

Second National *'Thank a Sport Maker'* Winner in Tasman Region!

Congratulations to all the 10 Sport Makers from across the country who have been rewarded with **\$2000 worth of sports gear** for them and their sports organisations, courtesy of Lotto NZs latest quarterly Sport Maker draw, that was held at the end of November.

The Tasman region was lucky to have another *'Thank a Sport Maker'* **\$2000 winner, Heather Walker** who is one of the founder members of the Fulton Hogan Basketball League and Inclusive Sports Trust, an organisation that provides sporting opportunities for participants with supported learning needs.

Julie Price, Community Sport Advisor, Sport Tasman had the pleasure of presenting Heather (pictured centre) with her prize and said *'Heather had no idea that Lotto NZ had selected her to receive a \$2000 sports gear voucher and her face was an absolute picture. Heather fully deserves the recognition. She is an outstanding volunteer and is an inspiration to us all'*. On receiving her prize Heather said *'I cannot believe it, it's so incredible, we are so lucky...thank you so much'*.

Heather had a glowing reference from her nominee;

Heather is a true champion. For the past 10 years Heather has been involved in the Fulton Hogan Basketball League in Nelson, a league that she helped to establish, to provide sporting opportunities for members of the community with supported learning needs.

The FH League has continued to go from strength to strength. In recognition of the need to provide the supported learning needs community with other activities, in addition to basketball, Heather set up the Inclusive Sports Trust about 3-4 years ago with the help of a few dedicated parents and volunteers.



The Inclusive Sports Trust now provides a Junior Jammers Basketball Session, a Junior Kickers Football session and a multi-sport session for older teenagers and young adults and Heather is present at every session in a volunteer capacity.



Earlier this year Heather responded to Sunshine Football's plea on TV to play a game of competitive football, something they had never had the opportunity to do in their home town of Christchurch. As a result Heather pulled together 2 squads and organised coaches for training sessions which eventually led to Nelson playing 7v7 matches against Christchurch Sunshine Football. This was featured on Seven Sharp.

Heather is truly deserving of recognition as she is selfless and passionate about providing inclusive sporting opportunities for a community that often gets overlooked."

Congratulations to Heather from the Sport Tasman team.



To nominate a sport volunteer follow the link <https://www.lottovolunteers.co.nz/>