

John and Brenda Blackett

John and Brenda Blackett are pretty much Central Hawke's Bay's very own Mr and Mrs Claus!



They are recipients of a 2021 Community Service Award as their commitment to bringing the festive fun for all families to enjoy has become a staple on our calendars!

Every year John and Brenda Blackett's home in Takapau becomes a Christmas wonderland for all families in the district to enjoy.

With over 40,000, the effort is huge on their part, and the reward for them is simply spreading joy to the many families who visit their home in the evenings throughout December. They also source and wrap hundreds of presents for the visiting children.

In 2014, they were donated Santa Bears which they gave away as gifts. However they noticed over time these bears were popping up in Op Shops around the district, so they bought them back and added them to their Christmas display. This collection of bears grew and grew, from 400, to 800 and now a jaw dropping 3000 bears!

So in true Blackett style, the pair now organise 'The Great Teddy Bear Show', held at the Takapau Town Hall every year. For a gold coin donation we can all enjoy the incredible collection with proceeds going back into the Christmas Lights House.

John also volunteers for the Takapau Op Shop which raises money for the Takapau Health Centre. Brenda is a talented artist and donates her artwork to raffles and auctions at numerous community events.