

25th June, 2026

Citation for Life Membership

Rachel Barker

It is with great pleasure and deep appreciation that the Ōpāwaho Heathcote River Network awards Life Membership to Rachel Barker in recognition of her exceptional service, leadership and enduring commitment to the health and wellbeing of the Ōpāwaho and its catchment.

From the very beginning of an idea that eventually came into being, Rachel has played a significant role in shaping the direction and success of the Ōpāwaho Heathcote River Network. She has brought wisdom, thoughtful leadership and a collaborative spirit to the organisation, helping to build strong partnerships and encouraging others to become involved in caring for the river.

Beyond the Network itself, Rachel has been a tireless champion for conservation and environmental stewardship. She has consistently advocated for the protection of natural habitats, the restoration of biodiversity and the recognition of the intrinsic value of healthy waterways. Her work has strengthened not only the ecological health of the catchment but also the community's connection to the river and its future.

What sets Rachel apart is not only the depth of her knowledge and commitment, but the generosity with which she shares them. She has been a mentor, an encourager and a friend to many within the Network. Her warmth, humility and unwavering belief in the power of community action have left a lasting impression on all who have had the privilege of working alongside her.

Rachel's contribution to the Ōpāwaho Heathcote River Network has been profound and enduring. The benefits of her efforts will continue to be felt for generations to come through healthier ecosystems, stronger community connections and a deeper appreciation of the river we all cherish.

We thank Rachel for her extraordinary contribution to the Ōpāwaho and are proud to acknowledge her contribution to the Network through this Life Membership.