



NEW ZEALAND
youth
AWARDS

28 JUNE 2018



**MINISTRY OF
YOUTH DEVELOPMENT**
TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO TAIOHI

Administered by the Ministry of Social Development

FOREWORD MINISTER FOR YOUTH

HON PEENI HENARE



Tēnā koutou katoa,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you today as we celebrate the recipients of the New Zealand Youth Awards 2018.

Ministerial roles can be wide and varied, but being the Minister for Youth has to be one of the best. It is an absolute honour to be in a position to lead the celebration of young New Zealanders who have achieved outstanding results, as well as those who have made a significant contribution towards supporting others in their communities. Today I stand here proudly to acknowledge and recognise some of our amazing rangatahi.

The New Zealand Youth Awards 2018 categories recognise key skills and personal qualities such as leadership, empathy, working for others, and caring for our environment. Today we welcome young people from across Aotearoa to thank them on behalf of the communities they serve and represent, for their courage and determination.

Award recipients are here today because their communities have recognised them and want to celebrate the work they do leading and supporting initiatives in areas such as the arts, culture, education, business and the environment.

This year, I am excited to introduce the Junior and Senior Supreme Awards to recognise two outstanding young people who have worked tirelessly to advocate for and make a significant contribution to address the current needs of young people in their communities.

Congratulations to all the recipients and nominees.

A stylized, handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'P. Henare'.

Hon Peeni Henare
Minister for Youth

EVENT PROGRAMME

TIME	SCHEDULED
5:30pm	Music by Matheson Quartet
6:00pm	MC Welcome - Stevie Davis-Tana
6:05pm	Minister for Youth - Hon Peeni Henare
6:15pm	Keynote Speaker - Nico Porteous
6:20pm	Performance by 2Face DRAMA
6:25pm	Announcement of Awards Recipients Leadership Award Inclusion and Diversity Award Commitment to the Environment Award Entrepreneurship Award Working for Youth Award Outstanding Youth Champion Award
7:00pm	Keynote Speaker - Noa Woolloff
7:05pm	Announcement of Junior and Senior Supreme Awards Recipients
7:10pm	Recipient Speaker - Latayvia Tualasea Tautai
7:15pm	Mix and Mingle - Music by Matheson Quartet
7:30pm	Evening Concludes



AWARDS CATEGORIES

LEADERSHIP AWARD

To recognise young people, aged 12-24 years, who have demonstrated excellent leadership skills in their communities (this could be either a geographical location and/or community of interest).

INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY AWARD

To recognise young people, aged 12-24 years, who have promoted diversity, cultural understanding and/or positive change for under-represented groups in their communities (this could be either a geographical location and/or community of interest).

COMMITMENT TO THE ENVIRONMENT AWARD

To recognise young people, aged 12-24 years, who are making significant contributions in order to bring about environmental improvements and/or support sustainability.



ENTREPRENEURSHIP AWARD

To recognise young people (or a group of young people), aged 12-24 years, who have demonstrated exceptional entrepreneurial spirit, innovation and/or social responsibility in business.

WORKING FOR YOUTH AWARD

To recognise groups of young people, aged 12-24 years, whose actions have specifically supported other young people in areas such as, but not limited to, the arts, culture, education, the environment, health and well-being, research or sport.

OUTSTANDING YOUTH CHAMPION AWARD

To recognise young people, aged 12-24 years, or organisations, who have made a significant contribution to young people in areas including but not limited to, the arts, culture, education, the environment, health and well-being, research or sport.

LEADERSHIP AWARD

LATAYVIA TUALASEA TAUTAI



Driven by the wellbeing of people and communities, Latayvia Tualasea Tautai leads with her compassion and desire to see Aotearoa New Zealand thrive. Latayvia, aged 19 years, is a regular volunteer at Mount Eden prison, James Liston Hostel (emergency housing), the Christmas appeal at the Ranui Caravan Park, and also transports hospital patients requiring assistance to church service.

Latayvia supports and activates others to get involved, providing transport for community projects and fundraising for the Auckland Region Women's Corrections Facility in Wiri, collecting thousands of pieces of stationary for wāhine studying there. Latayvia also recently joined the Whau Youth Board.

Outside of volunteering and creating platforms for youth, Latayvia uses her voice to raise awareness and uplift others, emceeing feminist hui for the Auckland Young Feminists (a group that she helped launch), winning speech competitions for the National Council of Women and the PACIFICA inc West Auckland, both of which, she is also a member.

INJY JOHNSTONE



A resilient and multi-faceted leader, Injy Johnstone is an advocate in a diverse range of contexts. Residing in Otago and aged 21 years, she focuses her contributions on creating youth solutions to the problems that directly impact them. She invests her time in advocating for environmental sustainability, support for foster children, and further kōrero in the disability space.

As well as being the National Administrator for Generation Zero, sitting on the Board of the Endangered Species Foundation, and conducting climate research at NIWA as a Sir Peter Blake Ambassador, Injy is also the founder of envi.nz, an online sustainability platform. She is the New Zealand representative to the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network and on the UNESCO Youth Reference Group.

A former foster child, Injy set up the Foster Child Support Network in 2015, which grew to a team of 40 volunteer students who provided resources, mentorship and advocacy for children in care. Injy has been selected for the Be Accessible Programme Leadership Development. Through her contributions, she is hoping to make workplaces more willing to kōrero about accessibility and unique support needs, so that individuals are recognised for their ability, not their disability.

KAITLYN WHITE



Realising that Thursdays in Black, a national student/whānau movement advocating for a world without rape and sexual violence, had no presence in Christchurch, Kaitlyn White (aged 21 years) worked alongside the Students' Association at the University of Canterbury (UC) to build the movement on campus to have a permanent presence.

As President of the UC Thursdays in Black Society, Kaitlyn and the team work together to spread the word about consent and safety, offer support to both survivors and people with harmful sexual behaviours, and work to improve responses and prevention to keep students safe.

Prior to this, Kaitlyn helped the Christchurch Youth Council become independent and launched multiple initiatives within the council. Following this, Kaitlyn started the Christchurch Youth Action Plan, which empowers rangatahi to join the conversation and work alongside decision makers to make positive changes to their lives, their whānau, community and city.

INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY AWARD

OLIVER TAPIKI-THORPE



Oliver Tapiki-Thorpe's strong commitment to an inclusive community is demonstrated in the important role he plays in creating a strong network of resilient and prideful youth in Kawerau. Living rurally, Oliver (aged 18 years) identified the need to make support more readily accessible to the LGBTQI+ community, and worked with RainbowYOUTH to set up a support group that brings people from all over Whakatane and Kawerau together for weekly meetings.

As the facilitator of this group, Oliver has enabled a safe space and second home for young people to come together, be proud of their gender identity and sexual orientation, have fun and share stories. This group also acts as a platform for rangatahi to access relevant information, education and resources.

Through Oliver's passion and efforts, a 'for youth, by youth' group has connected young people with one another, in a supportive environment, and empowered a community to celebrate and embrace their differences.

UMI ASAKA



Described as a 'social justice warrior', Umi Asaka, aged 21 years, actively challenges societal perceptions of what young people with diverse life experiences can do. A valued member of The Lucy Foundation, Umi supports the New Zealand-based charity through fundraising, inclusion and diversity consultations, public speaking, marketing, networking and raising awareness on the rights of disabled people around the world – championing against exclusion, discrimination and marginalisation.

Living with Osteogenesis Imperfecta, Umi uses an electric wheelchair to support her independence and mobility. In December 2017, Umi travelled alone to Colombia, Mexico and Cuba to spend several weeks with The Lucy Foundation team in Pluma Hidalgo, working alongside indigenous coffee farmers and people with disabilities to help create training and employment opportunities within the local coffee industry.

Umi has been volunteering for social and environmental causes since the age of 13 through numerous not-for-profit organisations including the Red Cross, the University of Otago UniCrew and Re-evaluation Counselling, an international organisation that practices 'co-counselling'. Umi also represents the interests of more than 2,500 international students at the University of Otago in her role as the OUSA International Officer.

RANISHA CHAND



A leader that encourages the empowerment of rangatahi, Ranisha Chand is the ambassador for Shakti Youth at Papatoetoe High School. Ranisha, aged 16 years, supports Shakti Youth to empower students of diverse migrant and refugee backgrounds to break the intergenerational cycles of family violence.

Ranisha organises and mobilises her peers to address issues of violence and discrimination in the community through a range of initiatives. She does this through speaking at assemblies and mobilising over 50 students to attend meetings. In 2017, Ranisha came up with the idea for a Youth March against violence and discrimination. She has also taken a lead organising role for two intergenerational panels at her school, looking at culture, migration and identity, and discrimination.

Together, the group has organised several fundraisers to support Shakti's women's refuge services. Ranisha has also co-facilitated workshops on family violence at an Auckland Young Feminists hui, and co-facilitated a workshop on 'running a school group' at the 2018 Shakti Youth leadership training. Ranisha has voiced future plans to advocate for women's rights and gender equality in her country of birth, Fiji.

COMMITMENT TO THE ENVIRONMENT AWARD

E WEN WONG



E Wen Wong founded P.S. Our Beaches in 2016, an organisation dedicated to raising awareness around plastic pollution. Aged 15 years, E Wen has initiated litter audits, awareness posts on sustainability initiatives and interviews with the Department of Conservation and UNESCO to raise the profile of the beach pollution issue in the Canterbury region.

Combining her passions for technology and the environment, and influenced by the Future Problem Solving (FPS) Programme, E Wen is currently developing BIRD (Biomimicry Identification Robot Device), a drone to detect and geo-reference macro plastics. Combining another of her passions, writing, with environmental advocacy, E Wen has had her climate change poetry published on Rising Phoenix Press, and has been awarded a silver award in the From the Bow Seat Ocean Awareness Poetry Contest for her anthology about plastic pollution.

E Wen is also a 350 Aotearoa campaigner and beach clean-up volunteer. After attending an Enviro-Leaders hui in February, E Wen co-founded the Burnside High School's Sustainability Council. E Wen spoke earlier this year on a panel for a 2018 Tech Week event, working to inspire other young people to be involved in science, technology, engineering, mathematics and environmental advocacy.

RANGER LEARY



Ranger Leary is an inspirational advocate, encouraging people to say no to single use plastics and say yes to protecting Aotearoa New Zealand. Ranger, aged 13 years, has been contributing to the Rangiora Straw Free movement through directing and editing a film about the cause titled 'Plastic Straw Free Rangiora'. This won the Enviroschools Sustainable Future Award in The Outlook for Someday sustainable film challenge in 2017.

When making the film, Ranger tried to interview the local McDonalds about its position on plastic straws and was advised to contact head office. Ranger conducted a follow-up and his letter has now been cited as one of the reasons that Rangiora McDonalds is one of the first in the country to trial a straw free approach.

Ranger previously wrote an Enviro blog for his former schools newsletter, which was published weekly for two years. The blog encouraged parents to be more proactive by providing them with environmental news and tips. Ranger also helped his school establish a worm farm and vegetable garden, promoted litter-free lunches and advocated for recycling in the classroom.

ANYA BUKHOLT-PAYNE



Identifying a lack of youth understanding about climate change, Anya Bukholt-Payne founded the Climate Challenge. Through the Climate Challenge, Anya (aged 18 years) works to provide a platform for those young people that are interested in the environment but currently not engaged in action, to join the conversation and seek solutions.

Over the past two years, Anya has led teams of young people to run two weekend-long conferences in Wellington for a total of 250 high school students. 2018 will see the organisation go national, with conferences running in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch. The youth-for-youth approach means a group of young people from each of these regions work together to run the events.

By July, Anya will have supported over 750 young people; over 600 as attendees and over 120 as volunteers. Within this, 45 rangatahi are organising committee members, to which Anya provides support, resources and a three-day skills development, planning and bonding hui. She is also a member of the Wellington City Youth Council, and was the youngest speaker at the Pacific Climate Change Conference in 2018, discussing the importance of youth in sustainability, climate and leadership spaces.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP AWARD

SOCIAL ENTERPRISE GROUP – ST JOHN'S COLLEGE HASTINGS



2017 saw the St John's College Enterprise Group and a group of youth from Hawke's Bay Prison come together to form Bruthas Ltd as part of the Young Enterprise Scheme. Together, they designed a product titled Just Boards, a rimu platter consisting of five parts that interlock together, symbolising a waka.

Collectively, the partnership wanted to reduce youth reoffending for those in prison, and identified Bruthas Ltd as a way to develop a platform to achieve this goal. Supported by technology, goodwill, sustainable production methods and a flexible productive capacity, Just Boards became a success. Committed to producing fine products that embrace principles of cultural diversity and sustainability, each Board is crafted to a unique Māori inspired design, made from recycled rimu and packaged using up-cycled material.

Together, this partnership reached a level of sales that exceeded their projections, reaching a diverse range of customers. Profits made from the product were either donated to a charity, a community project or into another joint project between the school and the prison. In 2018, the students are now developing 'George', a flexible device that will be able to relay real time information about water and rain flows to cell-phones.

ANGUS GRANT



City-based farming entrepreneur, Angus Grant, brought the sound of bleating lambs to suburban Canterbury. Following the 2010 earthquake, Angus gained permission to use a neighbouring desolate section to graze a few sheep and keep the section tidy. As more empty sections were offered post demolition, Angus realised the potential for scalability and the opportunity to reinvigorate Christchurch's inner city, and decided to purchase more sheep and began his 'lamb foster-care service'.

Angus developed relationships within his community, educating families and younger children about animal care and agriculture. In turn, these families began fostering lambs, with Angus' continued support through regular visits and advice. He also undertook negotiations with developers to gain access to sections awaiting rebuilds, achieving expansion for his service.

His first business, Angus Grant Chickens, was launched at age seven. Now aged 15 years, Angus continues to secure land, leasing eight hectares in Halswell and Rolleston. He keeps a consistent record of sales, stock and feed costs. In his spare time, Angus also finds the time to study and compete in the Regional Teen-Ag competitions, competing at the National Final taking place this July.

WORKING FOR YOUTH AWARD

SHINE ON KAITĀIA YOUTH



Shine on Kaitiāia Youth is a group of rangatahi aged 12 to 18 years working towards creating a foundation of positivity in Kaitiāia. Through providing free to low cost community events, the group encourages youth leadership, nurtures youth talent, and brings together whānau, neighbourhoods and communities from isolated areas in the Far North.

Injecting love and time into neglected areas, the group of 12-18 year olds organise concerts, movies in the park, and interactive activities for tamariki and youth. Some of their events include Children's Day, Far North's Got Talent, the Christmas Parade and Christmas in the Park. Shine on Kaitiāia Youth identified the barriers often faced by those living rurally, so they actively work to bridge the geographical disconnect by trying to host events closer to the isolated towns and marae.

Together, the group is learning skills such as event management, stage management, fundraising, networking, delegation, producing and enhanced communication skills, all while providing the ingredients for a positive community spirit in Kaitiāia.

URUTAPU



Urutapu, a group of young wāhine aged 18 to 21 years, runs events within its communities that are designed to make a difference for their peers within their hapori, hapū or whānau. The design of the Urutapu kaupapa is to enable tamāhine to create events that stretch and grow their leadership capability. Together, they identify needs within their community and create opportunities to provide impactful solutions to the issues.

So far, members of Urutapu have organised The Otiria Great Race, an event designed for rangatahi to connect with their whakapapa; an event called Tupu-Ā-Rangi: The Gathering of our Gifts that featured workshops in traditional arts and crafts in Moerewa; hitori on Otiria Marae; Drive It, an event that was designed to reduce the fatalities of young Māori within Tai Tokerau; and an ATA AHUA Evening with Diva and Friends.

All of these events simultaneously work towards developing and actualising the potential in each young woman, while aligning their passion with events that provide positive opportunities for the community and empowerment for youth.

THE UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND MUSLIM STUDENTS ASSOCIATION



The University of Auckland Muslim Students Association (MSA) is a group of students aged 19 to 21 years advocating for the needs and rights of Muslim students. Through this, the MSA has established two Friday prayer sessions on campus, and has advocated for and on-boarded a Muslim Chaplain at the Maclaurin Chaplaincy on campus, enabling students to gain access to pastoral and emotional support.

In addition to advocacy, the MSA also works to build a support network, providing rangatahi with weekly study sessions where they can come together to discuss mental health, spirituality and coping with stress in the university environment.

MSA also helps facilitate conversations to ensure the youth voice is heard in the Muslim community, and organises social events that bring people together for events like Islam Awareness Week, quiz nights, lectures from renowned international scholars, and meet and greet workshops. The MSA also organised an Iftar night (breaking of the fast) at the university for students, university figures, politicians and religious leaders, to come together and help non-Muslims better understand the concept of fasting.

OUTSTANDING YOUTH CHAMPION AWARD

HALBERG DISABILITY SPORT FOUNDATION



With the vision of 'an inclusive New Zealand', Halberg Disability Sport Foundation has been working to enhance the lives of physically disabled New Zealanders (aged 21 years and under) by enabling them to participate in sport and recreation. Through collaborating with schools, and local sports and recreation organisations, Halberg has been creating positive development opportunities for a total of 55 years, supporting rangatahi to access the social, physical and emotional benefits associated with sports and recreation.

With a team of regional advisors throughout Aotearoa New Zealand, Halberg raises awareness and increases capability for the provision of inclusive sports programmes and events. It also hosts the annual Halberg Junior Disability Games, a national three-day sports competition for physically disabled and vision impaired young people, with 139 athletes competing in the 2017 Games.

The Halberg Youth Council was also formed in 2016, and together the members are changing the perceptions of what young people with disabilities can do, collaborating with the organisation to raise awareness and understanding through education, training and advice: championing for an inclusive society.

MAISY BENTLEY



Described as a 'trailblazer', Maisy Bentley (aged 19 years) has sown seeds to grow local youth council engagement, developed charities to feed school children in need, and has advocated for the voice of young people of Aotearoa New Zealand at the United Nations. Through Prepair NZ, Maisy ran 'True Love Is', a national campaign raising awareness on the difference between what true love is and emotional abuse, creating educational content for young wāhine.

Maisy suffered from anorexia for years and since recovering, has shared her story as a voice of inspiration for those facing their own battles. She has spoken about and advocated for young people, women's issues and mental health through sharing stories through MENTAL, Dear Em, the BodyLoveNZ campaign, with TVNZ and at events such as the International Leadership Alliance for Women and the Women in Law Committee.

Maisy's TED Talk titled 'Don't ask for permission' empowers its listeners to 'stand up and do something about it' next time they see an issue or discover a passion, to view the world as their stage, and to realise they don't need to ask for permission.

NZ BLUE LIGHT VENTURES INCORPORATED



NZ Blue Light Ventures Incorporated (Blue Light) is an organisation committed to ensuring all young people get the opportunities and support they deserve and need. Through education, sport, recreation, the arts and leadership programmes, Blue Light is dedicated to improving the relationships between the New Zealand Police (NZP), young people, their whānau and the wider community.

Running hundreds of programmes across 60 towns and cities each year, Blue Light partners with volunteers and NZP to mentor, develop and assist rangatahi to lead positive lives through programmes targeting life-skills, crime reduction, and cultural, social, sporting and educational activities in a safe environment.

Other events, programmes and activities include the Rural Safety Programme, Fun Days and the Prime Minister's Youth Programme. Every year, Blue Light empowers over 500 young people to obtain new transferable skills, and challenges and encourages them to make a difference back in their own communities, among their peers and whānau.

CELEBRATING
THE PASSION,
SUCCESS AND
COMMITMENT OF
RANGATAHI,
AND THOSE
THAT SUPPORT
THEM.