



Polytechnic and Police partner to give local kids a Big Day Out

Giving local kids a special day out is the aim of a partnership between Tai Poutini Polytechnic and local Police charity Greymouth Bluelight.

Twenty-four Grey District school students will be treated to breakfast, lunch and a fun day out and about in the community tomorrow (Tuesday 25 September).

Tai Poutini Polytechnic Communications, Engagement and Marketing Manager Mequa Hourston says tutors, staff and students have got on-board with the event to prepare breakfast and lunch for the students, as well as running a four-hour climbing wall session.

“This is a great local charity working with young people across the community. We’ve helped out in the past and we’re really pleased to be part of the event again this year,” she says.

“As part of our work to ensure the future of tertiary education on the West Coast, the Polytechnic is reaching out to the community and getting involved in more local events and activities than ever before. We want to work together with our community to create better outcomes for the whole region, so we’re taking time to support and promote all sorts of local activities.”

Every year Greymouth Bluelight asks 12 local schools to select two Year 8 students who have worked hard all year to take part in the Big Day Out. This year, the students will be treated to a breakfast prepared by the Polytechnic’s chef and hospitality tutors and students before heading out with the outdoor education team to the climbing wall. A group lunch will also be provided.

Police spokesperson Constable Joss Sturkenboom says the Big Day Out is always a popular initiative with local schools.

“We want to give some deserving kids a fun day out and contribute to the charity’s aim of improving relationships across the community. We ask schools to select students based not on top performance, but on consistent hard work and good behaviour. We rely on the generosity of our community partners to make this event, and others like it, happen. So it’s fantastic to have the Polytechnic on board to support the Big Day Out.”

Greymouth Bluelight runs a range of charitable programmes with the aim of raising self-esteem among young people, encouraging better relations between young people, parents, police and the community, and preventing crime and antisocial behaviour.

Photo opportunity: media are invited to attend the breakfast at Tutoro, Tai Poutini Polytechnic on Tuesday 25th September at 9.00am or the climbing wall session at the Civic Centre from 10am for photographs to accompany news items.

For more information contact:

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