

Awards event for youth

AN awards ceremony organised by youth for youth will take place in Te Kuiti next month.

Hosted by the Waitomo District Youth Council, the inaugural Waitomo District Youth Awards will be held at the Les Munro Centre on January 23.

Currently in the nominations stage, the event aims to celebrate and acknowledge outstanding successes by Waitomo teens during the past 12 months.

Nominations for six categories – sport, education, leadership, community, culture and arts and supreme – close on Friday for young people aged 13-18 who have lived in Waitomo for at least a year.

Funding of \$21,000 for the event was received in July from the Government's Youth Development Partnership Fund which was established to get people aged 12-24 involved in leading community projects.

Youth council spokesperson Sydney Karaitiana says the awards are also an opportunity to teach those involved what it takes to plan a major event from booking a venue to secur-

ing judges and budgeting as well as public speaking, time management and marketing.

CELEBRATION

Aside from learning how to develop and deliver a detailed management plan, Sydney says the main objective is to celebrate and showcase youth achievement.

"There are a lot of youth achievements in this district that go unrecognised," she says.

"Outside of the annual school prizegivings and sports awards, there are many other things young people do that don't fit in to those events.

"So for me, this would be a success if it makes our youth feel deserving and valued for what they've achieved this year."

Other youth council members involved in planning the event say they've learned the value of leadership, teamwork and time management as well as appreciation for those who host other major events locally.

"It's a great learning curve for everyone involved and the skills gained from hosting an event like this will



YOUTH SHOWCASE: Waitomo District Youth Council members Cherish McMillan-Knapp (left), Juanita Ogle-Mikara, Cameron Sneddon, Sydney Karaitiana and Tahlia Matthews are looking forward to hosting the inaugural Waitomo District Youth Awards next month.

be very beneficial to us in the future," says Sydney. "There's still a long way to go from now until January 23 but we'll get there."

Following the awards event, which will be from

2.30pm-5.45pm, the youth council is also hosting an inter-school social beginning at 7.30pm.

For more information about youth awards event – see the advertisement below.



Nomination Categories:

- Youth in Sport • Youth in Education
- Youth in Leadership • Youth in Community
- Youth in Culture & Arts • Supreme Award

Nominations

OPEN Nov 23 **CLOSE** Dec 18

Awards night
Jan 23

Nomination Form Questions:

Name.....

Category.....

Name of school and/or current employment status.....

Date of birth.....

Mobile.....

Email.....

In 100 - 150 words explain why you (or the nominee) deserve to win the category.....

What are the key achievements and experience gained that relate to the category?.....

Provide two references for this nomination please (can be personal, educational or work referees).....

Nomination forms can be sent to
Number 12 - level 1, 12 King St East, Te Kuiti Te Kuiti 3910