



Media Information

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Record number of tertiary scholarships awarded

A record number of tertiary scholarships have been awarded by the Masterton Trust Lands Trust this year. Through its annual tertiary scholarship scheme, the trust this month awarded a total of \$159,500 to 319 students who have either lived in the trust district or are studying at UCOL Wairarapa. Each student received a \$500 one-off grant.

Masterton Trust Lands Trust chairman, Alan Sadler, said scholarship applications this year had exceeded any other year and for that reason the value of the scholarship had been reduced from its previous level. "We wanted to be able to support every eligible student within the funds available this year."

"The increased number of applications is positive as it indicates more local school leavers are entering tertiary education," said Mr Sadler. "Supporting education remains the focus of the trust's activities and it is fantastic to see the enthusiasm and commitment made by more students in tertiary studies."

Students of all ages and levels attending 39 tertiary institutions throughout New Zealand will benefit from this year's scholarships.

Students attending UCOL Wairarapa received 133 of the 319 scholarships. The remainder went to students studying at universities, polytechnics and other tertiary institutions throughout New Zealand.

The 84 different courses taken by grant recipients include a wide range of bachelor degrees, diplomas, trades training courses, apprenticeships and national certificates. Courses popular with grant recipients included nursing with 24 students, automotive trades with 20 and education with 22. Twenty-seven

students received scholarships for apprenticeships or pre-apprenticeships. Business, sports, health, hairdressing and cookery qualifications also featured strongly.

“We are pleased to once again be able to support good numbers of apprentices and students learning various trades. It is great to have consistently higher numbers of local young people training on the job without leaving Masterton,” said Mr Sadler.

The Trust’s support for UCOL Wairarapa means that grants are open to anyone who studies there, regardless of whether they have lived in the Trust district. The next tertiary grants round will open in January 2011.

Education remains the main focus of the Trust grants programme which includes major ongoing programmes for all Masterton primary and secondary schools and grants to early childhood centres, UCOL Wairarapa, individuals and community groups. Applications for the Lands Trust’s current Community Grants round close at the end of May.

The Masterton Trust Lands Trust is a 138-year-old public lands trust formed to own and manage surplus land not sold to Masterton’s working class settlers. The original 165-pound value of the trust’s land has now grown into an asset base of more than \$52 million.

Income from the Trust’s land rentals is distributed in the form of grants to assist educational, cultural and community activities within Masterton. This concept has played a key role in the evolution of the town since 1871 and continues to do so today.

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