

## Life Member Profile - Jackie Sayers

Jackie Sayers (BA (Soc Sci), BSW (Hons) DipSocSci, DipSocServSupervision (Dist), RSW) has been a long-standing member of ANZASW since 1980 when she completed her Bachelor of Social Work Degree at Massey University.



Jackie is an active member of the Manawatu/Whanganui Branch and has been involved in competency and recertification assessments, conference committees and training activities. For many years she represented the local branch on the Fieldwork Placement Committee for the BSW at Massey University. Jackie served on the National Executive in the 1980's and was a competency assessor for eleven years and was made a life member of ANZASW in 2003.

Just before Christmas Jackie's service to the Feilding community was recognised with a Manawatu Community Honours Award. Jackie also led the Feilding Christmas parade with the Mayor as a representative of the social service community.

Although Jackie left full-time social work employment at DSW in 1992 (retirement is a word banned from her vocabulary), she has since been actively engaged in private practice, study, teaching, research and supervision. In 1994 she wrote the curriculum for the Certificate in Social Services for the then Manawatu Polytechnic and continued to teach there for a further two years.

Just a few of her current community activities include the Manawatu Social Issue Network Council of Social Services, the Manawatu Youth Board, Literacy Feilding, and in 2009 Jackie became a certified ESOL Home Tutor. Jackie attends an 'English for Migrants Group' at the Feilding Community House and also visits a number of new migrants in their homes to assist with their English language and integration into the Feilding community. It is hard to catch Jackie at home but you can sometimes find her in one of the many cafes in Feilding catching up with friends.

Other activities that were recognised in her Community Award included her work after the Feilding floods in 2004. Jackie set up a group called the Manawatu District Community Response Network. This group went out on the very first days after the flood door knocking and offering advice and assistance. The group met in various forms for a year after the flood. It is still a 'live' group and could be activated again if needed. Jackie was also involved with the Feilding & District Relief Advisory Group assisting with hardship applications.

Jackie has been a long-term member in Senior Net as a participant, tutor and office holder, has taught beginning counselling courses at UCOL and the Community Learning Centre in Feilding. Jackie has served on the advisory committees of both UCOL (counseling) and Te Wananga o Aotearoa Papaioia Campus (social services).

Jackie and her late husband David have been home stay Hosts for foreign fee paying international students attending Feilding High School. In this capacity she has been a cultural ambassador. She has welcomed countless other 'whanau' into her home.

Jackie has taken a keen interest in youth work over her career. This led to the establishment of a youth centre in Feilding in the 1970s and her later work on the Manawatu Youth Board.

In 2006, Jackie published a book on the establishment of the Highbury Whanau Centre in Palmerston North. Jackie was a founding member and initiator of this development. She served on the Grievance Panel at the Lower North Youth Justice Centre from 2004-2007.

This only includes some of Jackie's activities. Her proudest achievements of course include her four grown children, one of whom (Lorraine) is also a social worker. She has four grandchildren and other whanau that affectionately call her 'mum' or 'auntie'.