



WHANGAREI
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Civic Honour

Citation – Anthony Solomon

Whangarei District Council takes great pleasure in awarding a Civic Honour to Anthony David Solomon in recognition of his considerable contribution to the people of Waipu.

Born and raised in Auckland, and spending his early working life there as a pharmacist, Tony moved to Northland in 1961 to become the Rawene chemist. There he met his wife, Weenie, and in 1973 the young family moved to Waipu where Tony would hold the position as pharmacist for another 40 years.

He soon became known for going the extra mile for the health of the community, often hand delivering prescriptions or opening after hours to ensure people got their medication. He also became deeply involved in a wide range of community activities, something he continues to this day, despite his retirement from pharmacy work in 2013.

Tony is a long-serving and active member of the Waipu Residents and Ratepayers Association, helping the organisation address many issues of community concern over the years, and liaising with and making submissions to Council over a number of them.

Sport has been another of Tony's passions, as evidenced by his involvement in many local sports' clubs. He coached the Waipu Rugby and Squash Club's junior rugby teams for more than ten years, and served on the club's rugby committee and as its President for several years. He also played a significant role in securing funding for new floodlights, and served as a senior rugby referee and the Whangarei Junior Rugby Management Board delegate.

Tony also introduced and took junior coaching at the Waipu Tennis Club, which continues to this day and has greatly improved the standard of children's tennis. He is currently patron of the Club.

For the Waipu Athletics Club he helped organise events, coached and transported junior members, and has volunteered as marshal for the Waipu Highland Games for many years.

The Waipu Business Association and Promotions Group has also benefitted from his sizeable involvement over the years, even after his retirement. Since joining the group in 1975 he has served several terms as Chair and been a contributing part of its development and promotional events, including the street markets, Christmas Parade and Waipu Art and Tartan Festival.

Tony was instrumental in the formation and running of the Waipu 2000 Trust in 1992, which aims to ensure Waipu always looks its best. To that end and as part of this commitment, he voluntarily empties the rubbish bins and waters the hanging baskets in the main street every day.

When his sons were at Waipu Primary School, Tony served on the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) and Board of Trustees (BoT), participated in working bees and was heavily involved in the operation and upkeep of the school pool. As his sons grew, he also became part of the Bream Bay College PTA and the Whangarei Boys' High School BoT.

He has been a member of the Waipu Caledonian Society for more than 20 years, playing a significant role in most of their activities. He has supported the Waipu Bridge Club, joined the Bream Bay SeniorNet committee, and served as a voluntary marshal for the Waipu 2014 Mud Run.

Tony cares deeply about the people of Waipu and their wonderful part of the world, and with wife Weenie's support has demonstrated his concern for their welfare in a multitude of ways. No job has been too menial, too hard or too much trouble for Tony if it was for the betterment of his community.

For this, we honour him.



WHANGAREI
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Civic Honour

Citation – Stuart Clark

Whangarei District Council takes great pleasure in awarding a Civic Honour to Stuart Blair Clark in recognition of his extensive contribution to the people and place of Hikurangi.

Born and raised in Auckland, Stuart moved to Hikurangi in 1983, immediately immersing himself in the community and embarking on a life of service that continues to this day.

A sizeable part of that involves the Waro Lake Scenic Reserve. Stuart was a founding member of the Friends of Waro Lake, and in 2013 generously swapped pieces of his own land for Whangarei District Council land, making it possible for the public to gain improved access to the Yvonne Stewart Memorial Walkway at the northern end of the lake, and giving young people better access to the 'Waro rock' from which they enjoy jumping into the lake on summer days.

Part of a team consisting of locals, Council staff and businesses, Stuart has participated in a large number of activities aimed at developing and maintaining the lake over the last 15 years, and spends many hours of his own time clearing graffiti, vegetation and rubbish from the Reserve. So great has Stuart's contribution been to this local natural treasure, that he is now affectionately known around Hikurangi as the Kaitiaki, or guardian, of the lake.

Each day presents an opportunity for Stuart to contribute to his community, often with an early start. Before going to work on weekday mornings, he helps prepare breakfast for the children of Hikurangi School, giving them a sound and happy start to the day. He has been assisting with school's Breakfast Club since its beginning, and no child is ever turned away, even if it means Stuart starts work late. During breakfast he also makes a point of chatting with the children to identify any needs or problems they may have.

Local youth also benefit from Stuart's involvement with the Tornado Youth Community Trust. He has helped to organise and run many of their activities, and also teaches driving skills to those who wouldn't otherwise get the chance. He has taken groups of young locals to an ice skating rink in Whangarei, roller discos, the beach, Dargaville Field Days and on birthday excursions, and offers his assistance with school holiday programmes.

Stuart was a founding member of the government-funded Healthy Hikurangi Leading for Outcomes project, an initiative that eventually morphed into the Healthy Hikurangi Trust to which he gave generously of his time in support of its various activities.

Through his church, Stuart helps out when families or the elderly need assistance. Using the church van he takes local youth and a range of gardening equipment to help address overgrown gardens, and has been a longstanding member of the Hikurangi Good News Club, a weekly interdenominational Christian programme teaching children aged 7 - 11.

He is known for his compassionate and giving nature, which has seen him use his own resources to assist anyone in need, whenever and wherever he is able. That includes driving members of the Hikurangi community to appointments, collecting kindling for those without transport and even taking families to the coast to collect kai moana, when they can't get there under their own steam.

Through his tireless and selfless efforts, and without any thought of reward or recognition, Stuart Clark has enriched his home township of Hikurangi and made it a better place to live, work and play.

He is a shining example of community spirit and service in action.

For this, we honour him.

Her Worship the Mayor Sheryl Mai
Thursday 11 August 2016

WHANGAREI: LOVE IT HERE!



WHANGAREI
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Civic Honour

Citation – Jeffrey D' Ath

It is with great pleasure that Whangarei District Council awards a Civic Honour to Jeffrey Peter D'Ath in recognition of his outstanding contribution to our district's volunteer emergency services, the people of Bream Bay and the travellers of our roads.

Jeff grew up in Waipu, and returned to Bream Bay with his family in 1988 after time spent living in Auckland and Australia. Sadly, whilst living in Australia, he lost three close family members in a tragic car accident, an event that would shape his future and forge a legacy in his many years of caring for the people of Bream Bay and their visitors.

After the accident, Jeff developed an interest in the emergency services. Despite being a devoted family man and working full time, Jeff found time to join the Ruakaka Volunteer Fire Brigade in 1991, and in March this year gained his Gold Star for 25 years of service to the brigade.

Those 25 years have seen him attending all call-outs possible, saving lives and property, supporting locals through serious accidents and injury, linking with kaumatua to deliver support, writing the Fire Call column for the Bream Bay News, taking the fire truck to community events, and currently serving as the brigade's Senior First Responding officer, Training Officer and Personnel Manager.

Jeff has been equally as keen to keep people safe on our coasts. A keen boatie, in 2000 he became one of the founding members of the Whangarei Volunteer Coastguard, having previously been part of a group of local boat owners responding to calls from people whose boats had broken down at sea.

When his Coastguard group took possession of a dedicated rescue vessel, Jeff was one of the first to qualify to skipper it, and spent many hours training crew, maintaining the boat and commanding it during call outs. Until he left to devote time to other volunteer interests in 2005, Jeff also played a major role in public relations for the Coastguard, working with the media to get the water safety message across to the public.

Between 2012 and 2015, Jeff was also a member of the Bream Bay Community Patrol, offering advice, training and stability to a fledgling group of locals assisting the Police by conducting weekend night patrols.

Concurrently, he developed an interest in the medical side of emergencies. He trained as a first responder with St John Bream Bay, and became an assistant on jobs by helping with equipment and driving.

Jeff became an official member of St John on 1 March 2016, and since then has given more than 300 hours to the service and become an integral part of the station by taking on regular 12-hour shifts, helping with fundraising, and attending trainings and call outs, whenever possible.

These services and all others over the years, make Jeff a valued and respected member of the Bream Bay and emergency services' communities. Credit must also be given to his wife, Sheryl, and their daughters who have supported him in this calling, and who have helped him to become the outstanding example of good citizenship that he is, in the true spirit of volunteering.

For this, we honour him.

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Thursday 11 August 2016

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Civic Honour

Citation – Rosemary Waters

Whangarei District Council takes great pleasure in awarding a Civic Honour to Rosemary Isabel Waters in recognition of her considerable contribution to the wellbeing and welfare of the Whangarei community, in particular the elderly.

Born in County Cork in the Republic of Ireland, Rosemary emigrated to New Zealand with her husband Adrian and four children in 1964. They moved to Kokopu to farm dairy and beef cattle, and it was here that her extensive contribution to the people of Whangarei began.

For more than 40 years Rosemary has played the organ or harmonium for the Ruatangata Christian Fellowship, and has organised the popular Ruatangata District Carol Service for 14 of those years.

Other local churches have also benefitted from her exceptional pianist skills and generous heart. Rosemary plays for the Maungatapere Church; funerals, weddings and christenings on request; as one of the pianists for the 4C's at the Central Baptist Church; and for 17 years she was the organist for the St John's Church choir in Maunu.

Word of her talents spread far and wide, and she was also asked to play for church services aboard the Queen Elizabeth 2, P&O cruise ships, a Greek cruise ship, and the Fullers Ferry to Oihi Bay, the site of the Marsden Cross.

As a living example of her Christian faith, Rosemary willingly gives of her talents to bring joy to those beyond her rich church life. For 12 years she has regularly played wartime and church music for residents of the Potter Memorial Home, and for four years has done the same for the residents of Radius Rimu Park and Puriri Court Rest Home and Hospital. She also plays for Cairnfield House, Kamo Home, Selwyn Park, River View Rest Home and Jane Mander Retirement Village residents, on request.

In times past, Rosemary was pianist for Maurice Moffat's home group, and continues to serve in that capacity for the Whangarei Central Community Care and Creativity group, the Warblers Christmas Carollers and the Ruatangata Women's Fellowship, for whom she has acted as both accompanist and President for 15 years.

Hours of practice at home precede these performances, and she regularly learns new songs to add to her repertoire and maintain her listeners' interest.

For two years when her children were young, Rosemary devoted time to making school lunches at Kokopu School. She has also been a delivery person for Meals on Wheels for 14 years, and supported the work of overseas missionaries as a letter writer to raise awareness of need, and as a fundraiser through the collection of stamps for the Leprosy Mission.

She has been an avid supporter of the Waterfall Chapel, even volunteering to pay for power charges, and has offered her 'extra set of hands' to the Potter Memorial Home under Registered Nurse supervision during an extreme staff shortage.

Each of these services is delivered in Rosemary's characteristically unassuming, gracious and gentle manner, and out of genuine concern for the welfare of others. This, despite her own ongoing health issues and associated pain resulting from a farm accident 40 years ago from which she was not expected to survive.

Rosemary Waters has conscientiously and selflessly contributed to her community over many decades, ever counting it a privilege to be asked to help and always willing and able to find the time.

For this, we honour her.

Her Worship the Mayor Sheryl Mai
Thursday 11 August 2016

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