



Pānui pāpāho | Media release

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NMIT students receive almost \$140,000 in scholarships

Across Te Taihū, NMIT has partnered with generous community and industry organisations to support outstanding students in their study journey

Over \$90,000 in scholarships were awarded at the annual NMIT Scholarship Ceremony in Nelson on Thursday, celebrating the outstanding achievements of local Nelson/Tasman ākonga (students) and the generous support of donors from across Te Taihū. This is in addition to \$47,000 being awarded earlier this month to students based in Marlborough.

The Nelson event brought together iwi partners, community organisations, industry leaders, NMIT staff, whānau, and scholarship recipients to honour the transformative power of education and collaboration.

Olivia Hall, Executive Director of NMIT, warmly welcomed guests and expressed her gratitude for the partnerships that make the scholarships possible.

“We’re fortunate to work with partners who recognise the lasting impact of investing in people. These partners are doing more than funding education; they’re helping shape the future workforce — our next nurses, builders, counsellors, te reo experts, artists, beauty therapists, conservationists and leaders. Through their support, individuals and industries become stronger, and opportunities are created that ripple far beyond the classroom,” she said.

Scholarships were presented by a wide range of supporters including the eight iwi of Te Taihū, Nelson Pasifika Trust, Nelson Soroptimist Education Trust, Beca, Nelson Pine Industries, New Zealand King Salmon, Mitre 10 Mega and Tasman Rugby Union, among others.



Among the recipients was Belinda Mintrom, who received an \$8,000 Annie Currie Legacy Fund Scholarship to support her Bachelor of Nursing studies. Another standout award was the \$10,000 Fifeshire-Hancock Scholarship, presented to Prastuta Bhatta, also studying nursing.

Olivia reflected on the significance of the occasion:

“Education changes lives, but no one achieves success alone. It’s events like these that remind us of the strength of our community and the importance of coming together to uplift one another. To our donors — thank you for your continued support. To our recipients — we are proud of you, and we can’t wait to see where your journey takes you.”

The scholarship recipients expressed their gratitude for the generous contribution to their studies:

“Receiving this scholarship means more than just financial support, it’s a taonga. It represents trust, investment, and belief in my potential from my iwi. It acknowledges where I come from, who I belong to, and where I am going for the future.”, Holly Irvine, Second year Bachelor of Counselling student, recipient of the Ngāti Kuia Scholarship.

“This scholarship means a lot to me. It’s not just funding—it’s encouragement and belief in my journey to become a registered nurse in New Zealand. It gives me the freedom to commit more time to my academic development and practical training without constantly worrying about finances.” Maria Rochelle Rivera, first year Bachelor of Nursing student, recipient of an NMIT Degree Scholarship

“I feel honoured and privileged to receive such an award. My highlight being on this learning journey is being able to fill my cup so that I can go back to my people and give back to them, to my marae and set a better foundation for the people of tomorrow.” Tamu Mausii, NZ Diploma in Te Reo (Rumaki) (L5), recipient of the Ngāti Tama Janice Manson Memorial Scholarship

“To me [receiving this scholarship] means I have the opportunity to study the full three years of the bachelor's degree and also support my academic work with resources. The scholarship has also motivated me to use my study to the fullest extent possible.”, Holly



Fortune, First year Bachelor Arts & Media, recipient of the Dame Alison Roxburgh Soroptimist Scholarship

“This scholarship has very special significance to me because it is in the name of my mother. Hoki wairua mai e te whaea, nau te kaha te aroha me te manaakitanga.” Melanie McGregor, NZ Diploma in Te Reo (Rumarik) (L5). Recipient of the Ngāti Koata Maria Tuo Hippolite Memorial Scholarship

“By being awarded this scholarship, I have had a boost in personal belief. I feel I will not just be a nurse, but a great nurse for all people I will support moving forward in my career. The financial assistance is also very much appreciated and will help towards paying off my loan.”, Belinda Mintrom, third year Bachelor of Nursing, one of two recipients of the Annie Currie Legacy Fund Scholarship

“This scholarship means a great deal to me and my family. It reinforces that I’m on the right path as I return to study and rebuild my career in New Zealand. Beyond the financial support, it also provides emotional encouragement and boosts my confidence as I re-enter the engineering field.”, Jericho Lobarbio, first year NZ Diploma Civil Engineering, recipient of the Beca Civil Engineering Diploma Scholarship

Full list of Nelson/Tasman scholarship recipients:

Award Name	Ākonga Name	Programme
Ngāti Koata Jack Kaiapa Kohe Scholarship	Te Mania Kohe-Evans	New Zealand Certificate in Te Reo (Level 3)
Ngāti Koata Maria Tuo Hippolite Memorial Scholarship	Melanie McGregor	New Zealand Diploma in Te Reo (Rumaki) (Level 5)
Ngāti Kuia Scholarship	Holly Irvine	Bachelor of Counselling Yr 2
Ngāti Rārua Scholarship	Sophia White	Bachelor of Social Work Year 2
Ngāti Rārua Scholarship	Daniel Petersen	Te Pōkaitahi Reo (Rumaki) (Te Kaupae 6)
Ngāti Rārua Scholarship	Rihari Watson	NZ Cert Te Reo (Reo Rua) (L 3 & L 4)
Ngāti Tama Scholarship (Manson Memorial)	Tamu Mausii	NZ Diploma in Te Reo (Rumaki) (L5)
Rangitāne Scholarship	Vanya George	NZ Diploma Te Reo (Rumaki) (Level 5)
Te Ātiawa Scholarship	Joanne Thomas	Bachelor of Social Work Year 4
Nelson Pasifika Trust Scholarship	Ruse Fatoga Taamia	Bachelor of Commerce - Year 1
Dame Alison Roxburgh Scholarship	Holly Fortune	Bachelor Arts & Media Year 1



Nelson Soroptimist Education Trust Scholarship	Emily Jones	Diploma Beauty Therapy Year 2
Nelson Soroptimist Education Trust Scholarship	Hannah Riach	Bachelor of Nursing Year 3
Nelson Soroptimist Education Trust Scholarship	Andrea Silva	Bachelor of Counselling Year 2
Nelson Soroptimist Education Trust Scholarship	Janette Telfer	Bachelor of Accounting Year 1
Nelson Soroptimist Education Trust Scholarship	Kameta Waharoa	Bachelor Social Work Year 2
Nelson Soroptimist Education Trust Scholarship	Louise Mullens	Bachelor of Nursing Year 1
Nelson Soroptimist Education Trust Scholarship	Nicole Nordstrom	Bachelor of Nursing Year 3
Nelson Soroptimist Education Trust Scholarship	Porscha Gillespie	Bachelor Social Work Year 4
Nelson Soroptimist Education Trust Scholarship	Rebecca Dawson	Bachelor of Counselling Year 1
Nelson Soroptimist Education Trust Scholarship	Tia Yaxley	Bachelor Social Work Year 4
Annie Currie Legacy Fund Scholarship	Belinda Mintrom	Bachelor of Nursing Year 3
Annie Currie Legacy Fund Scholarship	Lee Richardson	Bachelor of Nursing Year 2
Beca Civil Engineering Diploma Scholarship	Jericho Lobarbio	NZ Diploma Civil Engineering Yr1
Fifeshire-Hancock Scholarship	Prastuta Bhatta	Bachelor of nursing
Mitre 10 Mega Nelson - Construction Scholarship	Soviphou Phalla	NZ Cert Construction Trade Skills - Carpentry L3
Mitre 10 Mega Nelson - Construction Scholarship	Bailey Chapman	NZ Cert Construction Trade Skills - Carpentry L3
Nelson Pine Industries Business Scholarship	Reuben Holtham	Diploma in Business (L5) (Accounting) Year 1
New Zealand King Salmon - Aquaculture Scholarship	Kautea Tora	Bachelor of Aquaculture Marine Conservation Year 2
New Zealand King Salmon - Aquaculture Scholarship	Stella Hamilton	Bachelor of Aquaculture Marine Conservation Year 3
Tasman Rugby Union Scholarship	Joel Lauvale	Bachelor of Commerce - Year 3
NMIT Culinary Craftsmanship Scholarship	Blake Endersby	NZ Certificate in Cookery (Level 4)
NMIT Mediaworks (George FM) - Adult Learner Scholarship	Briar van Dort	Diploma in Te Reo (Rumaki) (Level 5)
NMIT Degree Scholarship	Ashley Dodd	Bachelor of Nursing Year 3
NMIT Degree Scholarship	Tuia Marama	Bachelor of Counselling Year 2
NMIT Degree Scholarship	Maria Rochelle Rivera	Bachelor of Nursing Year 1
NMIT Degree Scholarship	Genevieve Redwood	Bachelor of Nursing Year 3
NMIT Degree Scholarship	Tess Curnow	Bachelor Aquaculture Marine Conservation Year 2



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