



KNOX CHURCH WAITARA – CELEBRATING WAITARA VOLUNTEERS. Knox Church Waitara is a small-medium sized church, located in the centre of Waitara, that is passionate about our town. We also value serving in our community in many shapes and forms. It is an honour to nominate these three faithful servants in our community, who have dedicated many hours, towards initiatives in the community that has benefitted many people, young and old. This team of women have served in our community in various capacities over the years, with a particular focus on the recent collective service as Waitara Foodbank volunteers.

All three ladies were volunteers and Trustees of the Waitara Foodbank. Kath as Chair, Sue as Secretary and Elsie as Trustee, with a collective service to the Foodbank of roughly 30 years between them, an impressive innings ladies! All three recently retired from their roles at the Foodbank. Without their collective service, the Foodbank service may not have been operating today. Focus of Foodbank is to provide emergency food parcels for those who are in need; there is no other provider of service in Waitara providing this level of support on a voluntary, on weekly basis. Extraordinary back story of volunteering of all three women and we would like to capture this dedication and commitment of service to the community with an emphasis on their service towards the community at the Waitara Foodbank. They also continued to work in Level 3 ensuring people received food that they needed in a safe manner.

KATH JONES – Kath dedicated 6 years towards the set up and operations of the Waitara Community childcare centre. Volunteered at the Waitara Foodbank for 20+ years. In the Church, peoples warden capacity and church vestry members (Synod Rep Waikato) for 2-3 years. Waitara Soroptimist for 30+ years. NZ Girls Brigade as a Pastor for 5 years, Taranaki Base Hospital Board Representative for 2 years. 10 years with North Taranaki Community House Trust, including development of facility now current Manager.

SUE ORR – Sue served 4 years as Treasurer, 7 years as a Trustee for the Waitara Plunket Society Committee. 10 years, Waitara Central Primary and Waitara High School Committees. 6 years committee member for Waitara Scouts, 5 years as Treasurer. 2 years as a Mentor for Adult Literacy. 8 years as Treasurer for the Waitara Methodist Church Parish Council and Youth Leader for 10 years. 3 years Waitara Girls Brigade committee. 7 years + Waitara Foodbank Committee.

ELSIE KEARNS – “Elsie is a very kind, gentle lady, who does a lot “behind the scenes” helping many people. Elsie’s efficiency and management skills were very apparent in her work in the Parish Council and Parish Concern Committee and she has assisted with various ministries within St Joseph’s Church Waitara. Her other love is for her Maori people and she served for 34 years at Owae Marae. She was also found on the netball courses as coach and umpire.

Kōre te kumara e kōrero mō tōna ake reka meaning the sweet potato does not speak of how sweet they are. This proverb speaks to the humility all 3 women possess when working in our community. If we wish to maintain our modesty as community members, it is vital that we appreciate our own sweetness and look for opportunities to promote the sweetness of the kumara around us.

With Thanks to our Sponsors.....

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TONY & ANNE COLLINS are a great team. They use all their tools, time and tenacity to protect and restore biodiversity in Taranaki. As Tony puts it – ‘We do it together. It’s part of us, it’s fun’ Tony & Anne are valued members of the Rotokare whanau and have volunteered regularly at Rotokare Sanctuary since 2014. Together they undertake:

- Pest animal management, ensuring vulnerable wildlife remain safe from predation.
- Feeding hihi (sugar water on a 3-day cycle) Requiring meticulous attention to detail to avoid contamination and manage disease risk.
- Technical plumbing and handyman tasks.
- Research & advocacy for potential frog species reintroduction Tony & Anne often stay overnight in their motorhome so they can contribute again the next day. We always look forward to Tony’s humour and Anne’s efficiency. Tony & Anne also share their conservation enthusiasm with other organisations.
- North Taranaki Forest & Bird – President and Secretary, conservation advocacy.
- Te Wairoa – maintain, trap & plant this 5ha reserve
- Towards Predator Free Taranaki – weekly checks on a 14 trap, Westown trapline.

Conservation and ecological restoration in Taranaki are improving thanks to Tony and Anne’s efforts. The proof is in more birds, more plants, more flowers & more laughs.



WAITARA GOLF CLUB GROUNDS AND MAINTENANCE. The four people who have been nominated, work tirelessly on the golf course week in and week out. They mow the fairways, greens, green surrounds, tees and berms outside of the golf course itself. They also look after the reticulation of the greens and are forever cutting down any dead or over grown trees that could be a hazard to the

golfing fraternity. They also do the majority of the maintenance on all of our mowing tractors and machinery. Three of them are Life Members of the club and the average age of the four of our wonderful volunteers is 80 years old.

Names: Peter Cullen, Bill Bird, Chad Evans, all Life Members and Murray Johnston.

Approx total of 110 years served between these four.