

Dame Jocelyn Fish biographical information

Dame Jocelyn Fish, who received her honour for her service to women and the community, attended secondary school in Hamilton, completed a BA at the University of Auckland and trained as a secondary school teacher. She taught at Fairfield College before her marriage to farmer John Fish. After raising a family, she was elected as Piako County's first woman councillor in 1980 and served in that role for three terms. Her election caused shock among some of the farmers of the district – not to mention her fellow councillors.

Dame Jocelyn went on to hold a number of national appointments as National President of the National Council of Women (1986-90), film Censorship Board of Review (1981-84), New Zealand National Commission of UNESCO (1989-95) and the Hamilton District Community Law Centre Trust (1994-2006). She was part of a group who lobbied for 1993 to be Women's Suffrage Year. She was an active member of the Federation of University (later Graduate) Women and served as a Justice of the Peace. She has been awarded a Suffrage Medal, a CBE, a Damehood in 2009, an honorary degree from the Waikato Institute of Technology in 2003, and a University of Waikato Medal in 2012. This last was in recognition of her service to both the community and the University. She was a long-standing member of the University's Honours Committee and also chaired a large social science survey on *New Zealand Women: Family, Employment and Education*, an important study in the establishment of the University's Population Studies Centre.

The Dame Jocelyn Fish Award gives \$1,000 per year, from the second year onwards, to women students at Bethlehem Tertiary Institute, Toi Ohomai Institute of Technology, the University of Waikato, and the Waikato Institute of Technology, who are studying in a non-traditional field for women.



Dame Jocelyn Fish (seated) with the first recipients of the Dame Jocelyn Fish Award in 2016. From L to R Jessica Xiao, Alina Rajan, Tara Fernandez-Ritchie, Ilonka Petrick, Lynley St George.