



CIVIC HONOURS

Awards 2021

Janelle Beazley

Whangarei District Council takes great pride in awarding a Civic Honour to Janelle Leoda May Beazley in recognition of her extensive service to Whangārei's community and culture.

Janelle is acknowledged by all who know her as a trustworthy, conscientious, self-motivated woman with a warm, compassionate nature and giving spirit. Born, raised and educated in the district, Janelle left Whangārei in the 1970s to complete a trade training scheme, returning home to begin her working life at Whangārei's post office where she took various roles before leaving in 1988 to pursue study at Northtec.

That study was followed by employment in a number of Northtec positions, where Janelle proved a popular staff member and began her quest to encourage youth and whanau to enrol for study courses, and to never give up or stop learning. She sets a fine example of that mantra, being in the third year of study for a Bachelor of Maori Performing Arts degree.

Retiring from Northtec in 2011 to focus on the welfare of her hapu and iwi, Janelle turned much of her attention and time toward voluntary work with marae, kura, kapa haka groups, kohanga reo, organisational leadership and management, and being a Justice of the Peace.

The projects, programmes and initiatives for which she has been a driving force or significant influence are many. She was the conference organiser for the Best Practice Workshop, Te Toi Tauira mo Te Matariki at Waitangi in 2007, a programme designed to support and encourage Māori excellence at the graduate and postgraduate level of studies.

Since 1978, she has performed, been secretary and treasurer for, and is now a life member of, the Waitangi Cultural Society Inc. regional body for kapa haka, the committee managing all kapa haka in Te Tai Tokerau. In 2008, Janelle was made a life member of this committee, and 43 years after first becoming a part of it, still offers her time and talents voluntarily at the annual kapa haka competitions.

Janelle has acted as secretary, Board of Trustees member and Reference Group member for Te Kura Kaupapa Maori o Te Rawhitiroa since 2012, and was a marae member and member of the Raumanga community Te Puna o Te Matauranga at Northtec from 1992 to 2011. She has supported and been active at Manaia View School since its inception in 2002, and has held the roles of treasurer, secretary, trustee and honorary aunty and nanny at Te Kohanga Reo o Raurimu since 2019.

Janelle has acted as trustee and secretary for Te Tarai o Rahiri Marae in Mangakahia from 2011 to the present day, and since 2005, has been an executive member of Te Tai Tokerau Tarai Waka, the organisation formed in the 1980s to provide practical training in waka construction, sailing and traditional navigation.

She has served as a board member and Hapu Kaikorero for Tuhoronuku since 2014, and since 2000, been a highly valued trustee, secretary and absolute stalwart of Whangarei Terenga Paraoa Marae, including by managing the bookings at this increasingly busy facility to ensure the marae can rest after each hui held there.

As a trustee representing Te Runanga a Iwi o Ngapuhi since 2017, Janelle has co-ordinated the provision of water, heating and sometimes food for vulnerable Whangārei whanau and the elderly from Pipiwai in the north to Takahiwai in the south, including those on marae and in urban areas.

Janelle's words of encouragement to others are always, "If I can do it, you can do it!" She is a woman who never stops learning or giving, encouraging, caring or leading by example in all she does for her community.

For this we honour her.

Her Worship the Mayor Sheryl Mai