

Halswell-Hornby-Riccarton Community Service and Youth Service Award Nominations 2025

Part A - Nominations recommended for Youth Service Award and Community Service Awards:

	Youth Service Award - Nominee	Service location	Length of service	Activity or service	Who in the community has benefited from the nominee's activity or service?	Letters or evidence of support
1	Leo Black <i>Nominated by: James Harris and Jasper van der Meer</i>	Riccarton	Seven years	Leo Black has been a volunteer on Community Development Network Kids Camps for seven years, serving as a cabin leader, programme director and coordinating the leaders-in-training during camps. His dedication extends to Teen Adventure Camps and Big Night Out events as well as volunteering as a leader at youth groups at Riccarton Community Church. With a passion for helping young people, learning new skills and teaching his learnings to others, Leo has consistently set a high bar for leadership and provided great support for the young people he serves.	Driven by a commitment to youth empowerment, Leo has excelled in acquiring new skills and sharing his knowledge with others. His dedication to leadership and unwavering support have made a lasting impact on countless young people.	
2	Candace Davy <i>Nominated by: James Harris and James Chapman</i>	Riccarton	Three years	Candace Davy has been an exceptional volunteer on Community Development Network Kids Camps, dedicating approximately four hundred hours of her time each year. As a cabin leader and programme director, she has fostered confidence and camaraderie among campers and volunteer teams. Additionally, Candace has been an amazing volunteer on Teen Adventure Camps and Big Night Out events, showcasing her versatility and commitment to young people in the community. Her leadership skills extend to the junior youth group at Riccarton Community Church, where she has volunteered weekly.	Candace builds strong connections with young people and has been a phenomenal volunteer. Through her dedication to supporting her community, many young people have been able to enjoy numerous programmes and activities, benefitting from Candace's community service and support of others.	
3	Michaela Posthuma <i>Nominated by: James Harris Vicky Chandler</i>	Riccarton	Ten years	For ten remarkable years, Michaela Posthuma has been a dedicated volunteer on Community Development Network Kids Camps. Michalea has undertaken the roles of cabin leader, programme director, camp nurse and also looked after younger volunteers. Additionally, Michaela has contributed to numerous Teen Adventure Camps and Big Night Out youth events. Through her service and dedication Michaela has profoundly impacted the lives of hundreds of campers and fellow volunteers. Her commitment to fostering a supportive and enriching environment has inspired countless individuals, encouraging them to grow, connect, and embrace new experiences.	As both a caring, compassionate leader and an amazing team leader, Michaela has made a lasting impact on young people in the community. Michaela's warmth, compassion, and exceptional leadership have left an enduring impression, inspiring numerous young people.	
	Community Service Award - Nominee	Service location	Length of service	Activity or service	Who in the community has benefited from the nominee's activity or service?	Letters or evidence of support
4	Seema Gautam <i>Nominated by: Monica Sood and Sunita Gautam</i>	Wigram and Central Christchurch	Over ten years	Seema Gautam has been actively involved in promoting holistic well-being, mental resilience, and community harmony through her unwavering dedication to the Art of Living movement. As a committed practitioner and facilitator, she has volunteered her time to lead regular workshops, yoga sessions, and meditation programmes that have positively transformed the lives of many individuals. For over a decade, Seema has devoted significant time and energy to uplifting individuals and fostering holistic well-being. Her unwavering commitment to yoga, meditation, and community service has had a profound and lasting impact on many lives. Seema has regularly conducted workshops, yoga sessions, and meditation programs, ensuring that people from all walks of life have access the benefits of mindfulness and stress relief. She dedicates several hours each week to planning and leading these sessions, volunteering her personal time to mentor individuals, support participants, and extend guidance beyond formal classes. In addition to structured programmes, she actively engages in community outreach, participating in charity initiatives, wellness retreats, and service projects aimed at promoting mental resilience and emotional well-being. She also plays a key role in organising events, mentoring new practitioners, and creating support networks for those seeking spiritual and emotional growth. Through her consistent and selfless dedication, Seema Gautam has touched the lives of countless individuals, providing them with the tools to lead healthier, more balanced lives. Her decade-long service continues to bring people together, strengthen the community, and promote overall well-being.	Seema Gautam's dedication to yoga, meditation, and holistic well-being has positively impacted a diverse range of individuals and groups and her workshops and initiatives have provided people with the tools to lead healthier, more balanced, and fulfilling lives. People from all backgrounds have deepened their spiritual awareness and improved their overall well-being by attending self-development programmes and guided meditations. Those facing anxiety, stress, and burnout have found relief through Seema's meditation and breathing workshops, which have helped them develop emotional resilience, improve focus, and achieve inner peace. Safe spaces for women have been created to encourage self-care, mindfulness, and personal growth with many gaining confidence, mental clarity, and a sense of purpose through her guidance. Young individuals dealing with academic pressure and career stress have learned techniques to enhance concentration, manage time effectively, and maintain a positive mindset. Through gentle yoga and meditation sessions, seniors have experienced better mobility, reduced stress, and improved emotional well-being. Her inclusive approach has fostered a sense of community and belonging among older individuals. Seema has played a key role in making a more mindful, connected, and compassionate community and has helped individuals lead happier, healthier, and more meaningful lives while strengthening the social fabric of Christchurch.	
5	Lesley Markham <i>Nominated by: Greg Siddells and Tina Siddells</i>	Christchurch West Branch, Hornby Community Care Centre, Hornby	Seven years	Since joining Citizens Advice Bureau, Lesley Markham has been involved in a variety activities and initiatives, regularly volunteering five to ten hours each week towards her interviewing, learning and development responsibilities. As an interviewer, Lesley completes regular weekly shifts, working with a range of public clients who seek advice or assistance on a wide range of issues. This involves working with clients by phone, face-to-face, and email. During COVID lockdown Lesley was part of a team who continued to assist clients via telephone and email when the offices were closed. Since 2022, Lesley has been part of the Speaker team, speaking to community groups about the work of Citizens Advice Bureau and has undertaken mentoring responsibilities to support newly trained interviewers. With the Learning and Development Team, Lesley has contributed to the provision of learning and development opportunities for interviewers as well as training for new interviewers, and since last year has been the primary trainer for Support Workers.	Lesley's volunteer work with Citizens Advice Bureau provides assistance for people of all ages, cultures, socio-economic groups and genders in all areas of the Christchurch community and beyond. This includes providing information and advice relating to consumer, legal, relationship, accommodation and tenancy, health, and community services issues. Lesley is a very thorough and competent researcher; her clients are well supported by the information and advice she provides.	
6	Jo Sanson <i>Nominated by: Greg Siddells and Tina Siddells</i>	Christchurch West Branch, Hornby Community Care Centre, Hornby	Six years	Since Jo Sanson joined Citizens Advice Bureau she has been involved in a variety of activities, and regularly volunteers at least seven to fifteen hours every week towards her interviewing, learning and development responsibilities. As an interviewer, Jo works with a range of public clients who seek advice or assistance on a wide range of issues. This involves working with clients by phone, face-to-face, and email. She has been actively involved with the Learning and Development Team since 2019 and has made a significant contribution to the provision of regular learning opportunities for interviewers, and comprehensive induction programmes for new interviewers. Jo has mentored a number of newly trained interviewers since 2021 and during COVID lockdown was part of a team who continued to work with clients via telephone and email when offices were closed. Jo has been involved with Citizens Advice Bureau clinics at the University of Canterbury and The Loft and has recently taken over the monthly CV Clinic training.	Jo's volunteer work with Citizens Advice Bureau provides a range of services to people of all ages, cultures, socio-economic groups and genders in all areas of the Christchurch community and beyond. This includes providing information and advice relating to consumer, legal, relationship, accommodation and tenancy, health, and community services issues. As well as assisting the many clients she has worked with, Jo is very supportive of her colleagues. Her reliability and willingness to complete extra shifts is appreciated by the Hornby Citizens Advice Bureau team.	
7	Brodie Murray <i>Nominated by: Belinda Barrett-Walker and Mel Hillier</i>	Russley, Hornby and Ilam	Seven years	Brodie Murray is a registered Tag Spotter volunteer with the Christchurch City Council Graffiti Programme. This role requires the observing, recording and reporting of graffiti vandalism incidents, which are then directed to the Contact Centre for follow up action. Brodie lives in an area which historically does not have a high level of graffiti and as such he is driven by his support worker to nearby areas that have graffiti. When volunteering, Brodie is always accompanied by his support worker(s) who have been incredibly encouraging and supportive of his volunteering journey.	All members of the community benefit from having a community that is graffiti-free. Brodie regularly attends the required volunteer annual reviews, has attended various Graffiti Programme functions and featured in the inaugural Graffiti Programme 2016 calendar making him an incredible role model for those in the community with physical challenges. In 2019, Brodie was nominated by the Christchurch City Council Graffiti Programme and awarded a Volunteering Canterbury Recognition Award. Brodie's ongoing commitment contributes to keeping Christchurch beautiful and supporting the graffiti programme's goal to reduce the impact that graffiti vandalism has on the residents of and visitors to Christchurch city.	Nominator Supporting Letter
8	Sharon and Elizabeth Richards <i>Nominated by: Carol Renouf and Nicki Altken</i>	Riccarton	Thirteen years	Sharon and Elizabeth Richards (mother and daughter) have been involved in the annual Community Fun Day since its inception in 2012, which is held in Harrington Park. Every year, they bake approximately 400 cupcakes for children to decorate, thoughtfully preparing unique decorations for each child to enjoy. Sharon and her family were involved in St James Riccarton, one of the key supporters of this event in its early years. Sharon has always had a love for baking, and when she learned about this event, she saw the perfect opportunity to merge her skills and passion to bring joy to the children in her community. Since 2012, when Elizabeth was nine, both Elizabeth and Sharon have been dedicated participants in the Community Fun Day, never missing a single year. They thoroughly enjoy being part of this event and take great joy in seeing the children's smiles and excitement each year.	Commitment, consistency, and aroha are qualities that build and nurture a community, its cohesion and capacity. These are the invaluable gifts that Sharon and Elizabeth have shared. Each year the children and families of the Riccarton community eagerly anticipate the Community Fun Day and all the exciting activities it offers, with cupcake decorating always ranking among their favourites.	
9	Jude Howie <i>Nominated by: Karen Wheeler and June Foster-Campbell</i>	Greater Hornby Area	Over twenty years	Jude Howie has made an exceptional impact in the Hornby community, motivated by a commitment to supporting and uplifting others. Initially appointed as a Whānau Support Worker at Hornby High School over ten years ago, Jude quickly developed the role, taking on an active interest in students and their whānau. She not only engages with over one thousand students on a daily basis but goes well beyond her role, reaching out to whānau in the Hornby community to foster the wellbeing of tamariki and beyond. Jude has become an important member of the Hornby High School Pastoral Team and distinguishes herself through her remarkable dedication which extends far beyond her standard work hours. She represents a profound commitment to positive youth development, extending her professional expertise into meaningful voluntary service that genuinely transforms young lives. Jude sources and distributes kai and goods to families in need and has a vast network of contacts who respect her commitment to the community and support her initiatives. She also sources free school shoes and uniforms for students in need and dedicates time picking up and dropping off students who require assistance getting to and from school. Jude was an active committee member of S.W.A.P. Christchurch, supporting single women as parents who attended lunches, outings and camps that she organised. She has maintained her voluntary committee status and involvement with S.W.A.P. for thirteen years, strengthening her connections within the local community and establishing lasting relationships with parents raising children on their own. She has been involved in softball and netball for many years, and in 2002 served as a softball coach for the local Under-13 girls team, planning and delivering coaching activities, organising game plans, social outings and wraparound support for players. At a gathering last year, as they shared stories, they reflected on the care, listening, firm discipline, and the endless hours of support, they believed contributed in helping shape their lives. Jude has played a key role in coordinating community volunteer facilitation, and actively supported Te Korowai ō Grannies, helping to spread awareness and build connections and food initiatives with Hornby High School. Jude has also engaged with rangatahi to support Te Korowai ō Grannies, who volunteer their time on Saturdays, gaining valuable community experience by helping others.	Jude's top priority is the wellbeing of others and her exceptional contributions to youth development and community support demonstrate her extraordinary commitment to social welfare and personal empowerment. The support that Jude offers is exemplary. She is a superb communicator and helps facilitate issues with teachers, students, and whānau alike, with amazing outcomes. Jude consistently demonstrates excellence in youth engagement strategies, providing culturally responsive support, tailored to young people's needs and developing targeted intervention approaches that focus on holistic wellbeing. She frequently dedicates significant personal time to supporting youth development programmes through her involvement with sports teams and by preparing school breakfasts and lunches for students. However, her most significant impact on students is the critical mentorship she provides to at-risk adolescents, always making herself available whenever needed. The depth of her commitment to those in need whether physically, mentally, socially, intellectually or culturally is bolstered by a wealth of common sense and experience. Jude is a valued member of the community, dedicating her personal time to numerous groups. Her diverse contributions exemplify the highest standards of community engagement and social responsibility.	Supporting Letters - Hornby High School: Di Alpers, Learning Support Coordinator Patricia Potter, Teacher Karen Wheeler, Deputy Principal (retired December 2024)
10	Lynette Whitt <i>Nominated by: Lynette Hucklebridge and Roger Bremner</i>	Hornby	Seventeen years	Lynette Whitt has been involved with the Hornby Rugby Football Club for approximately seventeen years. After initially working in a paid role in the kitchen and bar, she has spent several years generously volunteering her time at the club. As a cook, bar person, house coordinator and committee member, Lynette has been a trusted source of support for many club members. Before joining the club, Lynette was also involved with Victim Support which provides a free and confidential, nationwide support service for people affected by crime and trauma. Through her involvement with the Victim Support Group, her support and guidance has made a meaningful difference in the lives of numerous families and individuals.	As an active member of the Hornby Rugby Football Club, Lynette's outstanding service has benefited both the management and team members. As the House coordinator, she plays a crucial role in making this Wednesday night activity a success while also generously volunteering her time behind the bar. Lynette has played a key role in numerous club events and functions, and as a dedicated committee member, she actively supports the club's operations and ongoing success. Her compassion and commitment through her service with Victim Support have made a lasting impact on countless individuals and families.	Nominator Supporting Letter
11	Bangla Dance Group, Christchurch <i>Nominated by: Sharnali Titi and Sunita Gautam</i>	Sockburn and Waltham	Seven years	The Bangla Dance Group Christchurch offers free ethnic dance classes, every Friday evening at Riccarton High School, promoting Bengali culture through performing at various multicultural events. Over time, the group has established a strong support system, especially for the women participants, by offering opportunities to engage in physical activities and an art form familiar to them. The group is also actively supporting children attendees to learn about their heritage and culture. The group initially ran weekly classes in Waltham before moving to Riccarton High School. Through the support of the Waltham Community Cottage and Riccarton High School, the Bangla Dance Group is able to offer its classes free of charge.	The Bangla Dance Group has a key interest in running this volunteer initiative to teach heritage and culture to future generations while promoting diversity within the wider community. The Bengali community, comprising members from Bangladesh and India, has enjoyed classes and formed positive connections with one another. The wider Christchurch community have been able to enjoy the group's culture through performances at events, as they have been part of Cultural Galore events for several years.	
12	Halswell Pottery Group Incorporated <i>Nominated by: John Bennett and Ross McFarlane</i>	Halswell	Over 50 years	Halswell Pottery Group Incorporated welcomes people from all walks of life and all over the city to its facility on Candys Road, offering classes for new and beginner potters. As a volunteer-run group with a diverse membership of creative potters, the club run pottery classes, workshops and host visiting artists. Exhibitions are open to the public and its gallery shop showcases talented potters from across Ōtautahi Christchurch, demonstrating what can be achieved in the ceramic arts.	The Halswell Pottery Group was incorporated in 1972 and is a well-run organisation with both a strong local presence from their site on Candys Road and an active social media presence. A combination of a welcoming attitude and the desire to cater for all skill levels marks Halswell Pottery Group as making a fundamentally important and longstanding contribution to the city in general and to the Halswell community in particular. As Halswell has many new residents who look to establish meaningful connections in their new environment, Halswell Pottery Group are able to provide a meaningful space for connections to be created and developed.	

Part B - Nomination recommended for a Certificate of Appreciation:

	Community Service Award - Nominee	Service location	Length of service	Activity or service	Who in the community has benefited from the nominee's activity or service?	Letters or evidence of support
13	Robert Edwards <i>Nominated by: Brigette Bilbe and Jennifer Tregurtha</i>	Halswell	3 years	Robert Edwards has been a dedicated member of the Christchurch Single Track Club for three years. In the last eighteen months, Robert has joined the trail building group, consistently exceeding expectations with his dedication and voluntary efforts. Robert is at the Halswell Quarry Crocodile Mountain Bike tracks two or three times per week, usually for four hours each session. Trail maintenance, track building, weed cutting, damage repairs, and track upkeep ensures the tracks are accessible and safe for riders of all abilities. Robert has completed 125 sessions to date which is approximately 500 hours of his own time. No other member of the Christchurch Single Track Club has managed to achieve this amount of voluntary work.	Robert's contributions to the tracks at Crocodile Park benefit numerous riders, including families with young children, recreational cyclists, and competitive riders. The Christchurch Single Track Club hosts regular club races, which would not be possible without Robert's dedicated service, as the tracks require constant work and maintenance to ensure a smooth and confident riding experience.	

Part C - Nomination recommended to be declined for a Community Service Award:

	Community Service Award - Nominee	Service location	Length of service	Activity or service	Who in the community has benefited from the nominee's activity or service?	Letters or evidence of support
14	Loki Geayley <i>Nominated by: Andrei Moore and Karen Moore</i>	Wigram	Approximately eight years	Loki has been actively supporting the Wigram community making daily visits to the Wigram Skies shopping centre, providing smiles and laughs to hundreds of daily shoppers, not for any pay or particular gratitude but purely from his love to wander and the Wigram community. Loki's watchful eyes help provide security to the area and helps deter trouble makers as he secures the perimeter of the shopping complex on a regular basis. Those who have met Loki on many occasions are aware he has a lot of time for the community.	The community has benefited greatly due to a significant boost to morale along with a sense of belonging and sense of community. Many people also choose to shop in the area in the hope of seeing Loki so he does appear to be a champion stalwart for local businesses as well.	Photos