

CONFIDENTIAL MEMORANDUM

TO: Council

MEETING DATE: 1 September 2021

TITLE: Civic Honours Awards 2021

PRESENTED BY: Grant Smith, The Mayor

APPROVED BY: Heather Shotter, Chief Executive

It is recommended that this report be considered with the public excluded, as permitted by the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 under clause:

s7(2)(a) Privacy - The withholding of the information is necessary to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of a deceased person

RECOMMENDATION FOR PUBLIC RELEASE

That the names of the candidates be released following the public announcement at the 2021 Civic Awards ceremony.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL

1. To award Civic honours to:
 - a. Susan McConachy
 - b. Prof. Emeritus Margaret Tennant
 - c. Bal Ghimire
 - d. John Fowke
 - e. Dr. Hanif Quazi

 2. To release the decision on the Civic Honour Awards 2021 following the public announcement at the Civic Honour Awards ceremony.
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1. ISSUE

Civic Honour Awards are Council's mechanism for recognising outstanding voluntary service in the Community.

2. BACKGROUND

Council has sought nominations from the community for individuals deserving of recognition through a Civic Honour Award for voluntary service. A selection panel has been appointed. Twenty-five nominations were received and considered by the Selection Panel.

After consideration of the nominations, the Selection Panel has recommended that Council grant awards to:

- a. **Susan McConachy** was nominated by Tanya Kopytko and David Walsh for services to the arts and her work at the Regent Theatre.

Susan McConachy has been involved in the city's arts scene since the 1970s. Her involvement includes roles at the Palmerston North Community Arts Council, various music teaching organisations, the Manawatu Performing Arts Competitions Society, Friends of the Royal NZ Ballet, PACANZ National Young Performers and many more. But it is her contribution and commitment to the Regent Theatre which is exceptional. Susan has served on the Trust board since its inception and was instrumental in fundraising to restore the Theatre and funding for the Theatre's new Steinway concert piano. Her connections along with broad community and performing arts knowledge are as valuable to the Trust board today as they were in the late 1990s. Susan's commitment, knowledge and championing of all things in our city's arts sector deserves recognition.

- b. **Prof. Emeritus Margaret Tennant** was nominated by Russell Poole and Simon Johnson for her work with the Manawatu Journal of History and Palmerston North Heritage Trust.

Margaret is a Professor Emeritus at Massey University and has made a significant contribution as a distinguished social historian in New Zealand over many years. She is a member of the executive committee of the Professional Historian's Association of New Zealand Aotearoa. Margaret has a great ability to work both with a nation-wide perspective and to focus with integrity and attention to detail at a local level, most recently demonstrated as the leading author of the city's 150th Sesquicentennial publication – 'City at the Centre'. She is Chair of the Palmerston North Heritage Trust, committee member of the Te Manawa Museum Society, a former Branch President and Fellow of the Royal Society of New Zealand and has had lengthy involvements with the Manawatu Journal of History, and Historic Places Manawatu-Horowhenua. Margaret is a historian of outstanding professionalism and a champion of history and historians who shares generously her skills with many city organisations. Palmerston North is fortunate to have someone of Margaret's calibre as our leading local historian.

- c. **Bal Ghimire** was nominated by Gopal Poudyel and Nina Kirschbaum for his work as President of the Bhutanese Society of New Zealand Inc (Manawatu).

Bal has been a pivotal leader within the Bhutanese communities of Palmerston North and the Manawatū. His dedication and commitment to support and champion all causes for his community cannot be underestimated and has led

to the successful integration of a large refugee community within the city. Bal has held roles as General Secretary and President of the local Bhutanese Society and was instrumental in its formation 14 years ago. His voluntary work over the years also extended to the NZ Red Cross, he is a former Chairperson of Manawatū Refugee Voice and executive member of the Manawatū Multicultural Council. Bal's efforts are also being acknowledged more widely with his involvement in the establishment of New Zealand's first Nepali School within the Milson Primary School and as a chief promoter and organiser of the national Tenzig Hillary Football Cup event, hosted in Palmerston North last year.

- d. **John Fowke** was nominated by Andy Lowe and Catherine Parsons, for his varied community work and trustee duties with Te Manawa Museum, Mash Trust, Community Law centre, Special Olympics Foundation and motorsport.

John Fowke has lived in Palmerston North for many years in his role as a lawyer and senior executive at Toyota NZ. Although in retirement he is still active in the company's motorsport division and is a founding trustee of the Kiwi Driver Trust. John is one of the city's top administrators and trustees having been involved with Te Manawa Museum Trust since 2005 and chair for the last 8 years. He is also Chair of the Manawatu Community Law centre, Deputy Chair of Mash Trust supporting the large community based health and disability provider, as well as having been a Central Economic Development Agency director and trustee of both the NZ Special Olympics Foundation and St Dominic's School for the Deaf Trust. In short, John has made a significant personal contribution at trust board level for many organisations within Palmerston North and the wider Manawatū.

- e. **Dr Hanif Quazi** was nominated by Riaz Rehman and Rafay Temuri, for his work in establishing the Muslim community within New Zealand and assisting in the creation of New Zealand's halal food and meat trade.

Dr Hanif Quazi and his wife Razia have lived in Palmerston North for over a decade. Hanif's community contribution exceeds 50 plus years in plant and seed science, a key establisher of the Muslim community within New Zealand and assisting in the creation of the multi-billion-dollar halal food and meat trade for New Zealand. Hanif was a key source of healing and support after the Christchurch Terror attacks in 2019 and is a founding member of the national Muslim organisation – FIANZ. He is a well-respected member of the Muslim community not only in Palmerston North but across New Zealand.

3. NEXT STEPS

The Award recipients will be contacted, and steps will be taken to arrange the presentation ceremony and associated publicity.

4. COMPLIANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Does the Council have delegated authority to decide?		Yes
Are the decisions significant?		No
If they are significant do they affect land or a body of water?		No
Can this decision only be made through a 10 Year Plan?		No
Does this decision require consultation through the Special Consultative procedure?		No
Is there funding in the current Annual Plan for these actions?		Yes
Are the recommendations inconsistent with any of Council's policies or plans?		No
The recommendations contribute to Goal 3: A Connected and Safe Community		
The recommendations contribute to the achievement of action/actions in Connected Communities The action is: Run the civic awards programme		
Contribution to strategic direction and to social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being	Opportunity to acknowledge the selfless work of people in the community.	

ATTACHMENTS

Nil