

# Youth Week 2016 Award Recipients

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## Change Maker

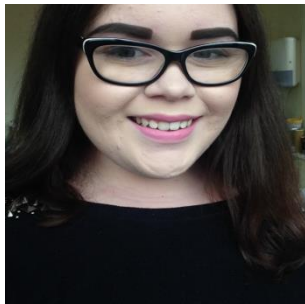
### Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex

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A Change Maker Award is awarded to young people who have created positive change in, or for, the LGBTI community.

### Bella Simpson, 19, Wellington

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Bella is a tireless advocate for transgender young people working with InsideOUT and the wider community to help young people who struggle with their identity or feel unsafe to speak out.

### Qmunity Youth Group Gisborne

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Made up of young high school students aiming to bring awareness to the wider community of the challenges of wanting to be accepted and understood by whanau, dealing with depression and anxiety of being labelled as 'different'.

## Alex Bramwell, 22, Hamilton

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An outstanding volunteer, mentor and educator with the Waikato Queer Youth organisation.

## Tessa Naden, 21, Auckland

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Tessa has put her heart and soul into finishing renovations of the AUSA Queerspace and improving relationships to create a better community for LGBTI youth on the Auckland campus.

## Rachel Brebner, 22, Auckland

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Rachel is Chair of Rainbow Youth and under her leadership, Rainbow Youth has expanded into a new, larger centre and has also launched several key education programmes nationwide that are free and easily accessible.

## Change Maker - Cultural

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A Change Maker Award is awarded to young people who have created positive change to foster cultural understanding in their community.

### Te Ariki Te Puni, 16, Palmerston North

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Te Ariki is committed to spreading the use of Te Reo Maori within his school and to influence Maori students as a positive role model for them to emulate. He has been highly successful in a number of speech competitions and leadership programmes.

### Jenny Wu, 17, Auckland

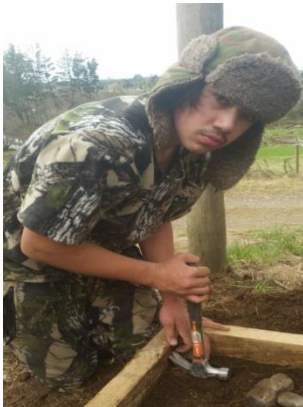
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Jenny has contributed positively to her community through her voluntary work at the Elizabeth Knox Rest Home by helping translate for the Chinese elderly and accompanying them. She also volunteers at the Totara Hospice Shop and started a Tibetan Thousand Hand Dance Cultural group.

## Khan Watkins, 14, Huntly

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From nearly dropping out of school at age 13, Khan now has a positive attitude towards school and also volunteers with Taupiri Youth Group completing community projects.

He has also spoken at nearby schools, sharing his story and encouraging young people not to give up if they hit a low point.

## Tyson Taikato, 24, Taupo

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Tyson is a committed community member and volunteer who works alongside kaumatua as an integral part of "Pou o te Haahi Ratana" Rangatahi Ratana movement. He tutors Kapa Haka, and volunteers to Te Kohanga Reo.

## Elijah Pue, 22, Wellington

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Elijah was awarded Top Maori Student at Ruapehu College in 2012 and since then has taken on leadership roles in Ngāi Tauira Maori Students Association, mobilising the student body, encouraging participation in student politics, and in the wider educational arena.

## Change Maker – Community Safety

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A Change Maker Award is awarded to young people who have created positive change, resulting in a safer environment for young people in their community.

## Atawhai Charitable Trust Gisborne

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Atawhai Charitable Trust Gisborne is a youth mentoring programme aimed at 11-12 year olds. Students are peer mentored by Atawhai student leaders and supportive community members from the Police, the Army, the Navy, teachers, schools and parents.

## Youth Search and Rescue Tauranga

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Youth Search & Rescue Tauranga's (YSAR) is a non-profit organisation which enables teenagers to develop the necessary skills to participate in becoming full active members of LandSAR.



## Ashleigh Smith, 18, Ranfurly

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Ashleigh is joint leader of Sticks n Stones, a student-led anti-cyber bullying group providing practical support and guidance to young people. Ashleigh's passion for cyber safety has been recognized across Central Otago as she has helped set up this programme in a number of schools.

## Maral Ghamkhar, 17, Palmerston North

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Maral has been successful with getting her peers, her school and the local Palmerston North Council on board with being sun-smart through mobilising a group of students who are educating young people on being sun-smart.

## Billy Turner, 17, Tairua

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For as long as he can remember Billy has wanted to be a firefighter. At the young age of 10, Billy linked with the Tairua volunteer brigade trainings. For the past two years he has now been a firefighter for the Tairua and Whangamata brigades. Billy also volunteers his time to the coastguard, and has been a member of the Land Search and Rescue.

## Leadership

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The Leadership Award is awarded to a young person who has demonstrated their leadership in a project or organisation.

### **Keryn Tubbs, 17, Alexandra**

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Keryn is a senior member of Sticks n Stones and is responsible for the growth of many of the organisation's partnerships. Her leadership and mentoring has also spread across Alexandra and the wider region. Keryn is also the 2016 Youth MP for the Waitaki electorate.

### **Ronan Fitch, 15, Cambridge**

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Ronan has contributed greatly to the community as a volunteer and a leader. For the last 3 years Ronan has volunteered his services to recite poem 'Not Forgotten' at ANZAC ceremonies. He also dedicates his time to entertaining the elderly, helping those in need by washing cars, weeding gardens and baking.

## **Stephen Jones, 17, Invercargill**

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Stephen has developed his leadership skills through both local and national activities. He dedicates his spare time to being chairperson of the Invercargill City Youth Council, serving on the New Zealand Flag Consideration Panel 2015/2016, and is part of the UN Aotearoa Youth Declaration.

## **Simon Thomas, 22, Takapuna**

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Simon is CEO of The Learning Collaborative a youth-led social enterprise that provides private one-on-one tuition, mentoring and revision courses for NCEA and CIE.

## **Alexia Hilbertidou, 17, Whangaparoa**

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Alexia is the founder of GirlBossNZ, an organisation created to address issues of gender equality. It develops the leadership of potential young women aged 13-18 years old through online magazines, a Facebook group and event pages.



## Giving Back

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The Giving Back Award is awarded to a young person whose action's address a current need and have had a significant impact on their community.

### Matthew Strawbridge, 17, Wellington

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Matthew has contributed greatly to his dyslexic community since he was 13 years old. He created a website called Dyslexic Potential which provides informative videos. Matthew also created and offers empowerment workshops to young people with dyslexia.

### Serena Lim-Strutt, 17, Hamilton

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Serena created the Over the Fence Ministry which provides role models for younger students and volunteers in a variety of areas such as helping students to read, in sporting activities, to play, providing meals, supporting staff, and helping to set up groups for dance, drama and Kapa Haka.

## Greagh Lee-Anne Love, 18, Rotorua

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Greagh has raised over \$10,000 to purchase two cuddle cots for Rotorua Hospital to increase the amount of time parents of stillborn babies can have to say their goodbyes. Greagh also set up a support group for mothers who have experienced infant loss.

## Ben Wigley, 24, Twizel

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Ben is the co-founder and lead developer of Banqer, the online financial education software for kiwi kids in NZ schools. The website is a fun and engaging platform that helps users learn about money.

## Jessica Hill, 14, Tawa

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Jessica Hill is the Food Depot Coordinator for Kiwi Community Assistance, a non-profit organization that acts as a distribution hub for community groups by sourcing food, clothing, footwear, whiteware, household goods and furniture.

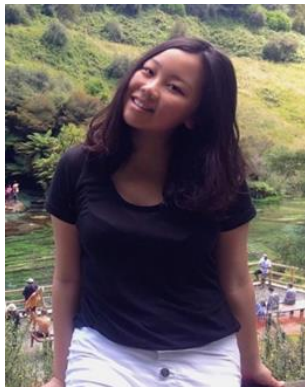
## Working for Youth

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The Working for Youth Award is awarded to a young person whose actions specifically support other young people in areas such as (but not limited to) the arts, culture, the environment or sport.

### Ilene Lei, 17, Auckland

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Ilene is co-leader of the Student Council at her school, and has left work to fundraise for the Young Achiever's Fund which seeks Year 7-Year 13 students who, for financial reasons, need support to pursue cultural, sporting or College activity related goal.

### Vivien Huang, 16, Auckland

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Vivien is a UNICEF club leader. She organised the inaugural Media challenge competition, Rags to Riches Charity Ball, and fundraised for the Syrian Refugees. She also volunteers as an English teacher for refugees and migrants and helps them to integrate into Kiwi culture.

## William Wang, 17, Auckland

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William plays a huge part in NZMOSA, a student-run organisation that seeks to encourage students to participate in mathematical Olympiad-style problems. He is also involved in Harmonize, an annual music competition tailored to students of low decile schools.

## Eamon Walsh, 16, Rotorua

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Eamon Walsh is the leader of the Pause, Prompt, Praise programme, an initiative aimed at increasing the literacy skills of children who have learning difficulties and come from low socio-economic backgrounds. Eamon is also a 'big brother' mentor, on the JPC Youth Environment Team, Rotorua Youth Council, and Rotorua Youth Voice.

## Samantha Denton, 22, Auckland

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Samantha Denton has been volunteering for over two years for the Magic Movers StarJam workshop. The programme provides music and performance opportunities for young people with disabilities.

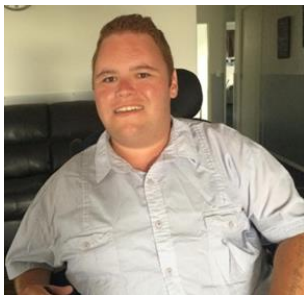
## Youth With Disability

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The Youth with Disability Award is awarded to a young person with a disability who has made significant contribution to the disability sector and/or their community.

### Michael Pulman, 24, Hamilton

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Michael has been working for CCS Disability Action and has his own website that focuses on disability, sports, politics, and video game news. Michael uses events and his website to make a positive contribution to the disability community.

### Hanna Deal, 21, Christchurch

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Hanna Deal's positive support and contribution to both the deaf, and Christchurch community is extensive. Hanna helped to establish Otago Deaf Youth, a group dedicated to helping young deaf people to participate in activities they may not usually get the chance to do and to establish support networks within the group.

## **Analise Twemlow, 12, Christchurch**

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Analise has Tourette's syndrome (TS), and has educates young people and the public about the syndrome.

Analise also volunteers her time to visit schools to speak to classmates and teachers of other children living with TS.

## **Hayden Scott-Chambers, 18, Invercargill**

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Hayden Scott- has been an active member of the Invercargill Youth Council since 2013. He is promoting that the city adopts a youth discount card.

Hayden dedicates his time to helping others.

## **Alice Dawson, 18, Auckland**

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Alice has been involved with Rainbow Youth for around 5 years. Legally blind and deaf, Alice is the first point of contact for many people who approach Rainbow Youth and makes them feel very welcome.



## Youth Group

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The Youth Group Award is awarded to a group of young people who have made significant contribution to their community in areas such as (but not limited to) the arts, culture, the environment or sport.

## Selwyn Youth Council

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This group of 13 young people aged 15-20 established POP Up Café. It is a non-profit organization that trains and employs local youth, then uses the proceeds to distribute as youth grants. The Meet Your Street project helped newcomers to the neighbourhood connect by visiting over 34 locations and serving free coffee to over 700 residents.

## Hurunui Youth Council

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Hurunui Youth Council has helped with an anti-bullying programme, and are currently running an initiative called Tech-Labs where young volunteers help people how to use their electronic devices. The HYC also oversee the Hurunui Youth Programme which runs recreational events. They also identify road safety issues and have implemented a sugar-free beverage policy at all events.

## Te Ara Rangatahi o Ngati Te Ata

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Te Ara Rangatahi o Ngati Te Ataha run numerous events such as the Computers in Homes programme which enabled some families across the community to receive a free computer, computer skills and get connected to the internet for 12months. The group also supported Learner License Driver programmes, taught families how to catch whitebait, and provided leadership programmes for youth.

## The Worthy Film Crew

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The Worthy Film Crew created the short film "I am Worth It" which explored issues of identity, bullying and self-esteem. The crew is made up of 6 members aged 15-18. They won the Northland Youth Summit which enabled them to create a further short film "Youth Pride, Youth Passion, Youth Change" which focused on positive initiatives being led by young people for young people.

## Tahuna Pa Boys

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Tahuna Pa Boys are a group who have come together to help out their community. The boys built a youth centre for their Marae which included the renovation of another building. This space is now used for youth led initiatives, programmes and youth Hui. They simply wanted to contribute to their Iwi and the wider community "out of love."

## Youth Champion

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The Youth Champion Award is awarded to an individual or an organisation who has made significant contribution to young people in areas such as (but not limited to) the arts, culture, education, the environment, health, research or sport.

### Jamie Beaton, 21, Auckland

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Jamie is the co-founder and CEO of Crimson Consulting, an education consultancy supporting young Kiwis to apply to learn at top-ranked universities around the world. Currently, Crimson has over 1000 tutors around the world.

### Sticks 'n' Stones

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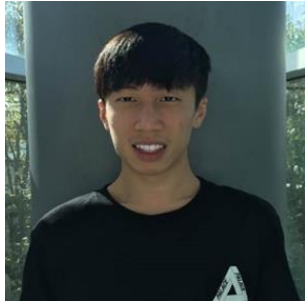


Sticks n Stones are an organization that provides a platform for young people to have their voices heard, and empowers them to take positive action to stop bullying. With over 120 members aged 11-18, Sticks n Stones provide workshops, presentations and support for young people and their families, schools and community groups.



## Warren Feng, 16, Auckland

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Warren has contributed through Gyropad which provides educational workshops for primary school students to alleviate the pressure of paper wastage. He has also founded Capucon, and volunteers at Trade Aid and the Albert-Eden Youth Board.

## Devi Malhotra, 23, Auckland

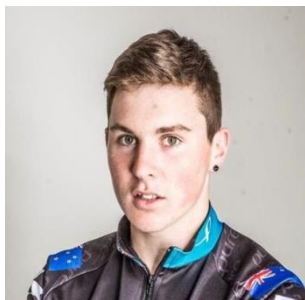
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Devi was co-President, and is currently the Board of Director for Auckland Microfinance Initiative (AMI), a student-led organization that creates positive social impact by trying to eradicate poverty in New Zealand and global communities through microfinance.

## Michael Bias, 21, Auckland

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Michael is a committed sportsman who not only is an Elite BMX rider, but provides assistance, coaching and advice to clubs across New Zealand. He utilises this time to help other riders through coaching clinics and track development.