



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Ruapehu District Council**

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#### **RUAPEHU YOUTH PROJECT SEEKS MORE CANDIDATES AND LOCAL EMPLOYER INVOLVEMENT**

The Ruapehu Youth Project partnership between Ruapehu District Council (RDC) and the Social Development's Work and Income service is making steady progress toward its goal of achieving a minimum of 20 work placements for Ruapehu youth by the end of the year.

The success of the Youth Project is due to community support where it works closely with both government and private organisations including; Work and Income, the Ministry of Social Development Youth Services Trial programme, CKC REAP, YMCA, Taumarunui High School and Ruapehu College, and several other community groups.

Ruapehu Youth Project Coordinator, Steve Carson, said that the Youth Project had assisted three young people into sustainable employment, three others into study, and two others are being assisted along a pathway that is leading them toward further employment focused study and work experience that has the potential to lead to sustainable employment.

"The 'Youth Project' supports the 'Mayors Taskforce for Jobs' vision that all young people under 25 years should either be in paid work, in training or education, or in other useful activities in our communities," he said.

"One of the programmes main objectives is to increase the pool of suitably skilled young employees available to local businesses and enhance the retention of skills within the Ruapehu labour market, both of which can play an important part in facilitating employment and economic growth."

Mr Carson stated that the Youth Coordinator role involves being a local point of contact for participating young people and facilitating the opportunities for them to increase their skills and knowledge, gain work experience, achieve certification where appropriate, and ultimately to succeed in sustainable employment.

"The first objective with any young person joining the Youth Project is to sit down with them to discuss and establish their personal goals, and then work out a pathway to achieving those goals," he said.

"This may lead to targeted study which could be on employment or trade related skills, or gaining NCEA qualifications, or a combination of required skills."

“The following step is to get the candidate into work experience or full time employment as available.”

“We will assist a Youth Project client anyway that we can including providing assistance with job applications and preparing for interviews, as well as mentoring as they get started in work experience or employment.”

“For example we currently have one local employer who has agreed to provide work experience and support the youth candidate during the study they need to do, while another has agreed to provide a work trial that will lead to the candidate gaining their restricted licence and undertaking the army Limited Service Volunteer programme that with further experience could lead to permanent employment,” he said.

“The Ruapehu Youth Project is providing opportunities for community partners to create more local training opportunities that will provide young people with the skills they and local businesses need.”

Mr Carson stated that he was keen to hear from more Ruapehu young people who are looking for assistance into sustainable employment as well as employers who can provide either work experience or job opportunities.

“Any business or organisation who would like to find out more about the programme and what is involved can contact me at Ruapehu District Council’s office in Taumarunui (07 895 8188),” he said.

“If you have a genuine enthusiasm for helping people succeed and would like to contribute to a programme that has real, measurable benefits to the Ruapehu District and its community, I would like to hear from you.”

DAVID HAMMOND  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

CJH : PRW

**Attachment:** Photo



Ruapehu Youth Project Coordinator, Steve Carson, with the Project mini-van purchased specially to ensure that transport is not an issue for any young people on the programme who may not have a licence or access to transport. Mr Carson stated that the Project has been set-up to remove as many barriers to Ruapehu youth achieving sustainable employment as possible.