

Press Release – 18 August 2014

Double award ceremonies celebrated by Zonta Club of Whangarei

Danielle Newton has capped off a Zonta award winning spree being honoured with Zonta International's Young Woman in Public Affairs Award. As one of 10 recipients from 32 high calibre international contenders, this prestigious award expands on Danielle being Zonta's New Zealand winner earlier this year and Whangarei Zonta Club's Secondary School Scholarship awardee in 2013.

At a recent function hosted by the Zonta Club of Whangarei, Danielle's success was celebrated together with Deputy Mayor Sharon Morgan, Zonta Club officials, Danielle's family and special mentors. Zonta District 16's Governor, Janette Irvine travelled from Rotorua to present both the District and International Awards that hold values of US\$1000-00 and US\$4000-00 respectively.

"Danielle impressed us as a young woman with the vision and potential to fully contribute to society where inequalities exist. She is studying a conjoint degree at Auckland University in Bachelor of Laws and Arts, double majoring in political studies and anthropology and aims to eventually carry out postgraduate study in international relations and human rights under the Master of Professional Studies degree", explained Zonta Whangarei's President, Irene McPherson. "We were impressed with Danielle's academic achievement and her activity with Amnesty International, United Nations Youth, surf lifesaving and high level sport. I can only echo District Governor Janette Irvine's and Deputy Mayor Sharon Morgan's comments that she is clearly an inspirational young woman. Our Club is proud put to have put Danielle's name forward for further honour."

The awards ceremony is the second of two recently held that have grown from Zonta Whangarei's direct involvement in the local community.

Partnering with the New Horizons for Women Trust, Zonta Whangarei donated the funds to enable a Second Chance Scholarship for a Whangarei resident being awarded.

The recipient was Shelley Stringfellow who is nearing the end of her Social Work degree. Shelley spoke movingly of her journey which has combined study with caring for four children. Shelley sees the award as a major step forward to embarking on her career and fulfilling her potential. Mavis Shuker, Trust Chairman, and Jenni Tupu, Trustee of New Horizons for Women travelled north to present the \$3000-00 scholarship, which was the first time an award had been made in Whangarei. Tribute was paid to the Whangarei Zonta Club for making this special level of support in the community possible.



Left: L – R: Whangarei Deputy Mayor Sharon Morgan, Award Winner Danielle Newton and Zonta District 16 Governor Janetter Irvine.

Right: Shelley Stringfellow, winner of a New Horizons for Women Trust Scholarship which was funded by the Zonta Club of Whangarei