

Amanda Withers

With this Award, the Central Hawke's Bay community recognises Amanda for her exemplary and dedicated voluntary service to the Central Hawke's Bay community.

Born and raised in Central Hawke's Bay, Amanda has dedicated many years of service to a number of community organisations within the district.

Amanda began her community involvement at the Flemington Playgroup back in 2008, where she volunteered for six years, and was the Treasurer of the Playgroup, raising funds to buy new equipment for the children. This marked the beginning of Amanda's extensive contribution to our community, which has since included being involved in Flemington's School Parents and Friends' Group (PFG), helping to run major fund raisers such as the Flemington Mud Run, Winter Olympics and a successful cattle fund. She served as secretary of the PFG for three years and is the current secretary for the Flemington Hall Committee, which she has been actively involved in for a number of years.

She played an integral role for the Pōrangahau Rugby Club's Junior Rugby's prize-giving from 2017 to 2021, Amanda made sure the certificates and cups were all returned, engraved & accounted for and awarded to the new winning recipients.

Amanda has been the vice chair of the Pōrangahau Catchment Group for the past 1.5 years. The catchment group comprises 88,000 hectares of land and aspires to be a proud community working together for a healthy environment. The group is governing a multimillion-dollar project over the next three years, uniting the community with its collective long-term vision and plan, protecting native bush, wetlands and the Pōrangahau estuary. Amanda's passion project has been the development of a water monitoring programme of six stream sites where changes in water quality can be assessed.

A central member of the Waipukurau Tennis and Squash Club for more than 20 years, Amanda is the key person responsible for applying for funding for the club, helping to ensure it remains one of the finest in the district with nine astroturf courts, six of which are now under lights. She is the one who brings the tennis committee together and plans events for the up-and-coming year, introducing new initiatives such as the Parent and Child Tournament. Amanda was a volunteer for the Hotshots Programme and the long running Annual Junior Tournament for a number of years. Her peers in the tennis realm hold Amanda in high regard for her relentless work at the club, which was acknowledged when she won the Tennis Eastern Administration award for 2021, as well as the local award for Service to Sport at the Central Hawke's Bay Awards night in 2020.

Amanda is empathetic, kind, generous and motivated to make a difference. She is a funding expert and was vital in securing initial funding to employ a Catchment Coordinator. This resulted in the successful outcome of the Ministry for the Environment funding which will have a phenomenal long-term impact on Pōrangahau's land, water and community. She organises, analyses, focusses on targets and drives the region toward positive results. Amanda is proud of her CHB heritage and is passionate about the well-being of our community. She is a highly respected and valued community member whose knowledge and passion for all things means that she is often the first point of contact for solutions to local problems. And all of this is achieved in addition to her dedication to her family and working part or full time during this time.