

2023 Youth to Work Award Winners



The 2023 Youth To Work Awards had a refresh this year, opting for a more personal approach rather than the usual awards presentation. Mayor Phil Nixon visited each nominee at their workplace to present them with their award and congratulate each person or business on their achievements. "I think youth in employment and the businesses who support them should be celebrated, so it was great to be able to hear their stories in their workplace and hear more about the great work being done in our communities," says Mayor Nixon. The Youth to Work Awards is brought to the community by the Mayors Taskforce for Jobs (MTFJ) and the South Taranaki District Council. Find out more about the MTFJ online at www.southtaranaki.com/mtfj



Lyta McMillian
Cut and Dried

Young Achiever Award

Lyta has completed her hairdressing apprenticeship and achieved amazing results throughout. Her nominator said "She is always eager to learn by watching other stylists, doing online training courses and in salon training, and supporting the other stylists as well. She has also been a great role model for Western Institute of Technology in Taranaki (WITT) students we have had in for work experience by helping them with the basics of hairdressing."



Jack Tanakehu
Pātea Butchery

Young Achiever Award

Jack began his apprenticeship with Pātea Butchery in March this year. He has settled in really well, having completed many of his units already and mastering some critical butchery skills. His nominator said "He is gaining confidence in both his skills and customer service. Jack is always pleasant and smiling and a very dedicated worker. He is an excellent example of a local young man who has taken advantage of an opportunity to work and learn in his home town."



Rhiannon Tito
Te Whatu Ora

Young Achiever Award

Rhiannon is the medical administrator at the GP Practice at Hāwera Hospital. She interacts with a diverse group of people in a patient-facing reception and a multidisciplinary team of clinicians. Her nominator said "This is a role that takes a lot of courage, resilience and professionalism and Rhiannon has excelled! As she grows and learns she actively looks to take on more challenges. She doesn't shy away from hard mahi - she excels with a smile, kindness, and diligence."



Nicola van der
Westhuizen
Silver Fern Farms

Young Achiever Award

In 2021, Nicola cast a welcome light on a male dominated Silver Fern Farms maintenance team when she began as an electrical apprentice in 2021. She set out a career goal and is well on her way, keen on progressing into a management role and continuing to learn and grow. Her nominator said "In addition to her qualifications, the life skills she has learned have been invaluable, working with different people. Once a very shy, quiet girl, she is now a confident and capable member of the team."



Patrick Pullen
Silver Fern Farms

Te Pae Tawhiti Award

Patrick started at Silver Fern Farms in 2016 in a meat worker role and stood out as someone with real potential. He has since stepped into the role of Production Co-ordinator with significantly more responsibility. His nominator said "His parents and several of his whanau work here, so it has really become a family tradition. Patrick has all the right attributes to continue to develop his career path with whatever field he chooses. He is well respected by staff and management at all levels."



Danelle Buckland
Viva Hair Design

Education, Training and Work Experience Award

Her nominator said "Danelle is amazing when it comes to giving local students work experience. This year alone she took on three students and helped them get amongst experiencing a day in the life of a possible career pathway, as well as helping them out with their unit standards for NCEA. Without businesses like these giving our students work experience, the Gateway Programme would not be the success that it is."



Evergreen
Plumbing

Employer Award

Their nominator said "Evergreen Plumbing have four apprentices who will all walk away with three different trades at the end of their 5-year journey. The company is supportive of their learning and provide additional night lessons to enhance their skills, subsidise their travel to trade school and invest in their growth and development. The experienced team of 12 take their time to pass on their knowledge and skills and the directors all have the same vision to support and grow our next generation."



Silver Fern Farms,
Hāwera

Employer Award

Their nominator said "Silver Ferns Farms Hāwera uphold their core values – Improving tomorrow, always caring, and unstoppable together. Silver Ferns Farms offer career opportunities and are constantly upskilling their staff, working hard to create a positive work culture, including Whanau day, hangi dinner for Matariki, and regular staff BBQs. They also support a wide range of community and schools as they believe it is important to give back to the community."