

Manawatū

YOUNG ACHIEVERS AWARDS

2025

Ko rangatahi o nāianeī,
hei Rangatira mō apōpō



A note from our Mayor

Welcome to the 2025 Young Achievers Awards

Our young people are not only the leaders of tomorrow they are vibrant, capable changemakers today. Through their energy, creativity, and dedication, they are already helping to shape the future of the Manawātū District and inspiring those around them to do the same.

It is a true privilege to come together this evening to celebrate the 2025 Young Achievers Awards, proudly hosted by the Manawātū Youth Council with the support of the Manawātū District Council.

Each year, the calibre of nominees continues to impress, with individuals as young as seven years old stepping up with courage, compassion, and initiative far beyond their years. While youth often look to adults for inspiration, tonight we are reminded that wisdom, leadership, and heart can shine at any age.

From quiet acts of kindness to bold community leadership, these young achievers are role models in their own right each one deserving of recognition and applause.

To all our nominees and recipients thank you. Your contributions uplift not only your peers but strengthen the spirit of the Manawātū District.

Helen Worboys

Manawātū District Council Mayor

Contents

A Note from our Youth Council Chairperson	4
Te Tohu Auaha / Innovation Award <i>Sponsored by Farmers Weekly</i>	5
Te Tohu Taiao / Commitment to the Environment Award <i>Sponsored by KPA Properties</i>	14
Te Tohu Raukura / Inclusion Award <i>Sponsored by The Rosebowl</i>	21
Te Tohu Tūao / Volunteer Award <i>Sponsored by Feilding Oroua Rotary</i>	26
Te Tohu Iho Pūmanawa / Whakamana Tangata <i>Sponsored by Evolve Fitness</i>	34
Te Tohu Manukura / Leadership Award <i>Sponsored by Collective Intelligence</i>	43
A note from our Youth Engagement Officer	53
A note from our Liaison Councillor	54
A note from our First Māori Ward Councillor	55
Acknowledgements	56

A note from our

Youth Council Chairperson



It has been a pleasure working alongside like-minded rangatahi from across our region as the current Chair of the Manawātū District Youth Council, where we strive to strengthen youth voice and drive meaningful participation in our community. Being the chair of the Youth Council has presented many challenges alongside many rewarding moments, and I am grateful to be working

alongside an amazing group of Youth Councillors, our Youth Co-ordinator Joey, and Councillor Blackmore.

Some will always question the need for youth voice, but in reality, it goes hand in hand with change. We desire to work alongside and create meaningful change within the community to help support the future world we will live in. Our youth council likes to foster connections with the community through events such as youth market and young achiever's awards. This year's theme, "The youth of today, the leaders of tomorrow. Ko rangatahi o nāianeī, hei Rangatira mō apōpō," truly speaks to the commitment and achievements displayed by everyone.

To those receiving awards, ka mau te wehi! He pōhō kererū ahau i a koe! take your current skills and use them to their fullest. Your achievement reflects the hard work and dedication you've poured in. Now, take a moment to breathe, reflect on how far you've come, and enjoy the fruits of your labour. Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou, our rangatahi rising today to lead with mana tomorrow.

Kahupounamu Joyden-Rose Potaka

2025 Youth Council Chairperson



Te Tohu Auaha Innovation Award

Proudly sponsored by

**FARMERS
WEEKLY**
farmersweekly.co.nz

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

5 - 12 Years



Addi Lucas

Manchester Street School

Addi has stepped into every role offered to her to contribute to her school, peers, and community. She helped welcome our new Learning Support Coordinator through the pōwhiri process as the Mātauranga Māori Kaiārahi, confidently leading the school through waiata at this special event. She speaks confidently to the school and wider community with thought and consideration for the occasion.



Darcy Marsh

Colyton School

Darcy is a creative thinker with a strong aptitude for ICT, consistently offering innovative solutions and approaching challenges from unique angles. She assisted with digital visuals to support the school production and choreography, blending technical skill with artistic insight. Reliable and well-organised, Darcy manages her time effectively and can always be counted on to follow through. Her original thinking and problem-solving mindset reflect the 2025 theme Youth of Today, Leaders of Tomorrow, as she leads through creativity and initiative.



Evie Quigley

Manchester Street School

Evie is a hard working, creative and talented member of our Leadership team. She cares deeply about our kura and all her peers. Evie is an active lead member of our Kapa Haka rōpu, leading waiata, creating moves and performing routines. She thrives in artistic endeavours, recently helping choreograph an original dance for her classes showcase performance. Evie also has a lead role in our Senior Team Tupu Ora, leading waiata and displaying flair in modelling new moves and routines. She is an incredibly skilled and innovative performer.



Hunter Rees

Lytton Street School

Hunter is a dynamic and diverse performer in both musical theatre and dance. He consistently encourages those around him, showing true team spirit while also stepping up with confidence as a solo competitor this year. Hunter is now expanding his talents through choreography, developing his creative voice behind the scenes as well as on stage. With multiple productions and competitions under his belt, he brings energy, experience and enthusiasm to every performance.



Indee Malcolm

Manchester Street School

Indee is an enthusiastic and capable student who loves sharing waiata and te reo Māori. She is a motivated and valued member of our senior Tupu Ora sessions, always leading by example. Indee demonstrates mana and pride in sharing and celebrating her culture with others. Her dedication to learning performance sequences and supporting her peers as a tutor highlights her commitment and leadership. She takes great pride in all she has achieved.



Jake Cassells-Hehir

Glen Oroua School

Jake is our school's digital problem-solver. He's a curious, creative thinker who can find a tech fix for most things. If it plugs in or logs on, Jake's our guy. He brings original thought to tech challenges. If he doesn't know how to do something, give him a minute and he'll work it out.



Joshua Churton

North Street School

Joshua is an exceptional candidate for the Te Tohu Auaha / Innovation Award, consistently demonstrating remarkable creativity and original thought. His flair for vocabulary in writing showcases a natural talent for artistic expression. Joshua's true passion lies in art, particularly drawing intricate cartoons, a craft he dedicates significant time to perfecting. Beyond traditional art forms, his innovative spirit shines through his William Pike Challenge project, where he masterfully learned to weld metal, culminating in his very own impressive sculpture. Now, embracing a new challenge, he's even learning to knit. Joshua's diverse creative pursuits and dedication to mastering new skills truly embody the essence of this award.



Leah Christensen

Manchester Street School

Leah is a mini bundle of energy and enthusiasm. She is full of ideas and innovation, an original 'Kiwi Kid'. She is a very active, involved member of our Enviro Rōpu. Leah loves farm life and is hands on in our 2050 Predator Free goal. She thrives in her role in Kura Ngahere, quickly picking up new skills and sharing these with younger peers in a supportive, caring way, bringing her own flair. Leah has a creative mind and loves to use her imagination. She is an entertaining, thoughtful akonga with a bright future.



Leah Mabey

Feilding Intermediate

Leah is a creative and thoughtful student whose passion for dance and performance shone through during Showquest. This, coupled with her involvement in the Children's University, reflects a curiosity for learning and finding meaningful ways to engage with the world. She brings originality, creativity, and purpose to her artistic endeavours.



Mabel Henderson

Newbury School

Mabel is an exceptional talent, recognised for her creativity and original thought. Her involvement in "Matilda @ regent on Broadway" and various art forms, particularly as an exceptional dancer, demonstrates her artistic prowess. She inspires others with her skills and has been selected for the "She Shines On dance tour," which will take her to New York and Orlando in early 2026 to engage in dances from around the world.



Mac Petterson

Feilding Intermediate

Mac has a thirst for knowledge. He consistently challenges his own and others' thinking and attempts to assess the impact of this thinking on his environment. He is constantly searching for new and more creative ways to solve problems both academically and out in the community. Whether it be around playground issues, ways in which we can solve lunchtime boredom, or imaginary numbers, Mac has an idea for everything.



Max Ingram

Lytton Street School

Max is a passionate young performer who loves being on stage and behind the microphone. With a natural flair for entertaining, Max has been a guest on local radio and has starred in several local theatre productions, most currently in rehearsals for Oliver. Whether acting, singing, or telling stories, Max lights up every performance with energy and confidence.



Nikora Wild

Oroua Downs School

Nikora consistently demonstrates excellence and original thought in his learning. He is an outstanding artist who creates detailed and creative artworks. His artwork combines technical skill, particularly in drawing, with interesting and original ideas. He has also demonstrated excellence and innovation in the digital technologies learning area, where he uses his digital skills and knowledge to create code for games and other projects.



Noah Wharehinga

Manchester Street School

Noah is an enthusiastic and friendly student who embraces challenges with a positive attitude. He has shown great commitment in learning and leading the Kapa Haka group, guiding others through his example. His leadership style is both charismatic and compassionate, earning the respect of his peers. Noah takes pride in his achievements, and his dedication and effort are clearly reflected in all he does.

**Pīata Atutahi***North Street School*

Pīata is an exceptional student who consistently shines through her remarkable creativity and innovative thinking. She goes beyond rote learning, actively exploring and discovering novel approaches to her studies. Whether immersed in a science project or delving into a book, Pīata injects a fresh perspective, often devising clever methods to grasp and communicate her understanding. Her imaginative spirit extends beyond academics into her daily life. Pīata possesses a unique ability to envision possibilities where others perceive only obstacles, naturally inspiring her friends to embrace diverse perspectives. A prime example of her ingenuity lies in her outstanding problem-solving skills; she consistently conceives smart solutions, from streamlining group projects to efficiently organising events. Pīata truly embodies the power of creative thought and its impressive achievements.

**Stella Mercer***Lytton Street School*

Stella is a passionate performer who truly comes alive on stage. Whether singing in the choir or shining in the school production, Stella embraces every opportunity to express creativity through the arts. With a love for theatre and a fearless approach to taking risks, she continually pushes the boundaries to grow as an artist, inspiring others with confidence, energy, and flair.

**Thaine Kimberley***Manchester Street School*

Thaine, our Puna Toi Tīma's ākonga kaiārahi, exemplifies a profound connection with the taiao (environment). He's a role model, deeply immersed in learning Māori mātauranga, language, and culture through hands-on activities like arts, crafts, and videos. Thaine champions environmental education, utilising games, songs, legends, and karakia to foster a holistic worldview. He truly inspires his peers to value the taiao and feel a close bond with Papatūānuku (Earth Mother) and Ranginui (Sky Father). His innovative blend of cultural immersion and practical creativity perfectly embodies an award for endeavour and practical thought in our whānau activities, enriching our taha Māori presentations and artistic ventures.

13+ Years

**Emma Leota***Feilding High School*

Emma Leota is a passionate and talented arts student who consistently leads by example. As a dedicated Pasifika group leader, she brings cultural pride, creativity, and strong leadership to everything she does. Emma achieved a high Excellence in her external art folio last year and continues to produce work at an Excellence level in the arts. She contributed to the school mural project, demonstrating her collaborative spirit and artistic skill. Emma is an enthusiastic participant in all arts-related events and trips, always engaging with purpose and positivity. Her commitment to both her personal practice and the wider arts community is admirable, making her a valued and respected presence within the school's creative spaces. Emma's leadership and dedication continue to inspire those around her.

**Lilly Hayes***Colyton School*

Lilly is a dynamic and innovative performer, skilled in tap, ballet, lyrical, contemporary dance, and Jump Jam. She helped choreograph the school production and contributed to set design, bringing originality and flair to every element. A true triple threat singing, dancing, and acting with confidence Lilly shines in all areas of the performing arts. Her creativity, versatility, and collaborative approach reflect the 2025 theme Youth of Today, Leaders of Tomorrow, as she leads through artistic excellence and imaginative contribution.

**Melody Grinter***Feilding Intermediate*

Melody is a creative and enterprising student who turned her passion for jewellery into a small business. She designs and sells her work at the youth market, showing initiative, originality, and a strong sense of purpose. Her work reflects both artistic flair and real-world problem-solving.



McKenzie Cameron

Feilding High School

McKenzie Cameron has shown exceptional commitment and leadership in the arts during her time at school. As one of the Heads of the Arts Committee, she has played a key role in shaping arts initiatives and supporting school-wide events. She contributed to the inaugural school mural and has been actively involved in set painting for both school productions. For Annie, McKenzie took on multiple responsibilities, managing front of house and leading hair and makeup. She consistently volunteers her time, including for Open Night, and has participated in all arts trips with enthusiasm. Her academic achievement is equally impressive, having gained Excellence in all of her internal assessments. McKenzie is a highly motivated, creative student who brings energy, organisation, and passion to everything she does.



Rachael Telford

Feilding High School

Rachael Telford has made an outstanding contribution to the arts throughout her time at school. She was part of the team behind the school's first mural and has played a key role in set painting for productions, where she also served as a senior leader. A committed member of the Arts Committee, Rachael helped organise Arts Week and took initiative during the inaugural French Café event, drawing caricatures of staff and students. Her enthusiasm, reliability, and leadership are evident in her consistent support for organising arts-related events and activities. She has attended every arts trip offered and has achieved Excellence in her internal assessments, reflecting both her talent and dedication to the arts. Rachael is a true asset to the creative community.



Rhythm Te Rito

North Street School

Rhythm is an extremely dedicated and committed artist. She takes pride in her artwork and has demonstrated that she is a level higher than her peers when it comes to creativity and art techniques. She is working on an extension project that involves her leading a group of 3 other artists in class to complete a piece of art that depicts Rangī and Papa and the fight for Rangatiratanga and Mana Motuhake.



Simon Ward

Feilding High School

Simon has shown creativity and innovation with his contributions to the FAHS Robotics team. He understands the importance of coming up with unique and innovative ideas to ensure the robot stands out from other teams to ensure a potential competitive edge. Creating mechanisms for the robots which maximise efficiency of movement and performance is essential. Simon has contributed extensively to the team in terms of the level of details in the robotics design diary which includes schematics, diagrams and tables in over 50 pages of work.



Teresa Stone

Feilding High School

Teresa has shown real boldness to excel with confidence as a female in the very male dominated area of Technology. She is phenomenal in the workshop where she works with diligence and takes great pride in her work. She is currently showing real creativity creating a metal wind sculpture using upcycled materials. She is very innovative in the way that she is able to use abstract materials to create unique designs of the highest quality.



Thomas Churton

Feilding High School

Thomas is a natural critical thinker who is always looking for opportunities to expand his understanding of how things operate. Thomas enjoys the opportunity to create innovative and unique design concepts. He has been able to contribute to the school's robotics team by putting huge hours into the planning and design concepts for the robots. He has proven himself to be a great problem solver who is always keen to think out of the box to find a solution to maximise the performance of the robot.

Te Tohu Taiao Commitment to the Environment Award

Proudly sponsored by



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

5 - 12 Years



Claire Field

Feilding Intermediate

Claire actively contributes to environmental sustainability both at school and at home. At school, she takes initiative in keeping the grounds litter-free and serves as a role model for her peers. She also shows great care for the school fish, demonstrating her broader commitment to animal welfare. At home, Claire creatively reuses plastics, turning them into feed buckets and jumps for her horses. She also makes bird feeders from recyclable materials and places them in trees to promote biodiversity.



George Asplin

St Joseph's School

George lives and breathes kaitiakitanga. At Forest School, he is dedicated to eradicating tradescantia and cutting back the blackberry. His love for the environment does not stop there. George is also dedicated to school service by looking after our pets, weeding and planting the vege gardens as a Green Team member, as well as offering to help spread bark throughout the playground.



Killian McEwen-Knight

Lytton Street School

Killian is a knowledgeable and eager member of our school. He has taken on the opportunity to learn about sustainability and growing plants enthusiastically. Killian has made connections between our new project at school, and the sustainability projects he has at home. He takes pride in our school sustainability programme by regularly checking on the progress in the school greenhouse.



Korbyn Williams

Lytton Street School

Korbyn is keen to muck in anywhere involving the outdoors. His passion for hands-on learning opportunities and his practicality have been fantastic attributes for helping build and sustain the new school green house and planter boxes.



Linda Acharya

North Street School

Linda is a passionate and forward-thinking ākonga who demonstrates a strong commitment to environmental conservation and sustainability. She actively explores real-world issues such as climate change, waste reduction, and the protection of natural resources, often linking her learning to the principles of kaitiakitanga. Linda uses her creativity to raise awareness and inspire action within her kura and wider community. Whether through hands-on eco-focused projects, promoting sustainable practices, or integrating environmental themes into her learning, Linda consistently shows leadership and purpose. Hailing from Nepal, she also happily shares traditional ecological knowledge, enriching the understanding of all. She is a truly deserving recipient of Te Tohu Taiao – Commitment to the Environment Award.



Logan Moar

Feilding Intermediate

Logan is actively involved in conservation efforts, particularly focusing on native New Zealand geckos. He and his family care for geckos at their home under a special licence, providing a safe haven from threats like cats and dogs. They also help manage pests by hunting red deer, which damage native flora, and plant native trees to support native birdlife. Logan is happy to share his passion for the environment with others.



Mila-Rose Orange

Manchester Street School

Mila-Rose is a passionate and committed leader of our Kura Ngahere Rōpu, a hands-on learning group that embraces and explores our beautiful New Zealand environment. She plays a significant role in helping her peers develop a deeper understanding of our natural surroundings and how to care for them. Mila-Rose leads by example during our school's enviro-action days, encouraging sustainable practices and inspiring others to take responsibility for protecting Papatūānuku. Her dedication to environmental improvement and sustainability is evident in everything she does, and her leadership is helping to create a more environmentally conscious culture within our kura.



Peyton Forbes

Manchester Street School

Peyton is a dedicated member of our Enviro Rōpu Kaitiaki Taiao and has been since she was a junior. She is an informed and enthusiastic advocate for Predator Free 2025, helping build and supply rat traps for members of our community. Peyton also helps organise and run our operational practices at our kura. Each room has an enviro job that focuses on sustainability that the Ngā Kaitiaki Taiao members are responsible for overseeing. She is an enviro super star who is already having a positive impact on our precious environment.



Pippa Thompson

St Joseph's School

Pippa is dedicated to providing service at Forest School. She spends the majority of her time eradicating tradescantia by raking clear the forest floor. She barely comes up for breath because next she is off trimming back the blackberry to ensure it does not take over the native bush. Almadale Scenic Reserve is starting to flourish because of Pippa's efforts.



Quinn McNie

Feilding Intermediate

Quinn shows a strong commitment to environmental sustainability and improvement. He takes part in the ethical trapping and hunting of pests such as possums, pigs, and deer, helping to protect native ecosystems. On his family's farm, he is actively involved in planting trees around the daman effort that supports local waterways and provides shelter for sheep. Quinn also represented Feilding Intermediate School admirably at the regional AgriKidsNZ competition, where his team qualified for the national grand final.



Ruby Erard

Manchester Street School

Ruby is a passionate advocate for caring for our environment and taking meaningful action to protect the natural world around us. As the leader of our Ngā Kaitiaki Taiao Rōpu, she leads with positivity and purpose, inspiring others to get involved in sustainability initiatives. Ruby is currently guiding her group in working towards the Predator Free NZ 2050 goal by building, distributing, and setting predator traps throughout the region. Her leadership, dedication, and proactive involvement demonstrate a strong commitment to environmental improvement and sustainability, making her a worthy nominee for the Te Tohu Taiao award.



Vincent Connolly

Lytton Street School

Vincent Connolly is a responsible and dependable student who cares for our environment and school. He shows initiative, kindness, and takes pride in keeping the school grounds clean. Vincent deeply respects the natural world, solves problems creatively, and embodies kaitiakitanga and responsibility.

13+ Years



Alay Cribb-Bennion

North Street School

Alay is a passionate and forward-thinking ākonga who demonstrates a strong commitment to environmental conservation and sustainability. She actively explores realworld issues such as climate change, pollution, and the protection of natural resources, often linking her learning to the principles of kaitiakitanga and Te Tiriti o Waitangi. Alay uses a range of media to create powerful visual messages that raise awareness and inspire action within her kura and wider community. Whether through eco-focused projects, sustainable art practices, or integrating environmental themes into writing and inquiry learning, Alay consistently shows leadership and purpose. She is a truly deserving recipient of Te Tohu Taiao – Commitment to the Environment Award.



Anthony Jones

Feilding High School

Anthony has been an incredibly reliable and dedicated student helper on the Feilding High School farms. He is not afraid to get up early and ensure that the sheep are ready for sale, or to help with dagging or shearing to ensure the sheep are in top condition. He is always willing to lend a hand to the farm managers and shows initiative getting involved with any job that needs doing. He takes pride in what he does, and his contribution helps to ensure that the farm and animals are maintained to a high standard.



Bentley Jones

Colyton School

As a proud Kaitiaki Kid of Colyton School, Bentley carries out his environmental role every day with diligence and integrity. He takes full responsibility for ensuring the school grounds are clean and respected, and his efforts have led to a noticeable and lasting improvement in the school's environment. Bentley approaches this role with maturity he is reliable, focused, and takes great pride in everything he does. His commitment to sustainability is matched by his respectful, kind, and polite nature, making him a quiet role model among his peers. Bentley's actions clearly reflect the spirit of "Youth of Today, Leaders of Tomorrow," showing that leadership can be lived through consistent, positive action.



Daniel Voelkerling

Feilding High School

Daniel has contributing significantly to the protection of the environment around the school for the last two years. He has had a specific focus on sustainable pest control. He has been a key student leader for predator trapping and has been part of the massive tree planting project next to the school. He has also been endorsed by Gavin Scott as a hard worker with his dedication to the ongoing predator trapping and planting efforts.



Flynn Cammock

Feilding High School

Flynn has been an eager helper on the school farms at Feilding High School for the last couple of years. After school he can often be found volunteering with a range of tasks from dagging sheep, to covering the silage stack. Flynn is always willing to do anything that is asked of him. Always done with a smile and good attitude. He takes pride in his work and understands the value of taking care of all areas of the farm.



Haylee Baker

Feilding High School

Haylee has been the Head of the AgHort Committee at Feilding High School this year. She was instrumental in the organisation for the interhouse shearing and wool handling competition - a very important event for the school. She leads a group of active committee members who are focused on lifting the profile and highlighting the value of agriculture within our school and across New Zealand.



Henderson Will

Glen Oroua School

Henderson brings brains, muscle and serious mahi to every school environmental task. Whether he's hauling branches, raking bark, caring for the big sandpit or building a chicken roosting platform, he does it with quiet commitment and a strong sense of responsibility. He's not loud about it - he just gets stuck in and gets it done.



Jacob Chapman

St Joseph's School

Jacob is the Kaitiaki Leader for our school. We are very grateful for his leadership in supporting the younger tamariki when attending Forest School. He is always keen to attend additional sessions, lead activities, and has a willingness to share his knowledge of the forest and basic survival skills that he has acquired over time.



Wade McEwan

Feilding High School

Wade has a keen interest in beekeeping. Beekeeping plays a crucial role in supporting biodiversity, enhancing food production, and maintaining healthy ecosystems - making it vital for environmental sustainability. He does a great job managing the school hives. He performs weekly checks on the general health and performance of the hives. He has shown dedication to upskilling through training days.

Proudly sponsored by



Te Tohu 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).

5 - 12 Years



Ameerah Panapa June

North Street School

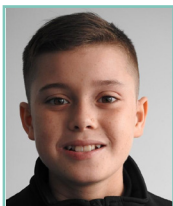
Ameerah is a kind and thoughtful student who demonstrates compassion, inclusion, manaakitanga, and integrity in all areas of school life. She consistently treats others with respect, empathy, and care, making everyone feel welcome and valued. Ameerah leads with kindness, showing patience, understanding, and a genuine willingness to help others both in and out of the classroom. She is a positive role model who encourages others through her actions and words, helping to create a supportive and inclusive environment. Her warm presence and consistent demonstration of aroha make her a valued student of our kura.



Arleah Jordan

Glen Oroua School

Arleah is a naturally inclusive leader in our school community. She looks out for younger children in the playground, earning their trust with her kindness and care. As a Year 8 student, she has strengthened her role as a friend to everyone. She can often be heard encouraging others and spreading positivity to everyone.



Boston O'Connell

Feilding Intermediate

Boston O'Connell is a student who demonstrates a strong commitment to inclusion within our school community. He goes out of his way to support all students, always approaching others with patience, empathy, and genuine kindness. Whether it's helping someone in the classroom, including others in group activities, or simply taking the time to listen and connect, Boston is a quiet role model who makes a real difference in the lives of those around him.



Emily Kirkpatrick-Smith

Lytton Street School

Emily is thoughtful, kind, and is always willing to help others in need. She shows aroha and manaakitanga by ensuring people feel included and supported. In the classroom, Emily is always the first person to give support to those she can see have encountered a challenge and, during break times, will include anyone she sees that aren't involved in an activity. Through her actions, Emily creates a positive and inclusive environment.



Kassy Holanda

St Joseph's School

Kassy holds the most prestigious leadership role in our school as the Special Character Ambassador. We are blessed that Kassy openly shared about her Filipino culture so that the whole school could grow in their knowledge and participate in fun learning activities. Kassy also reads beautifully at church, presents the weekly PB4L draw, and leads the schoolwide birthday celebrations.



Leo Mullin

Glen Oroua School

Leo's inclusiveness reaches everyone: his classmates, teachers, younger kids - not just his usual crew. When he gives someone a word of encouragement or even just a nod across the room, you can see the boost it gives them. People listen to Leo because they respect him - and he uses that in the best ways.



Pearl Fraser-Jones

Newbury School

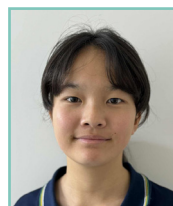
Pearl is a strong advocate for diversity and inclusion, recognised for promoting cultural understanding and positive change. She was crowned 'Miss Community and Junior Miss Aotearoa' at Little Miss Aotearoa, raising \$1200 for Starship Hospital through various volunteering efforts, including helping at the SPCA, tree-freeing, and assisting at a Mitre10 sausage sizzle. Pearl also uses her platform to raise awareness for ADHD, showcasing her dedication to supporting under-represented groups.



Pearl Parma

Feilding Intermediate

Pearl actively contributes to cultural inclusion in our community by performing traditional dances at events such as the Diwali Festival and the Festival of Cultures. Each year, her family also hires a hall and transforms it into a community temple, welcoming people to join in prayer and celebration for five days. These experiences are important to her as they help bring people together, share their culture, and create a sense of belonging for everyone.



Shiyu Odaka

North Street School

We are thrilled to nominate Shiyu for the Te Tohu Raukura / Inclusion Award, recognising her exceptional contributions to fostering a more inclusive community. Shiyu is a beacon of helpfulness in the classroom, always ready to support her peers and ensure everyone feels included. What truly sets her apart is her profound respect for and celebration of all cultures. She leads by example, enthusiastically embracing opportunities to participate in karakia and proudly sharing her pepeha. Shiyu's actions consistently promote cultural understanding and create a welcoming space for all, making her an inspiring advocate for diversity and a deserving recipient of this award.

13+ Years



Ben Bron

Feilding High School

Ben is a kind, thoughtful and hard-working student. He has displayed a real talent in the technology area where he produces pieces of work to a very high standard. Beyond completing his own work it has been his willingness to encourage his peers that makes him stand out in a classroom. He has provided support to a vulnerable student in his class to ensure that this young man understands the expectations of each set task and is able to complete the work. The compassion which he shows to others without being asked is admirable. He has proven himself to be a very mature and helpful young man.



Lincoln Switzer

Feilding Intermediate

Lincoln Switzer is a valued member of our school community who promotes inclusion through his active involvement in school basketball teams, Kapa Haka, and by proudly representing our school at the Special Olympics. His enthusiasm and participation helps break down barriers and inspires others to celebrate diversity and inclusion.



Lydia Carswell

Feilding High School

Lydia is an outstanding student in Year 11 Drama who goes out of her way to include students from our Learning Support Unit. She is friendly, engaging and approachable with these students, making sure they feel a part of a group. Lydia finds ways to include LSU students in classwork and also as a friend, remembering small details like birthdays and important events. Lydia is empathetic and kind and well deserving of this award.



Malama Palelei

Feilding High School

Malama is a fearless leader who leads by example in all that she does in life. She always prioritises the needs of others and can often be seen mentoring, encouraging, and supporting students of all ages. She can often be seen making a special effort to include those who may be out the outskirts of an activity ensuring no one is left out. In the schools Pasifika group she has helped bring together students from a range of ethnicities to work towards a common goal. Malama brings these special qualities to all that she is involved in including the girl's rugby 1st XV where she is a fantastic role model on and off the field. This year she has also been involved in the World Vision Youth conference and the school's Tuakana-Teina programme where senior students mentor junior students with their literacy.



Rauarangi Ngarotata-Simeon

North Street School

Rauarangi was one of our other school ambassadors that travelled to China for a cultural exchange earlier this year. She was able to tell them stories of Ngāti Kauwhata her homeland, and recounted her appreciation of the Chinese culture and the differences and similarities to the Māori culture. She was enriched by the experience.



Ruby Holtslag

Glen Oroua School

Ruby includes others in a quiet, genuine way that makes people feel seen and valued. The younger kids trust her completely - possibly because she radiates 'big sister energy'. She encourages others to get involved and brings a quiet confidence that helps everyone feel they belong.

Te Tohu Tūao Volunteer Award

Proudly sponsored by



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

5 - 12 Years



Aliya Marshall

Manchester Street School

Aliya is a member of our kura who involves herself fully. She sees a need and she fills it. Aliya is part of Books 'n' Bickies team, reading to younger peers and sharing a love of reading, she is a Road Patroller, punctual, dedicated, always willing to fill in. Aliya is also a busy member of our Ringamarie rōpu, working in our plant nursery during breaks and supporting younger peers. She is always volunteering to help and assist with the many activities at our busy kura, working before school and through breaks. Aliya is an akonga with a huge heart.



Aliyah O'Fee

Lytton Street School

Aliyah is a thoughtful and dependable leader who inspires others through her actions. As a committed member of Te Raukura, our Year 6 leadership group, she consistently demonstrates maturity, initiative, and a strong sense of responsibility. Aliyah is actively involved in all aspects of school life, approaching each role with quiet confidence and a commitment to excellence. Her warm, compassionate, and supportive nature makes her a natural role model. She is always willing to lend a helping hand, encouraging and guiding her peers with empathy. Aliyah is a true example of what it means to lead with heart, humility, and purpose.



Asha Crews

North Street School

Asha is an exceptional nominee for the Te Tohu Tūao / Volunteer Award, embodying the true spirit of community service. Her commitment to helping others is evident in her diverse roles. As a diligent road patroller, she ensures peer safety, and her reliable presence at the Breakfast Club significantly improves students' mornings. Beyond these contributions, Asha shows incredible initiative. She collected sanitary products for a local charity and successfully raised money for Arohanui Hospice and the Child Cancer Foundation. Her passion extends to dedicating weekends as a Barnardos fun day helper at free family events. Asha's extensive and varied involvement truly showcases a young person making a significant, positive contribution to her community, making her highly deserving.



Bilha Bineesh

St Joseph's School

Bilha lives our school values through kindness, courage, and leadership. She eagerly and confidently shares all learning with residents at Ranfurly Retirement Village, recently taking on the role of a Year 3 kaea, so we could share our junior Kapa Haka there. Even while embracing English as a new language, she uplifts others, embodying whanaungatanga, manaakitanga, ataahua and kairangatira. A truly deserving young achiever.



Dhruv Butola

Lytton Street School

Dhruv is a caring, committed, and passionate individual. Dhruv is a key leader in Room 20 and goes out of his way to assist and help others with their learning. Dhruv is a part of Te Raukura, our school leadership programme. Dhruv thrives in an environment where he can make a difference. He loves volunteering his expertise and skills to younger students and brings a positive spirit to any activity or challenge. Dhruv demonstrates what it is like to value both community and those around school.



Edi Murphy
Hiwinui School

Edi has been an amazing volunteer this year, helping both charities and his school in numerous ways. Currently, Edi has been coaching the Year 5 and 6 basketball team. He has been taking weekly practices at school, made his own Player of the Day trophy and goes to each game to support and guide his team. Edi has also done baking for the charity Kind Hearts - making, packaging and delivering baked goods to the parents who have children in hospital in the Neonates and Children's ward. Edi is a tech whiz, and he created a flyer for the SPCA to ask for donations from the public.



Harry Rutherford
Manchester Street School

Harry has been a dedicated volunteer with Feilding Friends of Arohanui Hospice for several years. This group raises around \$20,000 annually to support local services through Arohanui. Harry helps at annual quiz nights by selling raffles, collecting answer sheets, and packing down the venue. He also sells raffle tickets outside New World, hot cross buns, and sunflowers. In addition, Harry volunteers for Meals on Wheels, delivering meals to those who are unable to cook for themselves. He is always cheerful and brings a smile to the faces of those he visits. Harry's commitment, reliability, and warm personality make him a valued contributor to his community and a role model for other young volunteers.



Kaia Te Moana
North Street School

Kaia is an outstanding example of a rangatahi who truly embodies the spirit of community contribution through volunteering. Her passion and commitment are evident in every action; Kaia consistently gives her time to help those around her, often putting others' needs before her own. She dedicates herself wholeheartedly to various causes, showing a remarkable willingness to go the extra mile. Kaia's tireless efforts and genuine desire to make a difference have resulted in a significant and positive impact on her community, making her a truly deserving recipient of recognition for her service.



Kara Ackroyd
Lytton Street School

Kara is a shining example of youth leadership and community spirit. Known for creating helpful guides and offering support wherever it's needed, Kara goes above and beyond to make a difference. From being a school librarian and part of our leadership group, Te Raukura, to being a guide leader, Kara's dedication to sharing knowledge and lending a hand has made a lasting impact.



Lilliann Radich
Hiwinui School

Lilliann is an energised leader and her vibrant approach to organising fun activities is appreciated. She puts her hand up for extra responsibilities and happily volunteers to make things happen. We are proud of Lilliann's confidence leading school events and we love the initiative she shows implementing her own personal ideas. Lilliann loves drama and she has used this personal passion by volunteering to co-lead our Drama club. Lilliann spends her lunch breaks writing drama scripts, helping younger learners learn their lines and is now involved in creating a school drama performance. As our Head Girl, Lilliann also volunteers for many other jobs around our Kura - she generously uses her own time to support others.



Lyla Baxter
Manchester Street School

Lyla is a kind, compassionate student who cares for all. She is our Totara House Leader and is an excellent role model for those around her. Lyla uses her break times to help in our junior playground, monitor our bush walk and assist in our sick bay. She is also a dependable, responsible member of our Road Patrol team performing in all weathers. Lyla recently volunteered to spend her public holiday baking cupcakes which she then sold the next day at netball to help fundraise for a FIS event.



Samuel Woodhouse

Hiwinui School

Sam Woodhouse is passionate about helping his community through volunteering. Currently, he is volunteering for the Meals on Wheels service (with the support of his Dad as driver), supporting older, ill, and disabled people living at home who would otherwise struggle to provide healthy meals for themselves. Sam also takes on community projects such as weeding the Hiwinui bank near the school and water blasting the Ashhurst St Columba's Catholic Church fence. He has been on barbecue duty for Te Kāwau rugby club and Riversdale beach golf club during fundraising events. Sam volunteers at Palmerston North Parkruns. He has also made cat toys to donate to the SPCA. He picks up rubbish around his community and at school.



Sophie Gordon-Crosby

Feilding Intermediate

Sophie contributes meaningfully to our community by volunteering at the hospice shop during holidays, supporting her peers at school, and helping maintain our school environment. Her practical, reliable service demonstrates genuine community spirit without seeking recognition or praise.

13+ Years



Fin Crofskey

Newbury School

Fin is a dedicated and passionate volunteer who has made significant contributions to the school community. As Head Boy and a heavily involved member of Student Leadership, he consistently supports younger students in stepping outside their comfort zones, trying new things, and building confidence. Fin is a positive role model, eager to embrace new opportunities and initiatives, and he actively organises sporting activities for younger students during lunchtimes. He consistently tries his best and looks for opportunities to improve and take on new challenges.



Harlow Macdonald

Nga Tawa Diocesan

Harlow has been an active volunteer in a number of spaces. She volunteers on the Manawatu Youth Advisory board run through Youthline. She is an avid member of her UNICEF group at school. Harlow regularly volunteers at her former primary school, Rongotea School in the New Entrant classes, helps out on athletics day and, extends her enjoyment of working with youngsters to her ballet studio where she is a senior dancer, supporting the pre-primary class in their recent production. Harlow has shown commitment and dedication in the service of others. It would be wonderful to see Harlow rewarded for her selflessness.



Kaelyn Swanson

Feilding High School

Kaelyn has run our netball umpiring squad this year. Every week she must allocate umpires for 25 games played on a Saturday. She supports the umpires by providing training sessions to help upskill and keeps track to ensure our top umpires will receive school pins. She is also working towards completing the requirement for a zone badge for umpiring while helping to coach a junior netball team. Kaelyn also gives up her time to support junior students' literacy through our Tuakana-Teina programme. She has this year completed the requirements for the Gold Duke of Edinburgh award, a fantastic achievement for any young person.


Kayden Mills
Feilding High School

Kayden has contributed extensively across a range of areas at Feilding High School but it is willingness to give back that really stands out. He can often be found on the sidelines coaching, supporting and encouraging younger football players in his role as a student coach. Kayden also gives up his time to referee football games. He is a member of the school Sports Committee which is responsible for the organisation of a number of major school sporting events as well as interhouse competitions. Kayden is a fantastic role model for other students and has made some invaluable contributions which benefit a number of students.


Kendyl Humphrey
Feilding Intermediate

Kendyl demonstrates community spirit through her sunflower fundraising initiative for Arohanui Hospice. Working alongside her mum, she actively supports multiple hospice events, showing dedication to a vital local cause. Her practical efforts make a significant difference, reflecting genuine care for our community.


Kyla Clark
Feilding High School

Kyla is our lead Stage Manager who led our Stage Management team for FAHS's sold out season of Annie, sacrificing many hours outside of rehearsals. She was also part of our lighting team, rigging for the show in excess of hours required. Kyla continues to lead the Stage Management team, meeting weekly and managing front of house, filming, health and safety announcements etc for all our senior productions. She recently hosted New Plymouth Boys High, learning and operating their lights in one hour. She is also part of the Arts Committee and is preparing for our Term 3 Short Play Showcase. Kyla can often be seen also helping with Props and Costumes, in and out of the Theatre classroom every day or lunch, helping wherever she can.


Kenzie Orr
Feilding Intermediate

Kenzie contributes to our community by coaching horse riding and running treks and lessons. She uses her practical knowledge to help others develop their riding skills, giving her time and expertise without seeking recognition.


Regan Martin
Feilding High School

Regan has volunteered his time for the last couple of years to support the hockey programme at Feilding High School through flying the drone which provides footage for a number of teams. This footage is used by the teams to analyse their performances and to enhance their technical and tactical understanding of the game. He is incredibly reliable and a fantastic young man who will just get stuck into any job that needs to be done to support staff and his fellow students.


Sohail Riyaz
Feilding High School

Sohail has been a fantastic volunteer helper to our Learning Support Coordinators in our A6 classroom which provides support for our students needing food, a quiet space or a friend to talk to. He is always the first to put up his hand to ensure that the room functions well. Sohail is polite and kind to anyone who comes in to the space. Many students have benefited from his kindness and warmth. The manaakitanga he has shown to others reflects all of our school values.


Te Maari Stretch-loane
North Street School

Te Maari has volunteered at softball meets in Palmerston North. Some of the duties involve packing up and cleaning up around the softball diamond as well as helping her aunty run the softball competition. She has also volunteered at local galas such as the Hato Pāora gala where she was on hand to perform whatever duties were necessary.

Te Tohu Iho Pūmanawa Whakamana Tangata

Proudly sponsored by



This award recognises a young person who has demonstrated an outstanding contribution to their whānau, community, church, school, or peers.

5 - 12 Years



Amanda Renting

Newbury School

Amanda, as Head Girl, consistently demonstrates an outstanding contribution to the school community. She is always willing to help and is actively involved in numerous initiatives, including the Cultural Team, Breakfast Club, Charity Team, and morning peer support for younger students. Amanda also supports classroom teachers in monitoring younger students during wet days, ensuring they have stimulating and rewarding activities. Amanda is a positive role model within our kura and brings a positive attitude to school every day.



Arorangi Atutahi

North Street School

Arorangi has made an outstanding and significant contribution to school and community through sports and leadership. She is currently a house leader at our school and has represented our school at the Young Leaders Day in Palmerston North, as well as representing Feilding in Rugby league, Basketball and Netball as well as attaining to representative level.



Arthur Thomson

Lytton Street School

Arthur is a quiet leader with a great sense of humour and a natural way of connecting with others. Running junior basketball with patience, encouragement, and just the right amount of fun, he creates a space where younger players feel supported and included. His steady presence, positive attitude, and ability to lead through actions rather than words make him a valued role model and a standout in the community.



Ayla Heap

Manchester Street School

Ayla is a busy, motivated student who contributes to many activities. She is a hard working member of our Ringamarie, leading the charge at Enviro Action Days and dragging her amazing whanau along for the volunteer journey. She also contributes in our Kapa Haka rōpu as a senior member leading waiata and routines and performing at a variety of community events. Ayla is a Road Patroller, a Books 'n' Bickies member and a member of our 2025 Leadership team where she contributes her time and skills in many different activities.



Caitlin Hennessy

Manchester Street School

Caitlin is a dynamic, enthusiastic student who is part of our MSS Leadership team. She cares passionately for our environment, involving herself fully in Enviro Action Days, helping implement change for environmental sustainability with planting, weed eradication, and plant propagation. Caitlin is also involved in fundraising for charity, she was an active leader in our recent Pink Shirt Mufti Day. She is also a senior member of our Kapa Haka rōpu that performs and entertains all around our local community.



Catelyn Nicholls

Colyton School

Catelyn is a thoughtful and committed House Leader who leads with kindness, respect, and quiet determination. She gives her time generously and always steps up to help others. Organised and reliable, Catelyn is involved in all areas of school life such as Jump Jam, school-wide events, her leadership challenge, and even taking on a lead role in the school production. She has grown hugely in confidence, especially in public speaking, and continues to push herself in every opportunity. Despite facing challenges, Catelyn has shown resilience and strength, making the most of every moment. She truly reflects the spirit of Whakamana Tangata and shows what it means to be a "Youth of Today, Leader of Tomorrow."



Elodie Ranger

Lytton Street School

As a standout member of the leadership group, Elodie leads by example with integrity, kindness, and a strong sense of responsibility. She is always willing to listen, support others, and step up when needed. She inspires and encourages her peers through both words and actions as seen in her involvement as school librarian and part of Te Rerenga Kōtare. Her positive attitude, dedication, and natural ability to bring people together make her a true role model and an invaluable part of the team.



Emily Satchwell

Colyton School

Emily is a kind and respectful house leader who leads through care and quiet strength. Always looking out for others, she offers help without being asked and checks in regularly to ensure those around her feel supported. Her actions speak volumes - whether she's leading activities, encouraging her peers, or simply being someone others can rely on. Emily plays a lead role in the school production, is a valued member of the netball and Jump Jam teams, and is currently completing the leadership challenge. A confident and thoughtful public speaker, she contributes to her school community in every way. Emily's warmth, empathy, and steady commitment truly reflect Whakamana Tangata and the 2025 theme Youth of Today, Leaders of Tomorrow.



Eve Lowe

North Street School

Eve is a very active member of her church. She helps with the running of weekly youth groups on North Street by organising and running games and activities. She looks after some of the creche aged children when they need help. She also helps with the ceremonial aspects of church affairs and travels and represents her local church at National camps around New Zealand.



Greta Murphy

St Joseph's School

Over the past year it has been lovely watching Greta grow in her singing confidence, beginning with participating in a talent show item, to now leading solo responses at liturgies and church. We are very proud of Greta for her role as the mouse in the local production of Cinderella.



Kiera O'Brien

Feilding Intermediate

Kiera is a kind and caring student who gives up her time, every Wednesday, Thursday & Friday afternoon to help at the Basketball arena. Her main role involves her setting up every court at the Palmy Arena to ensure each team has the equipment that they need to practice before their games. Kiera also thrives when helping out at school by being a good friend and confidante to those who seek her counsel. Although Kiera is a basketballer herself, volunteering her time in this way is above what is expected. She also volunteers to be the timekeeper, helps out in the score bench by selling mouthguards for Basketball Manawātū and ensuring that the basketball court rules are adhered to.



Koa Niwa

Feilding Intermediate

Koa has always been the shy, anxious student who would never say boo. Her quiet and kind nature saw her studiously working in the background. This year has been her year. She is leading kapa haka at school, singing solo's, volunteering her time out of school to give back to her old dance school by assisting them to fundraise, performing hip hop with her old dance troop and helping to teach dance to others. Koa made the Manawatū netball team this year. She helps students to sharpen their game skills by giving tips and advice to other netball players. Koa is a member of Children's University which encourages students to participate within their community.



Marc Chappell

Manchester Street School

Marc is an involved member of our kura. He contributes through his roles in our Leadership team where he assists with our junior school, he monitors peers in the playground, and helps organise school events for his peers. Marc is an active member of our Kapa Haka rūpu, recently performing at Pae Tamariki, Feilding Matariki Festival and for our local community. Outside school Marc is also involved in MiniGP motorcycle racing. He supports and encourages nervous first timers to start their journey. He always congratulates any racer he is up against, and mentors those that are new to the sport.



Tenley Ruth Richardson

Waituna West School

Tenley has an outstanding drive to serve others. At school Tenley has been a member of the student council for the past two years, one of these years as the chairperson. Tenley is a key member of our farm group, her knowledge and experience is invaluable. She is an exemplary role model who demonstrates tuakana-teina and amazing initiative as a school house leader and during school events. Tenley looks for opportunities that will challenge and extend her while still allowing others the opportunity to lead as well. Tenley embodies whakamana tangata in the community by umpiring netball and volunteering at community working bees. At home Tenley often cares for younger siblings and at church she helps by preparing kai.

13+ Years



Rosie Baxter

Feilding Intermediate

Rosie is a kind and generous student who has many leadership skills. She volunteers her time in the school holidays by working at Falling Creek Ranch christian camp which encourages 9-12 year old children to learn how to ride and look after horses. She is a member of our leadership group at school, she plays netball for Manawatū, she is front row of our school Kapa Haka group, has attended Tournament of Minds, is going to AIMS for netball, she was one of our team captains for AIMS and is a finalist in our Feilding Agrikids team who are travelling to Invercargill for the grand final.



Claudius Manu

North Street School

Claudius is an exceptional young person who truly embodies outstanding contributions to his whānau and wider community. He dedicates significant time and effort to his aiga (family), showing a deep commitment that goes beyond expectation. Claudius is driven by a powerful spirit of passion and persistence, always striving to do what is right. His unwavering integrity is evident in every interaction, and his dedication extends meaningfully to his church and faith, which clearly guide his actions. Claudius stands out as a genuine leader, inspiring those around him through his strong principles and his desire to uplift for the better.



Cody Hagger

Newbury School

Cody is an active and contributing member of the school community, serving as Deputy Head Boy. He is involved in various initiatives, including "wet day," "breakfast club," the "enviro team," and early morning support for junior students. Cody also takes the initiative to run a range of sporting opportunities for younger students during lunchtime. He is a positive role model within our kura.



Harlem Simiona

Feilding High School

Harlem has shown that in life you can overcome any obstacle or challenge if you commit wholeheartedly and with determination to achieve your goals. Harlem is an incredibly talented musician who has proven himself to be a reliable, respectful and passionate performer. He is well-liked by his peers who appreciate his gentle, calm demeanour and great sense of humour. Harlem is the consummate performer and team player who embraces any opportunity to take the stage. He will step into any musical role at short notice and never seeks to outshine anyone but rather does whatever task needs to be done. He has shown a real ability to collaborate with others and always maintain high standards.



Lavara Makutu

Feilding High School

Lavara has fully embraced all aspects of the school's drama extra-curricular programme since changing schools as a year 11. She produced an incredible performance as Annie in our school production of Annie. A hugely significant role, Lavara inspired all cast and crew with her dedication and resilience, rarely missing a single rehearsal. Even following knee surgery she continues to contribute widely in the drama department.



Luke McMenamin

Feilding High School

Luke has shown incredible resilience overcoming health challenges to audition for the school production of Annie where he performed with real stage presence. He also performed confidently in the Shakespeare Festival, the Short Play Showcase, and has joined the Costume and Prop teams. Luke empowers others by creating a safe place to perform and by being empathetic to others.



Paige True

Newbury School

Paige, as Deputy Head Girl, is a supportive and valuable member of the school community. She actively engages with students of all ages, building positive relationships both within and outside of school through her involvement in sports and leadership roles. Paige is consistently involved in supporting junior students through initiatives like "wet day," "breakfast club," and early morning support.



Roman Kinniburgh

Colyton School

Roman is a natural leader who puts others first and leads with confidence and kindness. As a House Leader, he brings energy and a positive attitude to everything he does, whether it's speaking in front of the school or helping out behind the scenes. He's always happy to give up his own time to support teachers and classmates, and he plays a big part in organising school events - taking real pride in making them fun and successful. Roman is also involved in Jump Jam, the school production, and is a keen athlete - giving his best in all areas of school life. His commitment and encouragement make a real difference. He's a great example of the "Youth of Today, Leaders of Tomorrow."



Tawari Te Hau-Grant

Hato Pāora College

Tawari exemplifies the qualities of an outstanding young Māori male, demonstrating strength across academic, spiritual, and cultural domains. He is an articulate and confident speaker of te reo Māori, a taonga that has earned him first place for the second consecutive year in the recent Ngā Manu Kōrero speech competition. Tawari will go on to represent Hato Pāora College and the Manawātū region in the Ngā Manu Kōrero National competition later this term. He is a future leader, grounded in his identity and equipped with the skills and character to inspire and influence others.



Turoa Merritt

Hato Pāora College

Turoa is an outstanding role model at Hato Pāora College. He demonstrates an excellent work ethic, consistently upholds high standards, and shows great teamwork across all sports. Proud of his Māori heritage, Turoa is an active member of the school's senior kapa haka group, speaks te reo Māori, and plays guitar during chapel services. His Catholic faith is equally important to him, and he leads by example, regularly taking a key role in Mass alongside the priest each week. Turoa is highly respected by both his peers and fellow students, who appreciate his approachable nature and genuine compassion. He consistently shows courtesy and respect towards his elders, and staff hold him in high regard, recognising the outstanding leadership qualities he demonstrates.



William Allomes

Feilding High School

William has shown this year the value in having a senior student who can mentor and support younger students around him. As a year 13 in the 1st XI boy's hockey team, he has shown a real desire to get alongside the younger players on the team and provides real encouragement both on and off the turf to the number of junior students who have taken the big step up to the top team. William has also been involved across a range of areas of school life including as a hockey umpire and 1st XI cricketer. He has shown a lot of personal growth and has taken his own experiences throughout his time at high school and used them to shape how he supports younger students who look up to him.

Te Tohu Manukura Leadership Award

Proudly sponsored by



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).

5 - 12 Years



Ash Hawker

Feilding Intermediate

Ash is a positive role model and an outstanding leader at Feilding Intermediate. He is an integral part of our leadership group and leads people and activities confidently. Ash is a well-respected peer; he actively looks for ways he can support those less confident than himself and is a positive role model for all around him. In addition to being a positive role model at school, Ash participates positively in Saturday morning rugby. Ash takes on opportunities to step outside his comfort zone to continue building his leadership skills.



Ashlyn Conroy

Colyton School

Ashlyn leads her house and school with integrity, strength, and pride, consistently setting a high standard for others to follow. As a house leader, she models clear communication, positive behaviour, and reliable organisation. Her ability to encourage and uplift those around her helps foster a strong, inclusive environment. Ashlyn is actively involved in many aspects of school life, including Jump Jam and netball, and she is a passionate and driven athlete. She represents Manawatū in badminton, trains in jiu-jitsu, and takes on every challenge with determination. Ashlyn also shines on stage as a lead in the school production. She leads with excellence in all she does, truly embodying the 2025 theme Youth of Today, Leaders of Tomorrow through her actions, dedication, and leadership.


Bella-Ne Cilliers
North Street School

Bella-Ne is a truly remarkable Year 8 student who epitomises leadership. She is an outstanding role model, consistently leading by example across all areas of school life. Bella-Ne's dedication is clear through her voluntary commitment to the breakfast club and her exceptional, super-reliable service as a road patroller or organising and leading school assemblies with her peers. She actively seeks out and embraces every opportunity, whether it's sporting challenges or cultural activities like kapa haka. In the classroom, Bella-Ne is a proactive leader, showing great initiative and consistently delivering excellent work, setting a high standard for her classmates. She is always there to help others when they need support and demonstrates an admirable respect for all adults. Bella-Ne's consistent positive contributions make her an incredibly deserving candidate.


Ben Bishop
Glen Oroua School

Ben leads with strength and mana. As our first-ever student Green Team leader, he brings people of all ages together around a shared vision. He takes a broad view of our local environment, and often suggests solutions that the adults don't have answers for. Ben is comfortable running meetings or connecting with students, staff, parents and visitors.


Connor Reader
Newbury School

Connor is a remarkable leader, consistently demonstrating excellent leadership skills within the school community. He excels at mentoring younger students, clearly communicating expectations, and setting high standards that positively influence his peers. Connor actively creates safe and welcoming environments for students and readily assists both teachers and students. His roles as House Captain and cultural group member, along with his involvement in morning peer support and monitoring younger students, highlight his commitment to fostering a supportive school environment.


Dallas Rogers
North Street School

Dallas is currently the North Street School Head Boy. He has been outstanding at public speaking. He is able to deliver a full mihi in Te Reo Māori and has spoken on behalf of the school. He spoke on a number of occasions while we were on a cultural exchange in China. Dallas is also one of our current kapa haka leaders. He leads the haka with ferocity and has charisma to lead other students.


Grace Coburn
Manchester Street School

Grace is a Student Representative in our Leadership team. She is a calm, quiet leader who involves herself fully, gently encouraging others with kind words and manaaki. Grace is a dedicated Road Patroller, a student leader who spends breaks assisting in our junior school and helping out in the sick bay. She also helps lead our Kapa Haka rōpu, performing for the first time at Pae Tamariki last month. Grace is a role model to her younger peers who adore her and her gentle manner.


Jack Howie
Manchester Street School

Jack is a gold-standard leader who always follows through on his commitments. As a valued member of our school leadership team, he works collaboratively to make our kura the best it can be for all tamariki. Jack takes on numerous responsibilities with punctuality, diligence, and care. He is also an outstanding sports-person whose positive actions and quiet integrity inspire others. Jack leads by example in all he does, showing maturity, reliability, and a strong sense of service to his school community.



Mason Jones

Lytton Street School

Mason is an inspiring student who embodies courage, curiosity, and kindness. Never afraid to step outside of his comfort zone, he gives every opportunity a go and leads by example through his willingness to take risks and try new things. As an enthusiastic leader of the Chess Club, a dedicated reader to ECE students, and an active member of the school production, Mason uplifts those around him with his passion, perseverance, and positivity. A true role model in every sense!



Mitchell Hills

Colyton School

As Head Boy of Colyton School, Mitchell exemplifies quiet, effective leadership through consistent action and humility. He leads by example, demonstrating integrity, responsibility, and respect in every aspect of school life. Over time, Mitchell has grown in confidence, particularly in public speaking, becoming a strong and clear voice for his peers. He plays a key role in organising and guiding school-wide initiatives, and is actively involved in a broad range of activities, with a particular passion for sport. Mitchell consistently upholds and models the school's CHAMPS values, earning the respect of students and staff alike. His calm presence, dedication, and steady influence align strongly with the 2025 theme Youth of Today, Leaders of Tomorrow.



Monty Baylis

Manchester Street School

Monty is a model student: honest, reliable and always leading by example. Monty will step up because he sees a need, using initiative to make small differences daily. He is respected by all students due to his hard work, moral compass, and perseverance in all aspects of life. People choose to follow a capable and competent leader with genuine intentions.



Natalie Scott

Colyton School

As Head Girl of Colyton School, Natalie is a compassionate and courageous leader who consistently inspires those around her. She exemplifies leadership not only through her roles and responsibilities but also in the way she treats others - with kindness, respect, and empathy. Natalie plays an active role in guiding school-wide initiatives, brings energy and enthusiasm to leading Jump Jam, and shines in the spotlight as a lead in the school production. She embodies the CHAMPS values in everything she does, setting high standards for herself and others across academic, cultural, and community life. Natalie's ability to lead with heart and conviction perfectly reflects the 2025 theme Youth of Today, Leaders of Tomorrow, and makes her a powerful role model for her peers.



Quinn McGlashan

Kimboton School

Quinn is a remarkable student leader who consistently demonstrates our school values through his actions. He leads by example, showing kindness, respect, and responsibility in all he does. Quinn is especially dedicated to supporting junior students, always offering guidance, encouragement, and a helping hand. His positive attitude and natural ability to inspire others make a lasting impact on our school community. Quinn's leadership, compassion, and commitment truly embody the spirit of a Young Achiever.



Rihari Searancke-Fifita

Feilding Intermediate

Rihari is a quiet yet influential leader in his class and all aspects of Te Ao Māori. During a recent Marae visit, he supported others by demonstrating the correct tikanga, helping guide them through the experience. In the classroom, Rihari continues to show leadership through his calm and respectful manner. He supports his peers without seeking recognition and consistently acts as a positive role model. His quiet confidence and deep cultural knowledge make him a valued presence among his classmates, both in formal settings like the Marae and in everyday school life.



Riley McKay

St Joseph's School

Riley is the Hauora Leader for our school, where she quietly leads with grace and respect. She has gone above and beyond this role by coaching two of the school's netball teams, as well as proactively engaging with the PTFA to organise a dance group performance at the upcoming school gala.



Tevaka Tuia

St Joseph's School

Tevaka is very proud of his Samoan and Tokelauan culture and shares this knowledge with our community. As the school Cultural Leader, Tevaka is the kaea for Kapa Haka, hangs different nationality flags on the pole to represent special days, as well as leading karakia and activities at Hui ā Whānau, in class, schoolwide, as well as at the church.



Zara Brown

Lytton Street School

Zara demonstrates integrity, empathy, and a strong sense of responsibility. She approaches challenges with quiet determination and always considers the wellbeing of others. Whether supporting peers, contributing to group initiatives, or upholding the spirit of Te Raukura, she shows what it means to be a true leader. Zara is known for setting up games and supporting younger students at break times and is a model student in the classroom. Her recent explorations of a high ropes course showed she could face challenges with a confident and positive mindset. Zara's actions speak louder than words, and her presence enriches our school community.



Zoe Woods

Lytton Street School

Zoe is an exceptional student who serves as a positive role model within the school community. Zoe's leadership in kapa haka and her representation of the school across various sports exemplifies her commitment and versatility. Zoe is consistently supportive of her peers, offering assistance and encouragement to those who may be struggling. She approaches all her roles with thoughtfulness and integrity, upholding and reflecting the values of our school.

13+ Years



Asher Macdonald

Nga Tawa Diocesan

Asher has shown leadership skills in the realm of sports. She has been a member of Feilding Moa, competing in athletics meets as an open runner despite her young age. An example of this is helping make up the team "RALF" - Rangitikei, Ashurst, Levin and Feilding for the Central League athletics events, even as the youngest competitor. Asher has led the Feilding team in the relay events at Colgate Games, with tremendous success. She is also a member of the Central Development League U14 Girls Football team - and as an older player, fosters positive relationships within the team. When she is not competing herself, she assists coaches with setting up and cleaning up and has volunteered at school sports events.



Ella-Grace McLean

North Street School

Ella-Grace is our current Deputy Head Girl. She has been able to represent our school on a number of occasions by traveling to China on a cultural exchange as well as presenting the wreath at the ANZAC memorial in Feilding. She is the current captain of the Netball A team and leads her team with pride.



Elle Bourke

Feilding High School

Elle has provided strong leadership in her capacity as Head Girl of L J Wild House. She leads with a quiet calmness in all that she does. Elle has been a great support to junior students in the dorms and is a good role model for others. She leads her prefect team to ensure that the hostel runs smoothly and that the culture around the dorms is positive. She has helped to organise a number of hostel events and provides support to both staff and fellow students.



Hurihea Katene

Feilding Intermediate

Hurihea is an exceptional leader, both within school and across the various sporting and cultural groups she participates in. Hurihea captains both her rugby and league team. She is kaitataki of the Feilding Intermediate Kapa Haka Rōpū. Hurihea still returns to her previous school to support her old Kapa Haka Rōpū team. Hurihea is an active member of the FIS leadership group and she happily steps up to take charge whenever the opportunity presents itself.



Jayde Swanson

Feilding High School

Jayde has been the consummate performer and leader within the music department. She epitomises the school values in all that she does. Nothing is ever a problem for her, she embraces every opportunity and always performs to an exceptional standard. She is willing and able to work alongside peers of all ages and skill levels, and while she expects high standards from everyone she provides encouragement and support to all of those that she works with. She is a fantastic communicator, is incredibly reliable and an amazing role model! She applies her skills in the Production Band, Chamber Music, Arts Committee, and any music group that needs her. She leads by example on and off the musical stage.



Jaye Duff Edwards

Feilding High School

Jaye has a positive can-do attitude and has contributed extensively to Feilding High School. She is an integral member of the Community Committee, while also taking on the role of secretary in the Student Council for 2025. She represented the school admirably at the ANZAC Dawn Service where she was a student speaker. She also attended the World Vision Youth Conference earlier this year. Jaye is a great role model for other students and has shown her willingness to support others in her involvement with the Tuakana-Teina mentoring programme which supports junior students with their literacy.



Maia Stewart

Feilding High School

Maia is a very capable and confident co-leader of the Student Council at Feilding High School in her role as Head Girl. She is an incredibly talented dancer who has performed for the school dance troupe as well as performing and competing for community dance groups at events in both New Zealand and Australia. She is an outstanding role model for her peers and is always patient and supportive of others. Maia always looks for opportunities to get involved whether it be on the dance stage, netball court, umpiring, sports committee, school production or at the World Vision Youth Conference. Maia has a bright future ahead of her.



Nate Duthie

Feilding High School

Nate is a Year 13 Drama student who shows leadership in all aspects of Drama. He is leader of the Costume Team. Nate co-leads and supports the Theatresports drop-in centre and is part of the competition team. Nate played Oliver Warbucks in our production of Annie, standing out as a strong leader amongst the cast, who is always positive, kind, friendly and supportive. He attended the National Youth Drama School and brought back his knowledge into the classroom, leading games and activities. He also leads by role-modelling as a dedicated actor, often the first to learn lines, and commit 100% to rehearsals and roles he plays, and maintaining Excellence in the classroom. Younger actors look up to him hugely.



Nixon Foreman

Feilding High School

Nixon has shown leadership through his actions, not just his words. He has empowered his teammates on and off the rugby field with his dedication to improving his performance and supporting others around him. Although he is a man of few words he is always supportive of his peers and is a good role model for others particularly junior students who look up to him. As well as his performances on the rugby field Nixon has also been the Head Boy of L J Wild House where he has helped to organise a number of hostel events while ensuring hostel standards are maintained.

A note from our

Youth Engagement Officer

"Ko ngā rangatahi o nāianeī, hei Rangatira mō apōpō"

It's a privilege to stand alongside our Manawatū Youth Council and celebrate the incredible rangatahi of our district. These young people don't just represent the future, they are already

leading, creating, serving and challenging the status quo in ways that inspire and uplift our whole community. Through their mahi, we see mana in action, kaitiakitanga in practice, and whanaungatanga woven into every connection they make.

This year's theme, Youth of Today, Leaders of Tomorrow, is a reminder that leadership isn't something we wait for, it's something our young people live every day. Whether they are standing on stages or supporting others quietly in the background, their impact is real and lasting.

To every nominee, thank you for being unapologetically yourself. To our schools, whānau, mentors, and communities, ngā mihi for backing our youth. And to those reading this: never underestimate the strength, vision and aroha of our next generation.

Joseph Mckechnie



A note from our **Liaison Councillor**

**Mate atu he tētēkura ara mai
rā he tētēkura**

When one frond withers another rises to replace it.

The team has continued to grow and thrive in the lead-up to the 2025 Young Achievers Awards. This year's theme, "Youth of Today, Leaders of Tomorrow," celebrates the incredible potential of our young people and the impact they are already making in our communities. It reminds us that leadership isn't just about the future, it starts with the actions, values, and vision of today's youth.

Each year, we are inspired by the entries we receive and the remarkable stories behind them. The achievements of this year's award recipients, and all those who were nominated, are a testament to the drive, creativity, and leadership emerging across our District. We are proud to celebrate their accomplishments and look forward to seeing how they continue to shape the future.



Councillor Lara Blackmore

A note from our **First Māori Ward Councillor**

**E ngā rangatahi mā, e ngā rangatira
o tēnei rā, nei rā te mihi maioha ki a
koutou. Ko Ruahine te pae maunga e
tū mai rā, Ko Ōroua te awa e mahea nei
aku māharahara, Ko Ngāti Kauwhata,
Ngāti Matakore, Ngāti Raukawa ki te
tonga, Ngāti Maniapoto me Ngāti Hauā
oku iwi, Ko Bridget Bell tōku ingoa.**

I am the first Māori Ward councillor for Manawatū District, and I'm passionate about seeing rangatahi recognised not just as the future, but as the powerful leaders you already are.

With a background in communications, I've worked in research project management and recently co-authored with Professor Doug Ashwell on an abstract exploring equity and the future of authentic partnership in Aotearoa.

I've held roles in the Massey Business School and Te Hono ki Raukawa claims. I currently serve on the national Te Maruata and Young Elected Members (YEM) committees, helping shape the future of local government across Aotearoa. I'm a marriage celebrant, an Auntie, a dreamer and someone who believes deeply in the power and potential of rangatahi.

It is exciting our youth are recognised and celebrated on this auspicious occasion. The courage you carry, the lived experience you hold, and the change you're capable of creating - that's what uplifts and gives our community hope.

During my kōrero, I'll share what it's like navigating leadership as a wāhine Māori, the unexpected insights, the lessons that guide me, including the ones I learned right here, in this takiwā called Manawatū and the moments of clarity that continue to ground me in my why.

Ka nui te mihi ki a koutou katoa. I can't wait to celebrate you.

Councillor Bridget Bell





Our Sponsors

These awards wouldn't be possible without the help and support from the following organisations and individuals.

A big thank you to all of you, from all of us.

Our Youth Council and Support Team

Kahupounamu Joyden-Rose Potaka (Chair)

Kaea Tahī-Martin (Co-Chair)

Finn Lachlan Macdonald

Maarire Komene

Wiremu Bray

Madeleine Lloyd

Kyle England

Mackenzie Carman

Ruth Doyle

Ivanna (Carlota) Centeno

Rose Jeffery

Aislinn Kuriger

Sam McLean

Darren Wijerathna



Venue and Support

Feilding Civic Centre

Manawatū District Council

Mayor Helen Worboys

Communications Team: Victoria Sharp, Barry McGoldrick

Councillor: Lara Blackmore

Photographs: Hannah Tokona

Community Team: Janine Hawthorn, Joey McKechnie

Kawakawa Nursery

Project Co-ordinator: Kate Saxton

A decorative graphic featuring several teal stars of varying sizes and teal dots scattered around the text. Some stars have thin teal lines trailing behind them, suggesting a celebratory burst or fireworks.

Congratulations
to all our winners!

