



Civic Honour

Vic and Yvonne Pitman

Whangarei District Council takes great pleasure in awarding a Civic Honour to Vic and Yvonne Pitman for their services to the Whangarei community.

For more than 40 years, Vic and Yvonne have been active members of Lions Clubs International, championing worthy causes, raising funds to help those in need, rolling up their sleeves alongside like-minded people and galvanising communities into action. Vic and Yvonne have given a lifetime of dedication to their community through their selflessness and genuine love of helping others.

Originally from Upper Moutere, Nelson, Yvonne worked for nearly 30 years for the Post Office, before retiring in 2015. Born in Te Puke and schooled in Northcote, Vic also worked for the Post Office for 30 years, as well as in real estate and finally truck driving. The couple married in Moutere Church in 1967, have raised three children and lived in Nelson, Rotorua and now Tutukaka.

Vic and Yvonne's connection with the Lions Clubs International started in Nelson in 1977, where Vic became a Charter member of Nelson North Lions Club. Yvonne helped form Nelson's first Lioness club in 1982, being their Charter President. Both Vic and Yvonne threw themselves wholeheartedly into the Lions lifestyle of community service, involving their young children as well.

Vic was Lions District Governor in 1997/1998 for the Greater Bay of Plenty area. He is currently a member of Tutukaka Coast Lions, where he serves as Secretary/Treasurer. He is also Chairman of the Whangarei Rolling Ball Clock project, a former Trustee and Secretary of the Waikanohe Wahi Tapu in Ngunguru. Vic's Marae is Paratene Te Manu in Ngunguru, his Iwi is Ngatiwai of Ngapuhi Whanui and his Hapu is Ngati Takapari/Patuharakeke/Ngati Pukenga. Yvonne was a founding member of the Whangarei Hatea Lions club, where she has been Membership Chairman for 10 years. She is now a member of the Tutukaka Coast Lions Club with Vic, in their retirement.

Together, Vic and Yvonne have been involved in countless community events, fundraisers, organisations and worthy causes. In addition to many other activities, they have campaigned for Camp Quality NZ, raising funds for a Hart Walker for a local child with Cerebral Palsy, helped with the annual Guy Fawkes fundraiser, assisted with Project Promise fundraisers, implemented breakfasts in schools, assisted with community Christmas meals, initiated and fundraised for the placement of exercise equipment on the Hatea Loop, served as carpark ambassadors, organised Young Ambassador contests, assisted in the annual Relay for Life, and organised the donation of training mannequins for St Johns. They helped to create the volunteer city centre CCTV monitoring group in 2005, and Yvonne continues to volunteer her time at the Whangarei Central Police Station.

In 1997 Yvonne was presented with a Lloyd Morgan Life Membership and in 2003 Vic also received a Lloyd Morgan Life Membership award for recognition of all their achievements in community service. In 2013 Yvonne was given the District Governor Award of Appreciation for her services in the role of District Secretary. The immeasurable hours of volunteer work and community support given by Vic and Yvonne have touched the lives of countless individuals, both in our District and beyond.

For this we honour them.

Her Worship the Mayor Sheryl Mai
Wednesday 28 August 2019



Civic Honour

Lynette MacDonald

Whangarei District Council takes great pleasure in awarding a Civic Honour to Lynette MacDonald for her service to the Whangārei community.

Lynette has been a volunteer for Whangarei Victim Support for more than 17 years, having completed her initial training in 2002. Her commitment to ensuring she offers the best support possible to the people she helps has seen her undertake ongoing training, including Homicide Training in 2008, and Bereavement Training in 2014. In 2009, Lynette was awarded the National Victim Support Merit Award for Exemplary Service.

Lynette's role within Victim Support has seen her supporting innumerable victims of domestic violence, sexual abuse, substance abuse and traumatic events. She guides and advises the people she helps through trials, sentencing, and victim impact statements, as well as providing an immediate first response service in the aftermath of trauma.

The range and breadth of people Lynette works with reaches every demographic in our community. It is impossible to put a figure on the number of people she has worked with, but it would be well into the high hundreds, if not more.

As a homicide volunteer, Lynette has supported many families through initial contact through to the High Court Trial, and in some cases, parole submissions. She currently works closely with the Ministry of Justice Victim Advisors in Whangārei to ensure a wrap-around service is achieved. In one instance, she supported a family for eight weeks for a jury trial which saw her being at the court 5 days a week from 10am-5pm each day, and has been known to wait with families long into the night while juries deliberate.

Lynette builds an easy rapport with victims, caregivers and support people. She has a wealth of knowledge, and walks beside them during their long journey from victim to survivor.

Lynette has also developed a strong relationship with police and the courts, and is known as a reliable, professional and thorough advisor. In many instances, Lynette not only helps with the writing of Victim Impact Statements, but also stands by them as they read them aloud in court, and if requested, will read the statements herself. She works under the radar and behind the scenes, seeking neither recognition nor thanks. Her relationship with all victims of crime is confidential and she is trusted by all who come into contact with her, from police and victim advisors through to members of the public.

Lynette gives her time freely, always putting the needs of the people she is supporting first, working with them at times that suit them, often in the evenings and weekends.

Lynette is inspirational, and her experience and expertise is now used in the Northern Region of Victim Support for Court Support training for other Victim Support volunteers.

For this we honour her.

Her Worship the Mayor Sheryl Mai
Wednesday 28 August 2019



Civic Honour

Major Christopher Williams NZCF

Whangarei District Council takes great pleasure in awarding a Civic Honour to Major Christopher Williams for his service in the Cadet Forces.

At the age of 16, Chris joined the New Zealand Defence Force as a regular force cadet. This was to be a life changing experience, and one that would see him commit himself tirelessly to voluntarily serving the Cadet Forces throughout his life. In his various roles within the Cadet Forces, Chris has instilled the cornerstone values of our defence forces into thousands of young people: comradeship, commitment, courage, and integrity. His wisdom and personal fortitude continues to shape the lives, develop the minds, and enhance the wellbeing of our youth.

Chris comes from a strong military family, with his late father having been awarded an Arctic Star for service in areas above the Arctic Circle during World War II. Chris travelled extensively both in his early career with the Army, and with his time spent working on a tuna fishing boat, from 1983 to 1990. In his early years with the military, Chris trained to become a chef, and this has continued to be both his passion and his career outside of his voluntary Cadet Forces involvement.

In 1993, Chris was commissioned as a NZ Cadet Forces (NZCF) Officer in the Air Training Corps (ATC) of Whangarei, in the rank of Pilot Officer. Only three years later, in 1996, he was promoted to the rank of Flying Officer, before taking a voluntary release from the NZCF in 1997. Not long after this, Chris celebrated the birth of his daughter Tabitha, followed a few years later by the birth of his second daughter Shakira.

Chris soon restarted his voluntary service, being reactivated into the NZCF in the Air Training Corps in 2003. He took a Commissioning Course in April 2005, before taking a six month leave to settle into a new job in Hamilton and joining TS Rangiriri.

Chris put his many years of experience on the tuna boat to good use when he changed corps to Sea Cadet Corps in 2011, and was soon promoted to the rank of Lieutenant. In 2013 Lieutenant Williams transferred back to the Whangarei Air Training Corps, with a further promotion in rank to that of Flight Lieutenant. It was from here that Chris transferred to the Whangarei District Cadet Unit in 2016, taking a further Corps change to the New Zealand Cadet Corps in the rank of Captain. Within two weeks of this transfer, Chris was again promoted: this time to the rank of Major, with an appointment as the Cadet Unit Commander for Whangarei District Cadet Unit.

During his time in the New Zealand Cadet Forces, Major Williams attended a number of developmental courses and is now delivering courses for the development of NZCF officers and cadets. His voluntary service with the Cadet Forces on a professional and personal level empowers cadets to do their own learning, developing and training youth to be good citizens and leaders within their communities.

For this we honour him.

Her Worship the Mayor Sheryl Mai
Wednesday 28 August 2019



Civic Honour

Eric Hansen

Whangarei District Council takes great pleasure in awarding a Civic Honour to Eric Hansen for his service to the community.

Eric began his voluntary work while at Auckland University and Teachers Training College. He coached junior softball and rugby teams at St Paul's College from 1977 to 1979, and during the Christmas holidays he assisted in holiday camps for children from disadvantaged families. In 1978, he joined the Auckland Rugby Referees Association and refereed junior games. When Eric moved to Taranaki to commence teaching in 1980, he continued his involvement in sport, coaching rugby, soccer and cricket, acting as secretary of the Hawera High School Rugby Club and as delegate to the Taranaki Secondary Schools Rugby Union. In 1994, Eric was runner up for the Taranaki Sportsman of the Year Award (Coaching Section). During the school holidays, Eric would travel up to Auckland to work as a volunteer at the YMCA school holiday camps.

Eric enlisted in the New Zealand Army Territorial Force in 1980, and was commissioned as an officer in 1982. He left the Army with the rank of Lieutenant in 1987, married his wife Elise in January 1990 and grew their family with the birth of his two daughters, Sarah and Kate, over the following few years. In July 1996, Eric was appointed Head of Social Studies at Bream Bay College, transferring to the Northland Rugby Referees Association and refereeing until 2000. Eric was a committee member of the Bream Bay Hockey Club 2001-2010, where he coached for many years.

In 2007 Eric was awarded the Macsway Shield for the Most Significant Contribution to Bream Bay Hockey, and later that year won the Bream Bay Sports Award for Sports Administration. Eric served on the Ruakaka School Board of Trustees and became a parent representative on the Parent-Teacher Association of Bream Bay College.

Eric believes that community involvement is an integral part of a teacher's life in a rural school, breaking down barriers and allowing teachers to interact positively with parents and students. He encouraged Bream Bay College students to make the most of all opportunities, while helping to create opportunities, including national and international geography trips and cultural exchanges.

In 2013, Eric joined the Bream Bay Community Patrol, where he was a Committee Member from 2014, was appointed to Training Officer in 2015, and was elected as the Northland District Chairman from 2017 to 2019. Eric became an Honorary Fisheries Officer for the Ministry of Primary Industries in 2016.

Eric has written several historic articles, edited numerous works and written and published three of his own historical books. He is currently writing a fourth. His passion for teaching continues, as he is currently a Resource Teacher for Learning and Behaviour, where he dedicates himself to the engagement, extension and wellbeing of the learners in our local schools. The depth and breadth of Eric's involvement in community events, sports, activities and educational institutions is outstanding.

For this we honour him.

Her Worship the Mayor Sheryl Mai
Wednesday 28 August 2019