



NEW ZEALAND  
**youth**  
AWARDS

# Programme

24 June 2019



MINISTRY OF  
YOUTH DEVELOPMENT  
TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO TAIOHI  
Administered by the Ministry of Social Development



# Foreword

## Minister for Youth



Tēnā koutou katoa

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you this evening as we recognise the recipients of the New Zealand Youth Awards 2019.

Ministerial roles can be wide and varied but being the Minister for Youth has to be one of the best. I believe that valuing the positive actions taken by rangatahi is one of my most important roles. It is an absolute honour to be able to lead the celebration of rangatahi who have achieved outstanding results and have made a significant contribution towards supporting others in their communities. I am proud to celebrate and acknowledge some of our amazing rangatahi.

The New Zealand Youth Awards are designed to recognise the passion, success, and commitment of rangatahi who are leading change, innovating and creating solutions throughout Aotearoa. The Awards provide an opportunity to thank young people from across Aotearoa for the courage, commitment, and determination they have shown in support of the people they serve.

Award recipients have been recognised by their communities to celebrate the important mahi they are undertaking, the leadership and innovation they are demonstrating, and the inclusivity and diversity they are supporting.

This year, it is my pleasure to introduce The Prime Minister's Exemplar Award which recognises rangatahi who have overcome adversity in order to succeed both personally and in their contributions to their community.

Congratulations to all the nominees and recipients.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Henare', written in a cursive style.

Hon Peeni Henare  
Minister for Youth

Celebrating  
the passion,  
success and  
commitment  
of rangatahi.

# Programme

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4.45pm Music – Matheson Quartet

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5.30pm Welcome by Master of Ceremonies, Ezekiel Raui

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5.35pm Address by Minister for Youth, Hon Peeni Henare

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5.40pm Address by Prime Minister, Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern

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5.45pm Awards Presentation

- The Prime Minister’s Exemplar Award

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5.55pm Performance by SOUL

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6.05pm Awards Presentation

- Te Manukura – Leadership Award
- Te Raukura – Inclusion Award
- Taiao – Commitment to the Environment Award
- Mahi Tahi – Collective Award
- Auaha – Innovation Award
- Tūao – Volunteer Award

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6.30pm Keynote Speaker – Kendall Flutey

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6.45pm Recipient Speaker

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6.50pm Mix and Mingle  
Music – Matheson Quartet

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7.30pm Evening Concludes

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# Award Categories

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## **The Prime Minister's Exemplar Award**

This award recognises a young person who has overcome adversity in order to succeed both personally and in their contributions to their community. This young person will have shown outstanding character and resilience, and be an inspiration to their peers.

## **Te Manukura** Leadership Award

This award recognises a young person who has demonstrated excellent leadership skills in their community (this could be either a geographical location and/or a community of interest).

## **Te Raukura** Inclusion Award

This award recognises a young person who has promoted diversity, cultural understanding and/or positive change for under-represented groups in their community (this could be either a geographical location and/or a community of interest).

## **Taiao** Commitment to the Environment Award

This award recognises a young person who is making significant contributions in order to bring about environmental improvements and/or support sustainability.

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 **Mahi Tahī**  
Collective Award

This award recognises the outstanding contribution of both rangatahi and organisations working collaboratively as a team for the benefit of young people.

 **Auaha**  
Innovation Award

This award recognises excellence and original thought through social enterprise, inventing creative solutions to real world issues, or artistic endeavour.

 **Tūao**  
Volunteer Award

This award celebrates the passion, commitment and success of rangatahi who have made a significant contribution to their community through volunteering.

# Speakers

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## Master of Ceremonies

Ezekiel Rauhi

Ezekiel has many notable accolades to his name. He is the recipient of the Queen's Young Leader Award (2018), a Ngārimu VC and 28th Māori Battalion Memorial Scholarship (2017), and was named as a Kiwibank New Zealand Local Hero (2016). He is a member of the Ministry of Youth Development's Partnership Fund Board.

Ezekiel is passionate about helping address mental health and wellbeing for young New Zealanders. He designed the peer-to-peer mental health programme, TūKotahi (Stand as One), to help address mental health issues for rangatahi. This programme is being piloted in four schools across the country in 2018-2019.



## Keynote Speaker

Kendall Flutey

Kendall is the Co-Founder and CEO of Banqer, the financial education platform named 2018 NZ Hi-Tech Start-up Company of the Year, and a recipient of a Global Inclusion Award at the G20 Summit in Berlin in 2017.

Kendall was recognised for her efforts in raising the financial capability of over 150,000 students when she was named 2018 Young Māori Business Leader and 2019 Young New Zealander of the Year.

Kendall has a background in accounting, economics and web development. Founding two start-ups prior to Banqer, Kendall is passionate about social issues, particularly in educating young people to enable better outcomes for both them and their wider communities.

# Biographies

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## The Prime Minister's Exemplar Award



### Jess Rose Collins

Jess (21) is passionate about supporting Māori mental health and preventing suicide within her community. As a young person, she experienced adversity and challenging conditions. She was selected for Project K in 2012 and fully embraced the opportunity to grow and learn new skills.

In 2018, she created and led the Mana Whenua Hikoi where she walked 668km over 21 days to honour the 668 people who died by suicide in Aotearoa New Zealand in 2017. Through this initiative, Jess raised \$2,500 for Lifeline and heightened awareness of a mana whenua approach to suicide prevention.

She continues to contribute many hours as a volunteer in her community, alongside undertaking full-time study and part-time work.



### Aroha Lawrence

Aroha (20) is a leader and role model in her local community, acting as a champion for differently abled rangatahi. Born with a form of dwarfism and wheelchair-bound, she hasn't allowed this to act as an obstacle. She was named Head Girl of Northland College 2017 before going on to study design at Ākau Studio in Kaikohe. She is also studying towards a Certificate in Small Business.

Aroha regularly volunteers, inspiring other young people through facilitating workshops in art and design. She has shared her story at Festival for the Future in 2018 and is an Inspiring Stories Future Leaders Programme participant.



## Te Manukura Leadership Award



### Irihapeti Edwards

Irihapeti (20) champions global citizenship and youth participation. She is passionate about increasing the financial literacy of people in her local community and has pursued her own career to become the youngest person to be employed by one of the ‘Big Four’ professional services firms (Deloitte, PWC, EY and KPMG). She was the youngest member of the UN Youth New Zealand Globalisation Tour in Asia and one of the youngest people to be awarded a Prime Minister’s Scholarship for Latin America. Irihapeti has overcome adversity and uses that experience to champion the inclusion of others. She has recently supported the work of the United Nations Canada Panel which focused on the rights of the indigenous child.



### Fahad Shehzad

Fahad (17) is a young Muslim student at Mount Roskill Grammar School. Having friends and family members that narrowly escaped the Christchurch mosque attacks and knowing how deeply the members of the Muslim community would be impacted by this atrocity, Fahad stepped up and guided his school’s response. This included the creation of a large banner of support for the families affected, letter writing and fundraising. He helped organise a school-wide assembly where he delivered an inspiring speech. Fahad made it his mission to ensure that his fellow students received the support and care they needed during this trying time.



## Te Raukura Inclusion Award



### Jaskiran Kaur Rahi

Jaskiran (12) founded her social enterprise, Spirit & Soul, to empower young women to be the best that they can be. Her focus is on supporting young women to explore opportunities which are traditionally male-dominated such as STEM, Police and Armed Services.

Her first event was themed ‘When I was Young’, and featured industry leaders such as WorkSafe CEO, Nicole Rosie, and former Ministry of Women CEO, Jo Cribb, who inspired young women to think creatively about their future. Jaskiran was invited to speak about her experience of running the event at the 2018 Women of Influence symposium. Her second event, ‘Who am I and Who are You’, was aimed at showcasing different career options to girls and featured a Q & A session with Michelle Dickinson aka Nanogirl. Her next planned event will focus on inspiring young women to learn life skills.



### Rongxue Shen

Rongxue (22) developed a project called WNZW (WǒMen: New Zealand Women – in Putonghua Chinese, WǒMen means we/us) which seeks to empower and inspire women from ethnic minorities to pursue leadership roles.

Four events featuring top-class speakers from across a range of business, political and academic leadership positions have been successfully delivered to around 500 young women by WNZW. These events aim to build the self-esteem of young women from a range of ethnic backgrounds and support them to pursue more diverse career opportunities.



## Taiao

### Commitment to the Environment Award



#### Niels Grosmann

Niels (17) is a creative problem-solver who uses his technical know-how to solve real-world environmental issues. As a member of the Volt Electrics team, he has reused obsolete laptop batteries which would otherwise have gone to landfill to power e-bikes, creating an affordable eco-friendly transport option. Volt Electrics was the recipient of the 2018 Lion Foundation Young Enterprise

Scheme Company of the Year.

His new project is called Intura and it aims to design eco-friendly and affordable housing solutions using 3D printing and pre-fabrication.



#### Sophie Handford

Sophie (18) is a young environmentalist who is passionate about combating climate change. She was inspired by the student climate strikers in Europe and Australia and decided that it was needed here in Aotearoa. The first New Zealand School Strike 4 Climate was held on 15 March 2019 and engaged 20,000 young people in climate action. A follow-up strike has since taken place and several regional councils

have responded by declaring 'climate emergencies'.

Alongside being one of the national coordinators of School Strike 4 Climate NZ, Sophie also works for Enviroschools and the GO Club, a science and technology group for girls. She is Hon Kris Faafoi's Youth MP for New Zealand Youth Parliament 2019.



## Mahi Tahī Collective Award



### **Teresa Lee**

Teresa (20) is a young female Chinese-Kiwi who is passionate about youth empowerment, diverse leadership and inclusivity. She is the Auckland Regional President of UN Youth New Zealand and has developed the strategic plan for the tertiary, secondary and outreach programmes to engage 2,000-plus rangatahi in the upper North Island.

She recently oversaw the coordination of an outreach event in South Auckland for 300 Pasifika young people participating in the AUT UniPrep Programme; the Auckland Model UN Conference where 400 rangatahi discussed pressing global issues; and the Auckland Tertiary Case Competition where 170 students acted as UN consultants to address disproportionate incarceration rates.

Teresa is passionate about enhancing the work of UN Youth New Zealand to inspire global citizens.



### **Robin Tupetala Kapeteni**

Robin (20) is a youth leader in South Auckland and was integral to the development and delivery of MYSTORY, a series of youth-focused events designed to give space to young people to share their stories and be inspired by others. Robin has contributed a young Rainbow voice to this project and connected the Rainbow community to this initiative. Robin's story has been shared with more than

200 young people throughout South Auckland.

Robin contributed critical input to the MYSTORY co-design process and was integral to the success of the project on an ongoing basis. Robin is driven by the mindset of 'nothing about you, without you'.



## **Auaha** Innovation Award



### **Grace Stratton**

Grace (19) is described as passionate, innovative and driven to bring together the fashion/beauty industry and those with access needs. She is the Founding Director and thought leader behind All is for All, an online platform aimed at ensuring that all people, regardless of ability, are offered a top-tier fashion experience void of barriers. All is for All strives to demonstrate to industry leaders the

value of those who are often perceived, and consequently treated, differently. The platform also provides an avenue for the mainstream fashion industry to learn about accessibility and cast diverse talent.

A full-time student, Grace uses creative projects, her lived experience and voice to raise the importance of ensuring accessible and inclusive work practices. The goal is to enable people with access needs to successfully participate in the workforce and ultimately become global leaders.



### **Seojung Christina Min**

Christina (17) is passionate about supporting low-vision children and created Touch to Read, an initiative which creates tactile children's books for pre-school children with low vision. She has produced, published and distributed her book 'Who's under the Sea?' to more than 60 low-vision children. She is currently assisting with research at the University of Auckland to further explore the

science behind low-vision disorders in children.

Christina was selected to present Touch to Read at the International Community Problem Solving Competition which took place at the University of Wisconsin La Crosse in the United States. The initiative was awarded first place in her project division.



## Tūao Volunteer Award



### **Petra Jellyman**

Petra (16) has been a member of the Kaikōura Youth Council since 2013, holding both Chairperson and Secretary roles. She has been involved in organising the Kaikōura Youth Awards and has worked to ensure that youth voice informs decision making and youth perspective is present.

Petra has been a volunteer Ranger with GirlGuiding NZ, is an Assistant Brownie Leader, and a member of the GirlGuiding NZ Ranger Advocacy Panel, a national youth advisory body.

Petra was a volunteer with the Kaikōura Community Meal programme between 2016-2018. She is Head Librarian at Kaikōura High School and a participant at the 2019 UN Youth Aotearoa Youth Declaration.



### **Rawhiti Erstich-Coles**

Rawhiti (18) has been involved in numerous Far North community initiatives and projects. He is a national ambassador for the Students Against Dangerous Driving Committee. Rawhiti is a trained youth mentor and member of the Far North Youth Council. He was selected for the Inspiring Stories Future Leaders Programme and for the Hawea Vercoe Leadership Programme.

A student at University of Auckland, he is interested in contributing towards the progression of low socioeconomic communities and has a particular interest in the social mobility of Māori and Māori youth voice advocacy. Rawhiti is a youth representative with UN Youth New Zealand and is Hon Kelvin Davis' Youth MP for New Zealand Youth Parliament 2019.

