



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Ruapehu District Council**

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#### **WORK EXPERIENCE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE WANTED**

The Ruapehu Youth Project partnership between Ruapehu District Council (RDC) and the Social Development's Work and Income service is seeking Ruapehu businesses that are able to give local young people unpaid work experience as a way of seeing if they want to take advantage of the 'Job Ops with Training' scheme.

The 'Job Ops with Training' provides employers with a \$5,000 subsidy to provide employment opportunities to young people aged 16 to 24 with no work experience or low or no skills.

Ruapehu Youth Project Coordinator, Steve Carson, said that if an employer has a suitable entry level position they shouldn't be put off by the fact that the young person hasn't any work experience or has low skill levels.

"The young people on the Ruapehu Youth Project scheme are provided with hands-on mentoring and other forms of support to help maximise the opportunity for them to be successful in any training or work place experience they are involved with," he said.

"It's a chance to give valuable work experience with training to young people who find themselves out of work and in the longer term increase the pool of suitably skilled young employees available to local businesses."

Ruapehu District Council (RDC) Regulation Administration Manager, Kevin O'Shannessey, said that Council's experience with young people on the Ruapehu Youth Project has been nothing but good.

"Council gave a local young person, Tia Ormsby, three weeks unpaid work experience and we were so impressed we have taken advantage of the Job Ops with Training' scheme to give her a six month paid position as a Library Assistant."

"There are plenty of bright, eager, young people like Tia in our community looking for any opportunity to get into work."

Tia said that she left school two years ago with NCEA Level 3 and decided to take a gap year which ended up being two.

"At my age not knowing what you want to do and not having opportunities to try things in a work environment can be a real problem and sap your motivation," she said.

"The Ruapehu Youth Project has been fantastic where I have been supported and spent time working with Steve discussing my interests and what I wanted to do."

"I am now planning to do a Diploma in Library Studies as well as learning new Level 3&4 computer skills."

Tia said that she would strongly encourage any young people not in work or learning to sign-on to the Ruapehu Youth Project and for local employers to give a young person an opportunity to gain some work experience.

**DAVID HAMMOND**  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

CJH : PRW

Tia Ormsby took a three week unpaid work experience role at Council to a six month paid job as a Library Assistant at the Taumarunui Library. "Any young person not in work or learning should definitely sign-on to the Youth Project."

