



CIVIC HONOUR

Kelvin Richard Attwood

It gives Whangarei District Council great delight to award a Civic Honour to Kelvin Attwood for his outstanding service to the Maungakaramea community.

Kelvin is known as a humble and modest man who prefers to stay out of the limelight but is the first person to help if something needs doing.

His contribution to the Maungakaramea area spans many community projects and countless voluntary hours, at the school, local hall, sport grounds and anything in between. Whether it is helping to roof a building, driving in a fence post, pouring concrete, coaching kids at sport or lighting the barbecue at an after-match function - he will be there.

It is a mark of his dedication to the community that Kelvin has achieved so much, giving so freely of his time, while also continuing to run his own farm.

Kelvin is a Maungakaramea man through and through. Raised on a local farm, he attended Maungakaramea School, then Northland College as a boarder studying agriculture. After leaving school, he started work on the family farm alongside his twin brother Warren. Kelvin left the farm for a short time in 1979, fulfilling a lifetime dream to work in the Australian outback for six months. When he returned he married his wife Liz and they bought their own farm in Maungakaramea where they still live today. They have three children, Matthew, Michael, and Nikki.

Kelvin has been a committee member of Maungakaramea Recreation Society for 35 years and has a reputation for being the first go-to man, who always says yes to a request for help. He can regularly be seen on his tractor clearing the hedging areas around the sportsfield's fence line. When the hall needed roofing, he was there every day removing iron and tidying the site. Kelvin has taken control of the latest hall project, installing bollards to protect the grass. He has also recently taken on maintenance of the local cemetery.

While his children attended Maungakaramea School, Kelvin spent several years on the Board of Trustees where he was involved in fundraising and working bees.

Kelvin has also been heavily involved in the local sporting scene. A keen hockey player, he played for many years for Maungakaramea, starting as a five-year-old and progressing to senior teams. He served on the hockey club committee for many years. When his children started playing hockey he became a coach (including coaching the Northland Under 11 Boys team) and was chairman of Whangarei JMC Hockey.

Kelvin was instrumental in the planning, fundraising and manual work that went into the building of the Maungakaramea Sports Club in the 1980s. This facility is an important hub for the whole community, not just the hockey and cricket clubs that are based there.

When something needs to be done in Maungakaramea, Kelvin can be relied on to get it done. He is a respected and popular member of a close-knit rural community who value him highly.

FOR THIS WE HONOUR HIM.

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Her Worship the Mayor Sheryl Mai
WEDNESDAY 23 AUGUST

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CIVIC HONOUR

Linda Mary Melville

Whangarei District Council is delighted to award a Civic Honour to Linda Melville in recognition of her dedicated service to the Bland Bay and wider Whangaruru Harbour area.

Linda is loved and respected throughout the community for her long service as a volunteer at the local marae, a coastguard radio operator and emergency First Aid provider. She is described as someone who has a wonderful rapport with young and old alike - a person who is always ready with a kind word, a cup of tea or a shoulder to cry on.

Raised in Auckland, Linda began her working career as a caterer working at Mt Albert Boys Grammar, where she kept 100 boys and five school masters happily fed for 13 years. She also owned a florist shop in West Auckland. Linda is married to Ray and they have one daughter, Tamara.

Linda's ties with Northland began in 1987 when the couple bought a holiday section in the small coastal settlement of Bland Bay. In 1992 they moved to live there full-time and Linda soon became an indispensable part of the community. Her loving, generous, warm nature and willingness to offer amazing catering and organisational skills meant she quickly became part of a so-called "Dream Team", that were always on hand to help at local marae functions. Linda also helped run the popular Whangaruru Easter Fishing Family Carnival for many years.

In the early 2000s Linda and Ray volunteered to help Whangaruru and Tutukaka Coastguard. They provided radio cover from 7am to 5pm, seven days a week, from 2002 to 2006 when coastguard calls were centralised to Auckland. This voluntary work, covered the coastline from Cape Brett in the north, to Tutukaka in the south. It involved daily logging of all boats, tracking vessel locations, checking planned routes and ensuring a speedy response to emergency calls. The couple are still involved with local coastguard as needed.

Linda was aware of the need for a first-response emergency first aid service for the Whangaruru Harbour community, whose remote coastal and rural location is more than an hour away from the nearest emergency medical services in Whangarei and Kawakawa.

Together with other locals, she was instrumental in setting up Whangaruru First Aid Emergency Trust. As secretary since its formation in 1999, she has been responsible for the daily running of this service, providing emergency first aid from Rawhiti to Oakura. In 2003 she supported an application for an ASB grant to build a dedicated First Aid clinic at Bland Bay, which is now also used as a community health clinic. The trust also fundraised to build a helicopter pad, so the rescue helicopter can land safely at Bland Bay. For years, Linda and Ray provided the service with an old van equipped with a stretcher, oxygen, defibrillator and other first aid supplies, before funding enabled the purchase of an ambulance to attend callouts.

Linda responds to first aid callouts 24 hours a day, seven days a week, including over holiday periods when the population swells by hundreds. On average, she attends 120 incidents a year, often in the middle of the night. She responds to a range of accidents and medical emergencies from acute asthma attacks, allergic reactions, transport accidents and heart attacks to serious events like stabbings. At times like these, Linda's immediate expert medical care can make the difference between life and death.

Linda is an incredible asset to her community. She is someone who has shown unstinting dedication and willingness to give selflessly of her own time to help others.

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CIVIC HONOUR

Maxine Neighbour

It is with great pleasure that Whangarei District Council awards a Civic Honour to Maxine Neighbour in recognition of outstanding service to the community.

Maxine has spent her life in the service of others whether in her local community, the wider Northland community or at a national level. She is known for her tireless energy, determination and strong leadership skills. Maxine is married to Murray and they have one son, Michael.

Maxine spent 32 years of her working life as a school administrator in Whangarei and has been at the forefront of improving the working conditions of school support staff across New Zealand.

She was branch secretary and president of the local branch of Education Service Paraprofessional Association (ESPA) and she served on the national executive as a board member, national president and part of a negotiating team for improved wages and conditions for support staff. She continued her union involvement following the amalgamation of ESPA and New Zealand Educational Institute. She was also the first non-teacher ever to become a NZEI Fellow, an honour demonstrating the esteem she is held in by the education sector. She was an able leader for the school community, frequently giving presentations to support staff on best practice and co-authoring a book entitled 'Handy Hints for School Administration staff'.

Maxine's contribution to the community spans many other leadership roles and projects. She was involved in Special Olympics as a swimming coach co-ordinator, committee member, chairperson, national and regional games manager. She was a committee member and chief timekeeper for Okau Swimming Club, based at Whangarei Primary School. Maxine served on the committee and then became chairperson of Pataua Ratepayers Association. She served on National Council of Women as well and was local president of this nationwide group twice, helping organise a national hui in Whangarei.

Maxine and Murray joined Rotary in 1995 and make a great team, combining their talents for the benefit of others. The couple worked to bring the Rembrandt Revised Exhibition to Whangarei - a major undertaking involving hundreds of hours of work. The oral hygiene programme in Northland schools, Rotary Northtec Science Programme and Walk Because You Can Polio campaign are more examples of their many community projects. Other local groups helped by Rotary include Hospice, Alzheimer's, Driving for the Blind, Pink Ribbon and Whangarei Quarry Gardens.

Maxine has held many key leadership roles within Rotary including President of Whangarei South Rotary Club, District Secretary and District Governor. She has been involved in Rotary Youth Leadership Awards and Rotary Youth Driving - a programme educating Year 11 students about driving safety including the effects of drugs and alcohol.

Maxine is also secretary for People Potential Charitable Trust and volunteers for Angel Flight New Zealand, a charity providing free flights to hospital appointments for needy rural patients.

Whatever Maxine does, she gives it her all. She gives freely of her own time, energy and expertise. She displays a dedicated community spirit and willingness to use her talents and abilities for the good of others.

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CIVIC HONOUR

Audrey Jean Trimmer

It is with considerable pleasure that Whangarei District Council awards a Civic Honour to Audrey Trimmer for her significant contribution to the community.

Audrey is hardworking, reliable and a tireless worker who has given her time and expertise to many. In leadership roles she is known for her eye for detail, impressive memory, and ability to listen to others to make an informed decision. Her colleagues say she has a great sense of humour and is supportive and encouraging of others.

Audrey spent her early years in London, England and lived through the Blitz. She emigrated to New Zealand at the age of 18. Audrey worked as a radiographer in Auckland before marrying her husband Barrie and having two sons, Owen and Brian. The couple moved to a farm at Totara Grove, where Audrey soon got involved in the local community as secretary of Kamo Plunket. Barrie and Audrey then took on the challenge of developing a large beef and sheep farm at Pipiwai.

Never afraid to speak her mind, Audrey has been a vocal advocate for social justice issues. During her time in Pipiwai, Audrey promoted the interests of country women through the Country Women's Institute. She has over 50 years involvement with Whangarei Women's Club, serving as secretary for 26 years. She was the local president of National Council of Women for four years, lobbying on a wide range of social justice issues, locally and nationally. Audrey's significant contribution to this organisation is recognised with a Distinguished Service Award and life membership.

After selling their farm in 1974 and moving to Whangarei, Audrey studied for a Bachelor of Arts degree extramurally from Massey University. These were the early days of extramural study and she was appointed Northland liaison officer assisting other students. Audrey became a member of Federation of University Women, managing academic regalia hire for local graduates. She graduated in the early 1980s and continues to be a curious learner, supporting University of the Third Age in Whangarei and maintaining a keen interest in New Zealand history.

One of Audrey's most personally rewarding contributions is her volunteer work for NZ Blind Foundation, improving the quality of life of blind people, for 30 years as part of Reading for the Blind. She was part of a team compiling and recording news items for blind people; keeping them up to date with local and international news.

Audrey was a trustee of Kamo Home and Village for 12 years between 1997 and 2005, bringing her practical business skills and empathy for the needs of older people to her governance. She played an important role evolving this home to a multi-dimensional aged-care facility that offers a full continuum of care to its residents.

Audrey has played an integral role in St Johns Golden Church for 40 years. She has served for many years as Convenor and Chairperson on the Parish Council, overseeing the appointment of ministers. She has managed church property, finances as current treasurer and is the keeper of records. She organised the distribution of Meals on Wheels dinners to elderly people in their homes for many years and was a supporter of St Johns Market shop. Her dedication to social justice issues includes involvement in setting up 155 Community House and Community Law Services, based in the church buildings. She has also been a representative of Churches Together in Northland for many years.

Audrey Trimmer is a person who gets things done. She is tenacious and persistent when working to achieve an outcome for her community.

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