

Youth Employability Programme Marlborough Success Stories

The Youth Employability Programme is a cross-sector, business-led initiative, designed to respond to business industry concerns that young people may not be developing the soft skills needed to succeed in the workplace. The programme provides 20 hours of classroom modules teaching the soft skills (positive attitude, communication, teamwork, self-management, willingness to learn, thinking skills, resilience) as well as 20 hours of voluntary work and 80 hours of work placement.

The YEP in Marlborough (the only South Island region that is running the programme) is in its second year and some lovely success stories are emerging.

A young man who is keen to be a mechanic has been helped to get his CV up and running, understand his strengths through Gallup Strength Finders and has grown in confidence. Marlborough Youth Trust (MYT) staff obtained a bike for him from the Menz Shed Blenheim so he can be reliable for his volunteering at the Vintage Car Club and have transport to get to work when he finds an opportunity in the Marlborough community.

The Vintage Car Club loves his reliability and communication skills. Through the YEP modules this youth has grown within, developed his communication skills, self management, resilience, teamwork, willingness to work and thinking skills.

The mentoring and intergenerational friendship have been valuable to this young person. MYT recently hosted a pre formal event of red carpet to red carpet event and this youth was the chaffeur with the men from the Vintage Car Club. He was well presented for his role in a suit that he chose from the Trust which he can also wear to job interviews in the future. His confidence to contribute in the community has been heartening to see and his confidence in building relationships with the men at the Vintage Car Club has been wonderful.

YEP had a youth keen to look into nursing as a career. She did a stint volunteering at Blenheim School as part of YEP and she liked what she was doing. She applied for a role within her college as a writer for youth during exams and she liked the career of teaching as an option to nursing. She has regrouped her ideas for a future career and will head to Teachers' College next year, rather than nursing when she finishes year 13 at high school.

A youth who is a very capable photographer was doing many volunteer roles at MYT events while attending YEP. A guest business mentor spoke to the YEP youth about business mentoring and how she can earn an income doing what she loves as she finished year 13 as a self employed contractor. She felt it wasn't for her at this stage of her life and she was supported to apply for a vacancy with a local newspaper. She now has a career within media as their photographer and she will be fantastic.

Business Enterprise coming out of YEP

MYT had an opportunity to send a young man to a farm in Kaikoura to volunteer to collect honey dew. This honey came back to the Trust where another youth from a local high school volunteered her time to design, cut and place the honey logo on the honey containers for sale. This young designer has been offered other logo making roles for a business that was looking for a youth to be given an opportunity.

Another youth from YEP who was very shy was diligent with hygiene and she bottled the honey. She has built her confidence being around people at MYT making coffee. She now has a job at Speights.

Currently the youth on YEP are discussing where the good opportunities are to sell the honey over the summer such as various markets. This will be done as part of their YEP volunteer component. They will build their confidence, develop people skills as well as sale and cash handling and marketing experience.

The YEP committee would really appreciate any work safety items such as overalls, boots, safety glasses, high viz vests.

Please contact Ailsa Carey at REAP Marlborough for information about YEP.

Photos show a YEP group learning how to make a good cup of coffee and the honey dew logo.

