

Wellsford local Tania Hamilton thanked for six years of community service

After six years volunteering for her local Whānau Āwhina Plunket in Wellsford, Tania Hamilton has hung up her hammer and left behind a legacy for generations to come – the formerly run-down rooms transformed into a safe, warm and welcoming space for the local community.

Since 2015, Tania has poured every spare moment into her fundraising and renovation efforts for Wellsford Whānau Āwhina Plunket, creating a community hub that everyone can use.

Tania launched herself wholeheartedly into the upgrade project, coordinating working bees, collecting donations and fundraising to get the building up to scratch. The venue now boasts an extensive list of improvements including a new kitchen, a new buggy- and wheelchair-friendly entry ramp and front door, a shade sale and playground upgrade, and a bright new paint job, to name just a few.

And if organising and overseeing the improvements wasn't enough, Tania also ran a weekly play group for local families.

For Tania, the Whānau Āwhina Plunket rooms in Wellsford are more than just a building.

“It means our community has a purpose-built facility where families can hold play groups, hire rooms for events, and have somewhere warm, fresh and safe for their kids to play. It's bright and colourful and inviting, so it's not scary for the kids coming for their check-ups. It's not cold and clinical.”

But Tania is quick to point out the upgrades were a team effort.

“I was overwhelmed by the positive feedback from the community and other people wanting to come on board – it became a whole community project,” Tania says.

“There were lots of donations of good and services, and people giving up their time to help. It was amazing.”

Tania was a special guest at the Whānau Āwhina Plunket Northern Region Volunteer of The Year event on Friday, 25 June where Community Services Manager Clare Green thanked her for her efforts.

“Tania has been a tireless advocate for Whānau Āwhina Plunket for the last six years and without her, we wouldn't have the great community facility we enjoy today,” says Clare.

“We cannot thank Tania enough for her relentless hard work over the past six years.”

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