

MEDIA RELEASE

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McDonald's celebrates 25 years of tertiary scholarship

Over 100 Maori recipients of AUT scholarship over 25 years

This month McDonald's celebrates the 25th anniversary of the Te Tai Tokerau scholarship it offers in partnership with Auckland University of Technology (AUT) to broaden the horizons of promising Māori students.

The McDonald's scholarship programme is one of the longest running scholarship programmes offered at AUT, seeing over 100 scholarships awarded to students from the Te Tai Tokerau region since 1993.

In 2016, the scholarship programme was extended to the Wairoa- Gisborne region.

The programme assists Māori students to gain tertiary qualifications that will assist in the economic, professional and community growth of their hapū.

"Essentially the McDonald's programme has enabled me to gain the skills to work in my community. I work in the social sector as a Lead Community Advisor, building the community and whānau to help some of Northland's most vulnerable children," says William Kaipō, who graduated from AUT in 2000 with a New Zealand diploma in Business after receiving a scholarship from McDonald's.

At its heart, the McDonald's Te Tai Tokerau scholarship programme is about promoting Māori potential and supporting educational success.

"McDonald's is proud to extend education opportunities to promising students who may otherwise find it difficult to pursue study at a tertiary level," says McDonald's NZ Managing Director Dave Howse.

"The Te Tai Tokerau programme is a testament to our ongoing commitment to give back to communities and families across New Zealand," says Dave.

The programme provides students with a supportive environment in which to enhance and inspire both academic and personal success. Along with financial assistance, the scholarship offer networking opportunities, corporate role models and university support services.

"McDonald's NZ has remained steadfast and unwavering with their support of this programme," says Hariata Mareroa, AUT Māori Liaison Services Manager, who has been involved in the programme for all but two of its 25 years.

"McDonald's kept true to the original intent of the programme, academic success although important would not be the only focus, assisting individuals to reach personal and professional goals was as important.

"They understood that many of the recipients would be the first in their families to undertake this journey, that they were leaving their most trusted support structures – whānau – to undertake

qualifications in the largest city in Aotearoa and they have always understood that this is a huge undertaking for anyone let alone for the most part an eighteen-year-old.”

“It has been an absolute privilege and honour to witness the growth and development of young leaders from the North, their strength of character is epitomised by their resilience and perseverance.”

ENDS

Notes to editor:

Four high achieving scholarship recipients and AUT alumni are available for media interview. These alumni have gone on to make huge contributions to their hapū and to the wider community.

Please find further details in the profiles attached.

For more information please contact:

Patricia Greig: Mango Communications

Tel: 021 868378 / Email: patriciag@thisismango.co.nz

About McDonald’s New Zealand

New Zealand’s first McDonald’s restaurant opened in Porirua in 1976. Today there are over 165 McDonald’s restaurants across New Zealand, 85 per cent of which are owned and operated by local business men and women. The organisation employs over 9,000 people in restaurants nationwide, and is one of New Zealand’s largest employers of youth. In 2016 McDonald’s spent more than \$150 million with local suppliers, while New Zealand producers exported over \$247 million of food to other McDonald’s markets around the world. McDonald’s is the primary supporter of Ronald McDonald House Charities New Zealand, who keep families close while their children are in hospital.

For more information visit www.mcdonalds.co.nz

Check out McDonald’s New Zealand on Facebook [facebook.co.nz/mcdonaldsnz](https://www.facebook.com/mcdonaldsnz), Instagram <http://www.instagram.com/mcdonaldsnz/> or Snapchat [mcdonalds_nz](#)

About Auckland University of Technology (AUT)

Te Wananga Aronui o Tamaki Makau Rau

AUT is the University for the Changing World – a contemporary New Zealand university focused on providing exceptional student learning experiences, opportunities and success, stimulated by research that matters and connectivity.

Almost 30,000 students are enrolled at AUT, studying undergraduate and postgraduate programmes at one of three campuses in Auckland.

Tāwhaitia te ara o te tika, te pono me te aroha, kia piki ki te taumata tiketike.

Follow the path of integrity, respect, and compassion; scale the heights of achievement.

