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Blenheim teenager 'delighted' with youth leader award



SUPPLIED

Marlborough mayor Alistair Sowman and Rosie Argyle, 19, who is the Marlborough winner of the Zonta Young Women in Public Affairs Award.

A high-achieving former Marlborough Girls' College student has received a youth leadership award.

Rosie Argyle, 19, was awarded the Zonta Club of Marlborough's Young Women in Public Affairs Award in a ceremony at the Marlborough District Council chambers on Friday. The award recognises young women between the ages of 16 and 19 who demonstrate a commitment to leadership in public policy, government and volunteer organisations with a certificate and a cheque for \$250.

Argyle said the Young Women in Public Affairs Award would help towards her studies. "I was very surprised but absolutely delighted."

In her speech at the award ceremony, Argyle said Marlborough Girls' College provided her with plenty of good female role models.

"I was taught to value academic achievement as well as the necessity of having good relationships with people, being happy and healthy and, ultimately, being a Mana Wahine [strong woman]."

Argyle is completing a double degree in Law, and Politics and International Relations, at Victoria University in Wellington.

Marlborough Zonta president Lorri Taylor said Argyle was a deserving recipient of the award.

"Rosie has demonstrated top all-round qualities."

Argyle was a student representative on the Marlborough Girls' College board of trustees in 2013 and was the Head of School Council Prefect last year.

Zonta Club of Marlborough vice president Clare Pinder said Argyle managed to fit in extracurricular activities around her academic commitments.

"Rosie had time to be in the senior volleyball team, coach junior volleyball and gain her Silver Duke of Edinburgh Hillary award, as well as volunteering at the library and organising numerous fundraising events."

As a winner of the regional Young Women in Public Affairs Award, Argyle's entry will go forward to a national competition.

The winner of the New Zealand competition goes on to compete against winners from 66 other countries for a Zonta International award.