONYA for knocking it out of the park

Celebrating achievement or service in sport or recreation.



Julie-Ada Tana (2023)

Julie-Ada Tana has been a tireless volunteer in Paeroa's sports community, coordinating and managing netball and touch rugby programs and playing a key role in reviving the Hauraki Tigers Rugby League Club. She approaches every task with a positive attitude and unwavering commitment, ensuring smooth running of sports for youth and seniors alike.



Bree McCowatt (2021)

Bree's earned multiple Surf Life Saving regional awards, is a competitive swimmer, and is a talented netball player and committed coach. She received the prestigious Tania Dalton Foundation Scholarship and was selected for the national Pinnacle Programme, recognising her leadership, community spirit, and outstanding achievements both in and out of sport.

Kyla Walker (2021)

Kyla Walker made a lasting impact as a passionate netballer, leader, umpire, and coach who often stepped in to help wherever needed. She led student councils, championed wellbeing programmes, and was an energetic supporter of community events and causes.

Te Au Pounamu Warren (2022)

Te Au Pounamu (Tap) is a passionate kickboxer who, in his first year, proudly represented New Zealand at the World Kickboxing Championships.

"Being nominated was such a surprise, but it meant the world. It reminded me that even the little things I do are noticed. Not everything we do gets recognised, so that moment really stuck with me – it made me feel proud, valued, and seen."



ONYA for enhancing and enriching our lives

Recognising service or achievement in arts or culture - the people who bring life, connection, and colour to our communities.

Pauline Germon (2021)

Pauline's dedication to ballet and contemporary dance has inspired many students to achieve national and international success. Her passion and commitment have brought outstanding performances and opportunities to the Ngātea and Tūrua communities.

"The OnYa Award meant a great deal to me. I had been teaching dance to children in the area for 18 years and was heartened to have my contribution recognised. Many thanks—keep up the good work."



Sheryl Krissansen (2023)

"It was a very humbling, rewarding, and truly grateful experience to be recognised by those around you and your community for your efforts to enrich people's lives to the best of your ability."



Luke van Vliet (2023)

Luke's passion and energy has grown the Kerepēhi Brass Band from 6 to 27 members. As President, he inspires players to achieve more than they thought possible and his strong leadership and great relationships strengthened both the band and the wider community.



Naelene Donaldson (2023)

Naelene was a passionate leader of Te Ao Māori at Waihi College, serving as the primary rangatira and kaiako for the Kapa Haka Rōpū. She brought mātauranga Māori, mana, and commitment to the group, raising their performance to an exceptional level and inspiring students.

Do you know of
someone making
a difference?

Nominate them for this year's
ONYA Awards

Entries close 4pm, Sunday 27 July

Take a moment to say
Good OnYa!
We appreciate you.

To submit your nomination scan the
QR code or go online to
[https://www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/
community/onya-awards](https://www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/community/onya-awards)



Photos courtesy of the Valley Profile