



Gail Thorley
Taranaki/Coastal

Gail has been a volunteer worker on the Manaia Walkway for the last 30 years!

She has helped develop the walkway behind the car park to the Golf Club and has always been there lending a helping hand. In fact, she's often there (at least two or three times a week) raking all of the fallen leaves off the track to make it a safer place for those using the track. Gail also received a Community Award in 1994 for her musical talents and contribution to the community.



Zoe Kensington
Taranaki/Coastal

Zoe saw a need on the coast for a club that supports social sports for kids, teenagers and

adults and so she started up the Coastline Sports Club. Zoe coaches netball, basketball and touch rugby, and runs skills and drills basketball sessions on behalf of Taranaki Thunder. She also runs an adults Get Fit class at Ōkato and Ōakura.



Becky Dodunski
Eltham/Kaponga

One day Becky made a comment about Soldiers Park needing some TLC and was quickly invited

to join the Eltham Community Development Group to help with the Soldiers Park project. Becky has been amazing! She has applied for funding to purchase trees and organised a number of planting and weeding days with members of the community, school children and community groups. At this point over 2,000 native trees have been planted in Soldiers Park.



Megan Peters
Te Hāwera

Megan would help anyone and is on numerous community committees. Megan

is very good at organising events, she helps with fundraising, in the kitchen or behind the bar, she even does competition draws. Groups Megan has been involved with over the years including the Manaia Bowling Club, the South Taranaki Club (and the Club Fundraising Committee), Ōkaiawa Fire Brigade, West Coast Chartered Clubs, Manaia Fire Brigade Darts and the Ōkaiawa Hall Committee.



Andrea Shepard
Te Hāwera

Andrea is an integral part of the Rotokare Sanctuary project. Her positive attitude, skills,

reliability and team-player approach are what make her a brilliant volunteer and helps form the success of Rotokare. It is conservatively estimated that Andrea has volunteered over 6,500 hours since 2016 to the Rotokare project. Andrea is a human dynamo. She has made a huge personal commitment, volunteering at least three days every week at Rotokare Scenic Reserve, rain, hail or shine.



Paul Mackle
Te Hāwera

Paul has been an integral member of the Rotokare Scenic Reserve volunteer team since 2016. He has

shown up every week (when his work roster allows) to do critical checks and the hard physical mahi others can't do. Paul maintains tracks, boardwalks and structures to keep visitors safe, undertakes fence maintenance and was a key volunteer in building the Bush Classroom that was completed and opened in June. He also maintains operational shelters, and services operational machinery and tools.



Patina Edwards
Te Hāwera

Patina has shown outstanding leadership as the Chair of Taranaki Timebank

for the past three years. This has been in a voluntary capacity where she has acted not only as Chair, but managed the majority of operational requirements, pushing through hard times (such as COVID) with very limited assistance and looked outside the box to create online engagements with members. Patina has shown outstanding resilience and leadership while also encouraging skills of others.



Jillian Williams
Te Hāwera

Jill has been convener of Hāwera Genealogy Group for more than 15 years. She ensures that

the history of South Taranaki and its families are in the fore-front. She spends numerous hours assisting locals and those afar with genealogical research. Jill continues to find new ways to record information for others to access. Jill also spear-headed the Hāwera cemetery gardening and the installation of the map showing where graves are located. Jill is also a member of the Friends of Hāwera Parks, and a Lysaght Watt Gallery volunteer.



Don & Trish Adams
Pātea

Trish is on the Pātea Old Folks Hall committee,

doing a lot of volunteer work there, as well as starting a volunteer gardening group helping with Council gardens and other areas like the Skate Park. When Don sees something that needs doing in Pātea, he gets it done including restoring signs and the skate park. Trish and Don are the kind of people every town needs. They have a lot of pride in the town and are not afraid of getting stuck in to make it a better place.

Congratulations to the recipients of the

2023 South Taranaki Community Awards



Denis & Colleen Smith
Pātea

Colleen and Denis set-up the senior citizen monthly

luncheon where anyone can attend for a meal at minimal cost and joined the Waverley Bowling Club as active members (and have held executive positions) where they initiated Friday night meals which has turned into a great financial boost for the club. Denis is a member of the Waverley Lions and Colleen is a member of the Country Women's Institute. They volunteer at various places throughout the community constantly give back.



The South Taranaki Community Awards were held last month at the Hāwera Memorial Theatre. The Community Awards is a small way the community can recognise people who have by personal leadership, dedication and inspiration made a significant contribution to the wellbeing of their communities.

South Taranaki Mayor Phil Nixon says once again the names of many deserving people were put forward for the awards. "We have so many people who freely give their time to support individuals, organisations, projects and events that make our community the great place that it is," he says. "It was not easy to make the decisions for the awards as there were so many worthy recipients. Not only do we have a lot of great voluntary contributors to our community but we have a lot of great support teams behind these people – family who support and sacrifice for these people to do the good that they do." "It is a privilege to be able to present these awards to our quiet achievers who, without a fuss, just get on and make things happen. They thoroughly deserve this recognition for the contributions they have made to the lives of so many people." A Youth Citizen category was introduced this year, where three young people across the District were selected for their outstanding academic success, sporting achievements, community involvement and arts or cultural achievements. "I wanted to celebrate the inspirational young people we have in South Taranaki," says Mayor Nixon. "They are our future and are helping to create our futures to be better."



South Taranaki Mayor, Phil Nixon

Please note: These citations are just a short summary of the wonderful things these individuals and groups have contributed to the community. Please go online to read the full versions at www.southtaranaki.com/communityawards



Harry James
Taranaki/Coastal

Harry supports the community through his role in the Board Riders Club as President.

Through surfing Harry makes significant inroads into mitigating mental health issues by offering outdoor activities in a safe, fun, beautiful environment. He has also been a huge advocate for special needs tamariki, supporting their mana and wellbeing. Harry introduced the 'Excellence in Diversity' award for neurodiverse learners. Harry is trusted and admired - a humble, unsung hero in our community.



Ebony Kalin
Te Hāwera

Ebony has exceptional enterprise and business qualities as well as outstanding leadership

skills. After presenting to Council's Policy and Strategy Committee, Ebony developed and executed business and marketing strategies to develop the purpose, structure and operating processes of a new youth committee, Empower Youth, of which she is the Chair. Ebony has fostered an inclusive and collaborative culture. Ebony is an exemplary young leader and Empower Youth will make a lasting positive impact.



Arna Bright
Taranaki/Coastal

Arna is an outstanding role model for not only sporting excellence, but persistence, hard

work, whanaungatanga, kotahitanga and aroha. She has represented the kura, rohe, region and nation in basketball, but is also an outstanding soccer player. She supports others to be the best version of their sporting selves and has exemplary fair play ethics. She advocates everything from Javelin through to Cross Country. She has undoubtedly changed young lives by pushing her own boundaries in a multiplicity of sporting endeavours.



Harry Gibson
Eltham/Kaponga

Harry is a true elite athlete incredibly talented in rugby, hockey, soccer and adventure

racing. He gives his time, energy and compassion to others, especially the younger tamariki. Harry lives and breathes kindness, assisting Kaponga Lions Club with wood chops, sorting donated eyeglasses being sent to Pacific Islands, and sorting can tabs for Kidney Kids. Harry has assisted with walkway loop planting, fundraising for cancer and maintenance at the Ōpunakē Rest Home. Harry is a young man of mana and humility.



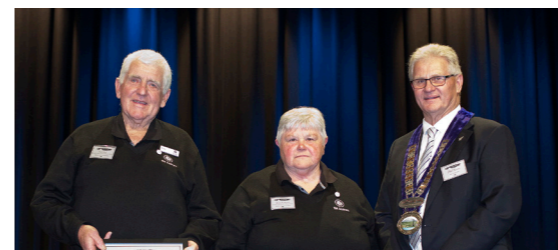
Kiddylandz Toy Library

The team at Kiddylandz work hard to create a free, fun indoor play space that also provides support, connection and access to quality resources to create a valued haven for parents and caregivers alike. The volunteers actively engage with users by connecting other local services that can meet their practical and wellbeing needs so that they thrive in their parenting skills.



Friends of Hāwera Parks

The Friends of Hāwera Parks have been nominated for their outstanding dedication and enthusiasm in assisting the beautification and maintenance in many of our town's green spaces, from weekly voluntary gardening sessions at King Edward Park, the cemetery or Goodson Dell, to holding workshops to support pest control at Naumai Park.



Taranaki Health Shuttle

The Health Shuttle started in April 2014, with a small team of volunteers collecting clients from their home and transporting them to their appointments at medical centres, hospitals and specialist appointments. This group has clients in Manaia, Kaponga, Eltham, Stratford and Hāwera. The success of the Health Shuttle service is because of the dedication of these volunteers.



Ōpunakē Athletics Club

Ōpunakē Athletics Club has been running since 1964 – and like any other sporting club, is run by volunteers. Over the years the Club has helped lots of children develop physical and social skills. It is a massive achievement for the whole community to have this Club going after almost 60 years!