Community celebrates 30 years of TPP

West Coasters joined Tai Poutini Polytechnic staff and students at the weekend at a community party to celebrate the institute's 30th birthday.

TPP opened its doors for a public open day on Saturday 9 November at the Greymouth Campus, with plenty of people turning out to take a tour of campus and join in the celebrations. A second event is being held next Saturday (16 November) at our Westport campus.

TPP Leader – Engagement Mequa Hourston says a lot of planning went on in the background to create a fun family day out.

"Along with free cake, coffee, ice cream and BBQ, we had some great family entertainment and everyone really enjoyed our tutor-led activities, including a remote controlled digger demonstration, gumboot throwing, cooking demonstration and more," she said.

As part of the celebrations, TPP Council Chair Andrew Robb unveiled a plaque to commemorate the 30th anniversary.

Mr Robb acknowledged the support of the local community through a recent period of change for TPP.

"Times of change are never easy, but the combined efforts of everyone here at TPP have seen great improvements in delivery of quality education and progress against all of our targets. We are here for the people of the West Coast, to deliver training and education that meets the needs of our students, our employers and wider industry. So the support of the community is critical as we go about our everyday business and during times of change in particular."

Mrs Hourston said TPP had been an integral part of the West Coast community for the last 30 years, delivering tertiary training and working alongside other education providers, agencies and industry to meet the needs of our region.

"TPP is more than a polytechnic – it is a hub of our local community. As well as being a significant employer and educator, we play a role in supporting social enterprise and helping to meet the needs of our community. We do this by partnering with groups like Rotary to raise money for local charities through our annual Project House auction and by working alongside community groups to bring great events here like TechWeek and NetHui – and that's just to name a few."

Te Tai Poutini West Coast Community Polytechnic was formally gazetted on 1 October 1989, with the first mainstream programmes starting at several Greymouth sites in 1990. These included Automotive, Carpentry, Business Computing, Office Systems, Contemporary Music, Tourism and Hospitality programmes. On 21 September 1990 New Zealand Prime Minister Mike Moore laid the foundation stone for the building now located on Tainui Street, which was officially opened by Minister of Education Dr Lockwood Smith on 28 May 1991. The campus and programmes on offer continued to

grow and develop in following years. Today, TPP offers programmes from campuses in Greymouth, Westport, Wanaka, Christchurch and Auckland to around 1500 students every year.

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