

Oto rangatahi leaders chosen

OTOROHANGA mayor Max Baxter says learning from young people is a valuable tool for leading the district.

He recently selected two local youth to participate in the annual Mayors' Taskforce for Jobs leadership programme called TUIA, which involves mayors throughout the country choosing young Maori from their district to mentor on a one-on-one basis.

The programme's motto: "With the right support and the right opportunities, these young leaders could, in time, become drivers of social and economic change in their respective communities."

In Otorohanga they are University of Waikato student Tori Koroheke (21) and service station attendant Eru Taane (22).

Mr Baxter says he is looking forward to the journey with Tori and Eru who are both great role models.

"They both have a lot of passion and I believe they will be really valuable for mentoring other young Maori in our community.

"And I certainly believe they'll get a heck of a lot out of the vision, beliefs and passion that the other rangatahi will be able to share with them throughout the year."



YOUTH LEADERS: Otorohanga's Eru Taane (left) and Tori Koroheke have been selected by mayor Max Baxter as youth mentors for the district as part of the TUIA rangatahi leadership programme. PHOTO SUPPLIED

SHARING VALUES

Aside from one-on-one mentoring, the mayor and rangatahi attend four wananga throughout the year to network with other participants on the programme.

They also meet monthly to provide an opportunity for Mr Baxter to better understand the youth leaders' world view as young Maori while providing the young leaders with opportunities to explore local

government and civic leadership.

"The TUIA programme is all about sharing different values, theirs and mine, so we can both grow from the experience," says Mr Baxter.

"Although their formal involvement is only for one year, the vision is that they'll come back and continue to mentor our young people and it becomes a lifelong commitment."



REWARDING RESIDENTS: Waitomo District Council community development co-ordinator Donna Macdonald wants residents to nominate those they believe have benefitted the Waitomo community.

Awards entries open

NOMINATIONS for the 2015 Waitomo District Citizens Awards are now open.

Established in 2012, the Waitomo District Citizens Awards recognises the outstanding achievements of individuals, who through their exceptional community spirit and dedication have made a significant contribution within the Waitomo district.

Past winners include Hilary Karaitiana (2012), Sandra Squier (2013) and Terry Bradley (2014).

Hosted by the Waitomo District Council, community development co-ordinator Donna Macdonald encourages all local residents to nominate anyone they believe deserves the recognition.

"The Waitomo District Citizens Awards gives our community the

opportunity to recognise people who have made an outstanding contribution to the Waitomo district over many years for the Lifetime award and in particular, the past 12 months for the Citizen of the Year award.

"These awards are for things that people have done over and above the call of duty, for the benefit of the community.

"They help to make the Waitomo district a better place to live."

Nominations close at 5pm on April 7.

The awards ceremony is expected to be held in June.

For more information about the awards nomination criteria or to download a nomination form visit the website - waitomo.govt.nz

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Subject to class numbers and programme confirmation

Enquire now - spaces are limited!

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