Young talent to go on show

THE top 10 finalists in this year's Waitomo's Got Talent event will do battle in Te Kuiti tomorrow night.

Auditions for the second annual talent quest, co-ordinated by the Waitomo District Youth Council, were held at Te Kuiti High School on July 31, with 14 song and dance acts from competitors representing Piopio, Te Kuiti and Otorohanga.

Nine finalists were chosen by judge Ra Stephens with one added later after submitting a video entry.

They are:

Armadeus Hita, Jasmin Kennard, Trae Aitken, Talesha Waretini, Tipene Thackray, Ariana Joseph and group acts Taylor Matthews and Chris Bio, Paige Bell and Charm Rhind, Stevie-Lee Williams, Baylee Rangitaawa and Tahlia Matthews, Tamea Te Rauna, Montesha Perawiti, Puhi Ngawaka, Te Awhina Anderson and Tailah Teddy.

Tomorrow's final showdown is at the Waitomo Cultural and Arts Centre with performances beginning at 7pm.

The winner of the \$300 first prize will be selected by judges Tai Huata, Julie Radice and Matahoe Clarke.

The second placegetter receives \$200 and third \$100.

SUPPORT PLEASE

Youth council member Isaiah Wallace says the event is a great way to showcase North King Country's talented youth.

"We encourage everyone to come down and see the talent we have because we're not all just naughty kids hanging out on the street."

Fellow council member Keegan Grainger says the show is a great chance for the performers to shine.

"All of the performers are an inspiration because they're proof that if they can do it so can we.

"So come along, enjoy the acts and show your support for the youth of this district."

SPECIAL GUEST

Special guest, and 2013 winner Rikihana Rhind and members from the youth council will also perform on the night.

Youth council co-ordinator Donna Macdonald expects more than 500 people to fill the civic centre.

"Everyone that came to last year's



SHOWTIME: Waitomo District Youth Council members Isaiah Wallace (back left), Taonui Campbell, Keegan Grainger, Pikipo Takerei, Glen Maaq-Strickland, Caitlin Katipa-Maikuku (front left), Grace Kroon, François Turner and Mahaleighyah Watene are hosting the second annual Waitomo's Got Talent showcase event in Te Kuiti tomorrow night.

sellout event was just blown away by the amount of talent we have and I expect it to be bigger and better this year," she says.

"It will be a fun filled night with plenty of great

performances to keep everyone entertained.

"We are all really looking forward to it." An entry fee is payable at the door and refreshments are available for sale from 6pm.



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