

2022

WALTONO
YOUNG
ACHIEVERS



MTFJ
MAYORS TASKFORCE FOR JOBS
Empowering Young People to Succeed

Tenā koutou katoa,

Ahakoā ngā aahuatanga o te waa, we are stoked to be able to share another 12 amazing rangatahi in our 2022 Waitomo Young Achievers calendar. We thought that now more than ever we needed to make sure that we continue to share the journey and messages of the many rangatahi in our community who are doing well post high school, even during a Covid-19 pandemic.

Our first mihi must go to the rangatahi that feature in this year's calendar. Hannah Searancke, Bailey Wade, Anson Lim, Cherish McMillan Knapp, Hayley Anderson, Lea Tregoweth, Jed Te Aho, Sophie MacDonald, Taonui Campbell, Callum Harrison, Brayden Burnell, Cortez Ratima, thank you for trusting us to share your koorero with the rest of our community. Na maatou te whiwhi and we wish you all the best for the future. Thank you!

We also want to make a special mention of the Mayors Taskforce for Jobs kaupapa, that has allowed us to support rangatahi into local long-term sustainable employment. Some of these rangatahi feature in this year's calendar. MTFJ also allows us to extend our support to the local businesses employing our young people. Head to the back page for more info!

There is a lot of mahi that goes into putting our calendars together. This mahi would not be possible without the continuous support of David Wild our designer, Stephen Baker, Kellie Blizard and Mark Tantrum our photographers and Jenelle Burnell our story writer. Thank you!

Mo naianei e te whaanau, enjoy your 2022 version of Waitomo Young Achiever calendar.

Arohanui,
Number Twelve



It is a privilege to be part of this calendar celebrating the achievements of our rangatahi.

Life is a journey. From the day we enter this world until the day we leave it we weave our own unique pathway.

When we begin the journey, we have no idea on where it will take us. But as we graduate from tamariki to rangatahi, we begin to reflect on where we are heading.

We reflect on the choices that the world presents to us. Our teachers talk to us about "career options." Enrolling in tertiary studies, learning a trade, joining a shearing gang, or signing up for NZ's defence force – the options are many.

But while there may be many options, this does not always make for easy choices.

As you will see from reading the stories in this calendar, the journey from school to career may involve just one step into one job, or it may involve several jobs along the way to discover what you really love to do. There is no right way. This is a journey of discovery.

Nga mihi

John Robertson, QSO
Mayor of Waitomo





“It never feels like a job”

Hannah Searancke

Ngāti Maniapoto

Growing up as a child, Hannah Searancke’s bedtime stories weren’t the usual fairy tales – they were real time accounts of her father Edwin’s life at sea as a gunner for the Royal New Zealand Navy. Little did she know the importance they held for her over the years, particularly as she herself now serves in the Navy as a Trainee Medic. Hannah joined the Defence Force in February 2020 and immediately knew she’d found her place in the world.

“It was the best decision I’ve ever made and there’s no place else I’d rather be.” Hannah grew up in Te Kuiti and enjoyed the closeness that comes with living in a small community. After leaving Te Kuiti High School in 2017, where she was Head Girl and also Dux, Hannah studied a Bachelor of Science at the University of Waikato, but soon found she had lost interest and was keen to try something new. “I’ve always had a passion for health sciences and wanting to help and care for people,” she said. “Because my father was once in the Navy, I thought it would be a good idea to give it a go as well.” The 22-year-old’s initiation into the Navy was one for the history books as soon after she commenced Basic Common Training, COVID-19 made its way to New Zealand’s shores plunging the country into its first ever lockdown. “The impact was huge as it extended training by a further five weeks,” said Hannah. “Training stopped and we spent a lot of time cleaning, ironing and polishing our boots. The hardest part was not being able to communicate with family. It was a strange and tough time, but we got through it.” Hannah is now based at the Defence Health School at Burnham Military Camp in Christchurch, where she has nearly completed her two-and-a-half-year specialist training.

She is enjoying the diversity and challenges that come with Navy life and is making the most of each day as she strives to live by the Navy’s core values of courage, commitment and comradeship. “Life in the Navy as a Trainee Medic is all about studying and keeping fit. No day is the same because you are always learning something new. I can go to work each day it never feels like a job,” said Hannah. “The practical field exercises are great experiences as you get lots of exposure to intense scenarios that push you right out of your comfort zone.” Hannah said working hard and having determination and leadership skills are important qualities needed to make it in the Navy. “Teamwork is also really important as it is a foundation for every aspect of Navy life – you can’t do it on your own. Support is always there to help you achieve. And, you are never alone because you develop a special bond with your classmates – they become lifelong friends.”

Hannah’s ultimate goal is to return to Devonport Naval Base after completing her training, and to one day be deployed to a ship to sail the seas. “You learn a lot of self-discipline and you push yourself further than you ever thought you could ever go. “My parents and brother have also helped with that. I’ve always liked doing things to make them proud. They keep me motivated and are my number one supporters. I wouldn’t be where I am today without them.”

FEBRUARY

2022

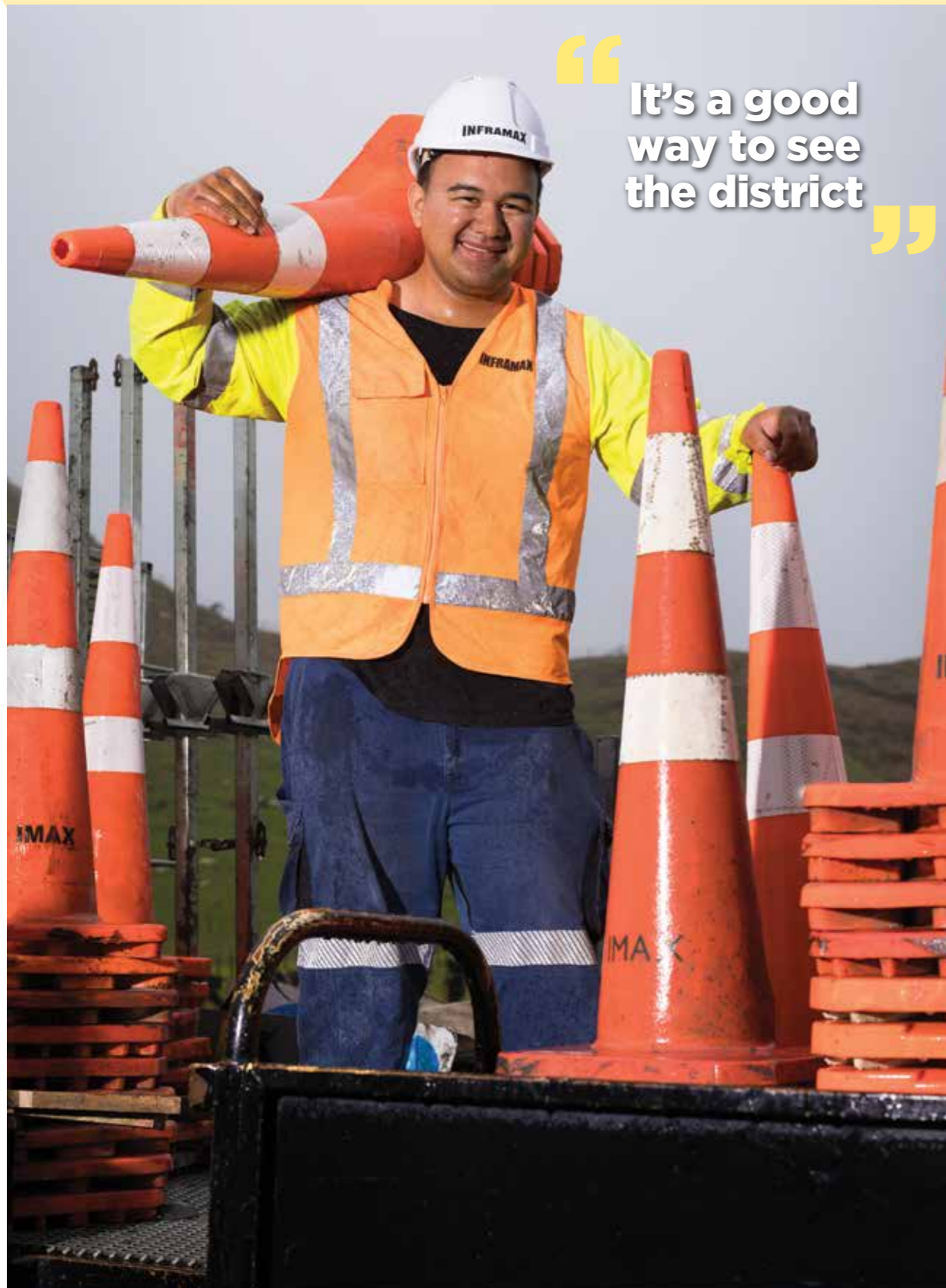
| Mon | Tues | Wed | Thur | Fri | Sat | Sun |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------------|-----------|-----------|--------------------------|
| | 1 New Moon - Whiro | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 Waitangi Day |
| 7 Waitangi Public Holiday | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 Full Moon- Raakaunui | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | | | | | | |



Study: Trainee Medic, Royal New Zealand Navy



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“ It’s a good way to see the district ”

Bailey Wade

Ngāti Maniapoto

Whenever Bailey Wade steps onto the road reserve to direct traffic, he knows he is doing his bit to ensure the safety of all road users. Bailey has been a traffic control officer with Inframax Construction Ltd for more than a year now and is also part of the Mayors Taskforce for Jobs (MTFJ) initiative that Number Twelve are running in our community to support young people to find long term sustainable employment.

The 19-year-old said temporary traffic management (TTM) is about more than just holding a stop/go sign, it’s about being aware of all the dangers associated with road maintenance and construction, from identifying potential hazards, to getting a feel for the temperament of drivers. Bailey grew up in Te Kūiti and after leaving Te Kūiti High School he was determined to get a job locally so worked hard to find employment opportunities. “I really wanted to get a job because I didn’t want to stay at home and do nothing, so I went to a job expo at the Les Munro Centre with the goal of getting into employment. “There was an opportunity to work for local company Inframax so I took it, and I haven’t looked back since.” Locally owned, Inframax has grown to be a leading infrastructure company with contracts throughout the Central North Island. They work hard to nurture and support new staff like Bailey and provide opportunities for staff to further train and develop their skills.

“Both Inframax and the staff at Number Twelve have been really supportive. I’m well looked-after as they check in regularly and make sure I’m on track.” To be a Traffic Control Officer, Bailey first needed to obtain a Level 1 Traffic Control certificate, as well as complete a first aid course. “Being aware of your health and safety obligations when you’re out on the road is really important as well as having excellent communication skills. These are “musts” in this line of work,” said Bailey. “Also having a good mental state is really important. You can be out on the road for long periods of time, so you need to be able to cope with that.” Bailey enjoys being able to travel throughout the district working at different sites, but admits it means regular stays at motels and living out of a suitcase but the payoff is worth it. “It’s a good way to see the district, but you’re generally having to stay away from home for the week and only coming home in the weekends, which isn’t so bad.”

Bailey is keen to further his career with Inframax. He plans to move to the next level and obtain a qualification as a Site Traffic Management Supervisor (STMS), who oversees the traffic management of a road works site. “An STMS role is one that carries a high level of responsibility for the motorists passing a road works site, as well as ensuring that the traffic management in use is also suitable to protect those who work on the site,” said Bailey. “I’d like to attend as many courses as possible so I can work my way up the ladder. I’d like to be a digger driver, so I’d like to get my Class 2, and Wheels, Traction and Roller endorsements.” In his spare time, Bailey enjoys playing the piano and is always trying to learn something new. “I’d like to be the jack of all trades so I’m always looking to learn new skills from mastering the Rubix cube, to learning how TO skateboard. I love learning things and then teaching other people.

MARCH

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| Mon | Tues | Wed | Thur | Fri | Sat | Sun |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 New Moon - Whiro | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 Taranaki Anniversary Day | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 Full Moon - Raakaunui | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | |



Occupation: Traffic Control Officer,
Inframax Construction Ltd



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“I’ve always had an understanding of how small businesses work”

Anson Lim

From a young age, Anson has been aware of the hard work and dedication needed to run a successful business. His parents own and operate the famous King Country Te Kūiti Bakery and were excellent role models, so it was only natural for him to want to expand his knowledge in different aspects of business management. The family business has been a stronghold on our main street here in Te Kūiti for more than two decades and has helped set the course for a career in the world of commerce for Anson.

“The bakery has always been a big part of my life and so I’ve always had an understanding of how small businesses work, but there’s also the flip side, knowing my parents would be spending a lot of time at work,” he said. After finishing at Te Kūiti High School in 2016 Anson attended the University of Auckland and completed the Tertiary Foundation Certificate, receiving top marks in the Arts programme. This allowed him to enrol in a Bachelor of Commerce, majoring in Commercial Law, and Operations and Supply Chain Management.

“I chose this course since it was about finding out how things work together, connecting the dots and seeing what else we can do about it.” Anson said the degree covers a broad range of topics relating to business and commerce. “Operations and Supply Chain Management includes process management, industry management, inventory and logistics planning. It’s also helpful in learning about the different roles in a business and how they all fit together by making processes more efficient. Commercial Law is about understanding legislation, management and fair-trade agreements and how they are used in everyday situations.”

The degree can lead to a huge range of career opportunities including advisory roles, Business analyst, Entrepreneur/Business owner, Operations Manager, or Policy analyst. “Because the degree is so broad with opportunities, I’m yet to find my niche, but I’m working on building myself up so I can eventually help build others up,” said Anson. “One day I’d love to run my own team that works with people to succeed in their own businesses.” Anson loved the experience of university, and while in Auckland, also developed a love of dance and the culture of dance. “It was a life-changing experience for me having grown up in a small town, then moving to Auckland and experiencing a new way of life. “There’s such a rich history and culture behind dance and I’ve loved learning about how it can influence and create social dialogues. I joined the Auckland University Dance Association Committee and enjoyed helping with the public relations, marketing, media and executive team. I was also part of a crew that performed at the Spring 2020 graduation ceremony.

Anson has since moved back to Te Kūiti and is enjoying helping his parents at the bakery and reconnecting with his roots. “I’ll always have a special connection to Te Kūiti and it’s nice being back and seeing the town with a newfound appreciation now that I’ve experienced life in the city. It’s great seeing people and businesses still flourishing,” he said. “My parents have been a big influence in my life. They are hard workers and work long hours and have got so much drive, so I feel privileged to have this opportunity to help them out and learn important lessons” In the future, Anson plans to complete a Masters of Property Practice at The University of Auckland. His advice to others is to find something you love and to have fun with what you do. “Be happy with what you have, but always be on the lookout for the next great opportunity.”

APRIL

20
22

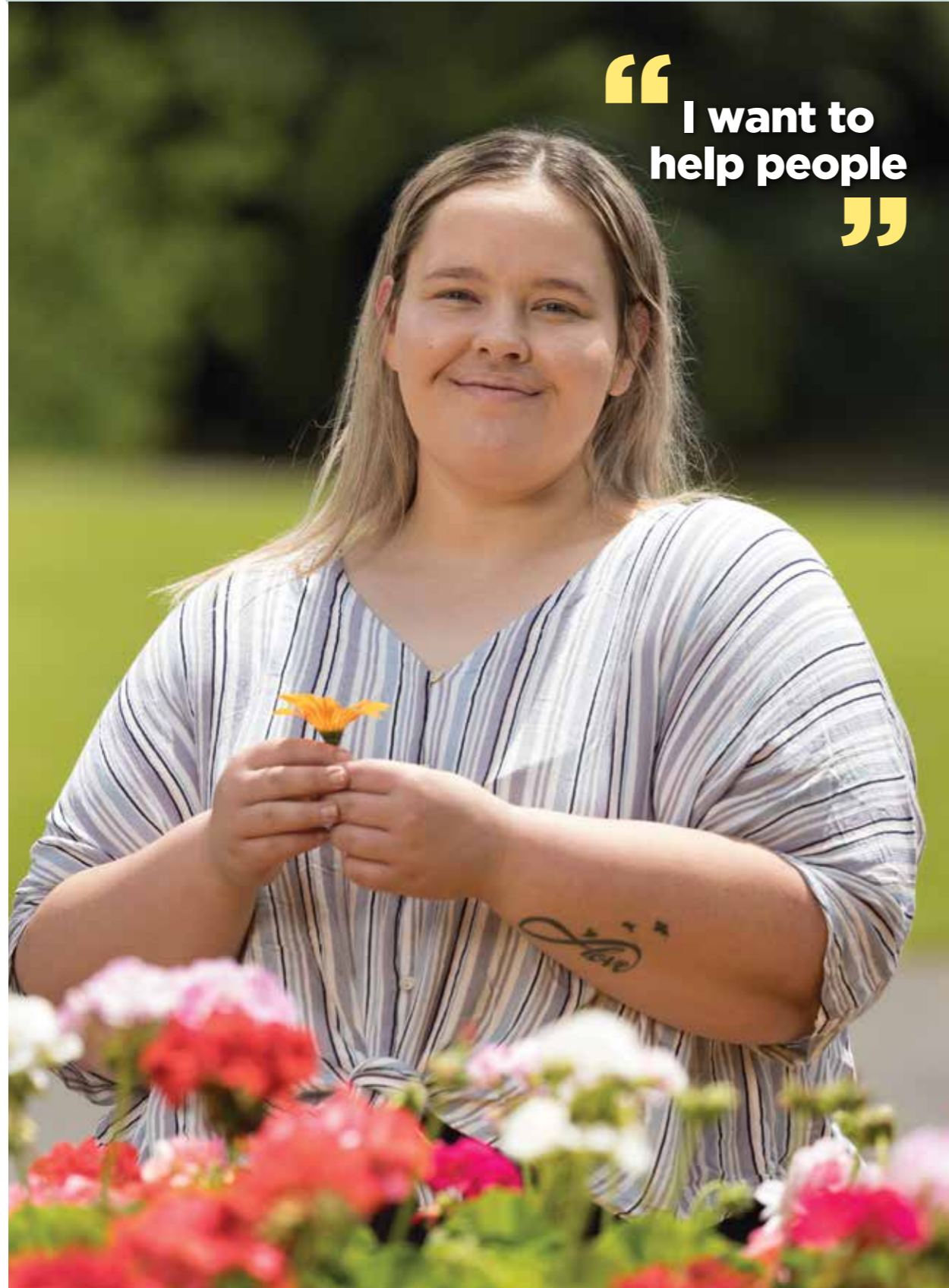
| Mon | Tues | Wed | Thur | Fri | Sat | Sun |
|----------------------------|-----------|-----------|--------------------------|------------------------------|-----------|------------------------------------|
| | | | | 1 New Moon – Whiro | 2 | 3 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 Term 1 ends | 15 | 16 | 17 Full Moon – Raakaunui |
| 18 Easter Monday | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 Anzac Day | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | |



Study: Bachelor of Commerce (majoring in Commercial Law and Operations & Supply Chain Management)



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“ I want to help people ”

Cherish McMillan Knapp

For anyone who has met Cherish McMillan Knapp, would agree she is bright and bubbly, and is a person who gives it her all.

Her positive outlook on life and never-give-up attitude has shaped her journey and contributed to her success both in her course of study and personal life. In 2021, Cherish graduated with a Bachelor of Applied Management, majoring in Human Resources – a milestone the 23-year-old thought she would never reach once upon a time. “I’ve always had a passion for business and I love connecting with people, so my goal was to attend Otago University, but was told I wasn’t smart enough,” said Cherish. She ended up leaving school because of this and worked in local retail for a year before she made the decision to apply for a business administration course through Wintec in Hamilton.

“I thought to myself, let’s give it a go, and if I don’t like it, I can always try something else,” she said. “I ended up getting an A for all my subjects so thought to myself again: maybe I am smart enough and can do this.” From there Cherish enrolled to study a Bachelor of Applied Management, and after discovering accounting and event management was not her forte, she found her niche in Human Resources. She hasn’t looked back since. “I’ve always been a very people-orientated person and so that’s where I saw myself fitting in.” Her journey wasn’t always smooth sailing, but Cherish has always been one to chase her dreams. “I’ve always wanted to be bigger and better than who I thought I was and I’ve always had a can-do attitude, but it has not been easy and I think the break in between leaving school and studying at Wintec gave me a taste of the real world.”

Cherish currently works for the Waikato District Health Board in an administrative role, and although it involves less HR, she is enjoying the people aspect of her job. “When Covid hit, I was made redundant from my job as a foreign exchange consultant. It was interesting to experience this, as during my degree I learnt a lot about redundancy. I knew it wasn’t personal, but it was still hard to take.”

Cherish’s health and fitness journey has also been a great accomplishment. “I’ve always been a big girl and always enjoyed playing sport even though I never felt I was good at it,” she said. “As a kid I was never taught how to properly fuel my body – I loved kai and built a bad relationship with food. During my second year of study I decided I needed to improve my health and fitness so I joined a fitness programme and started documenting my journey on instagram.” Cherish says she always found it hard being a big girl and finding comfortable active wear, until she discovered Hine Collection, a New Zealand active wear brand that she also had the opportunity to model for. “I was just going to be the girl who wears the t-shirt, but I was made to feel so comfortable and included, that I had no shame. It’s the craziest thing and something I never thought I would do, but it was very empowering.” Cherish’s goal for the future is to work in employment relations as an advisor or consultant, and to continue her health and wellbeing journey. “My goal is to secure a job where I can make a real difference. I want to help people upskill, be resilient and be the best they can be.”

MAY

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22

| Mon | Tues | Wed | Thur | Fri | Sat | Sun |
|------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------------------------|
| 30 New Moon – Whiro | 31 | | | | | 1 New Moon – Whiro |
| 2 Term 2 Starts | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 Mothers Day |
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16 Full Moon - Raakaunui | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |



Study: Bachelor of Applied Management, majoring in Human Resources.
Occupation: Waikato District Health Board and is a model for clothing company Hine Collection



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“ It’s an extremely diverse and challenging role ”

Hayley Anderson

A go-getter by nature, Hayley Anderson is not one to let adversity get in her way. Her journey in life so far has seen Hayley take on challenging roles, but with her positive attitude and extremely high work ethic, her successes have been plentiful. A King Country girl at heart, Hayley was born and raised in Taumarunui/Ōwhango, where she attended Ōwhango Primary School and Taumarunui High School, before her family moved to Piopio when she was in Year 11.

She completed her secondary schooling at Piopio College, and particularly enjoyed playing polocrosse. After finishing school, Hayley took half a gap year and moved to Australia to continue playing polocrosse. Her heart then brought her home to Ōwhango where she now lives with her fiancé Dion Petersen. “When I came back to Taumarunui, I lived with my grandparents for a year and went straight into a part time job at our local gym before moving into a fulltime job with mental health & addiction youth work,” she said. Hayley worked in this field for two years, and described the work as eye opening. Her work in the youth space set her up well for her current position as a Property Manager for Property Brokers in Taumarunui.

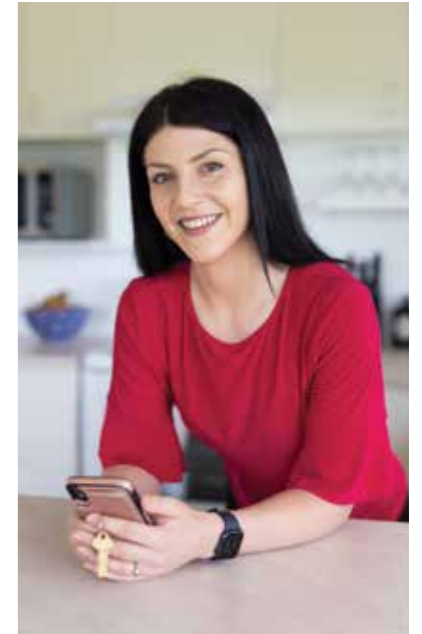
“It’s an extremely diverse and challenging role. I very much had a love hate relationship with the job to start with. But I’m really enjoying it now that I’ve got my head around it,” said Hayley. A typical day usually involves inspections, follow up calls and report writing as well as dealing with client queries. Hayley’s role is to also attend court hearings on behalf of her clients, which could involve trying to recover costs, or needing to evict someone. She said in a job like property management you’re always going to come across something you’ve never had before and there will always be times when you’re put into a difficult or awkward position. “At the end of the day a lot of it is common sense and going to the client with a solution not a problem. “Property Brokers have an amazing support team and I’m so lucky to work with amazing and supportive staff. Our office here in Taumarunui is great. There is on the job training available, and a set structure is in place. We’re doing really well that we have the largest portfolio of rentals in town.”

Hayley believes in the importance of taking care of yourself - mind body and soul. And for Hayley that outlet is the gym. “I have a real passion for the gym, it’s a mental relief for me and I’ve been going to the gym for years, but I recently made the decision to get into bodybuilding and enter my first show with the NZIFBB,” she said. “It’s a huge commitment and you’ve got to really want to do it because your whole life ends up revolving around it.” Hayley entered her first Tournament of Champions competition in November 2021 and placed second in the junior class and fifth place for the novice medium class. When she’s not working or at the gym, Hayley and Dion also volunteer for the local fire brigade. “I’m a very goal-oriented person. I’ve ticked a lot of things off on my list, but I have a long list and I’m always pushing myself further Looking to the future, Hayley is looking forward to getting married and having children. She is also keen to become a licensed real estate agent or police officer.

EMERGENCY

20
22

| Mon | Tues | Wed | Thur | Fri | Sat | Sun |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------|-----------------------|-----------|-----------|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6 Queens Birthday | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13 | 14 Full Moon - Raakaunui | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 Matariki | 25 | 26 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 New Moon – Whiro | 30 | | | |



Occupation: Property Manager –
Property Brokers, Taumarunui



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“ Find something you love and grow that passion ”



Lea Tregoweth

Keeping well in mind and body can be a daily struggle for some. Fortunately help is available in the form of the kind and caring Lea Tregoweth. The 22-year-old has found her passion for helping others, particularly those experiencing mental distress or addiction. Lea works for Mind and Body in Auckland, a for-peer-by-peer organisation which provides mental health support, advocacy, and understanding of what people may be experiencing. All Mind and Body staff have gone through some form of mental distress themselves, so it was instinctive for Lea to want to help and support others as well - it is in her nature.

Lea has lived with anxiety for over a decade now, but it is not what defines her. Her caring, compassionate character is the driving force behind her desire to help others, and it was her experiences at school that helped her confirm her career path. “It’s really rewarding knowing you are helping make a difference in someone’s life,” says Lea. “And just the smallest thing can make a difference to someone. Even just listening - people appreciate a listening ear as opposed to someone telling them what they should be doing.”

Growing up in Te Kuiti, Lea attended Te Kuiti Primary School and Te Kuiti High School, where she enjoyed drama and photography. She also enjoyed volunteering in the community and dedicated a lot of her spare time to visiting Hillview Home in Te Kuiti, talking to residents or taking them for a walk. Lea always put others before herself, and because of this she was awarded a Waitomo District Youth Award for Community Service in 2016. After completing secondary schooling Lea moved to the United States of America to complete a Rotary Youth Exchange. Based in Moscow, Idaho, Lea spent a year experiencing the American way of life. “I got to travel heaps and learn a lot about American cultures. It really opened my eyes to the world,” says Lea. “I also did a few Psychology papers while I was in America, and it was there that I decided this is what I wanted to do. I have a passion for wanting to help others and this drove it home for me.”

After returning to New Zealand, Lea moved to Whitianga with her mother, and enrolled with Massey University to do a Bachelor in Arts majoring in Psychology with a double minor in education and sociology, which she completed in 2020. She also plans to complete a Master of Educational and Developmental Psychology. “Mental health and educational psychology really interests me, particularly the psychology behind how people learn, and how factors can influence behaviour at school,” she says. “I really want to continue working within mental health, particularly childhood mental health and provide the help that wasn’t available growing up.” Life these days for Lea is great. She loves living by the beach in Auckland and enjoys spending quality time with her partner, friends, family, two dogs, many houseplants and other hobbies and interests. She strongly believes in being authentic and being “yourself”. “Stay true to yourself. Find something you love and grow that passion. “And know that your mental health is just as important as your physical health, don’t be afraid to reach out, you’re not alone and there is support available.”

JULY

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| Mon | Tues | Wed | Thur | Fri | Sat | Sun |
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| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 Term 2 ends | 9 | 10 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 Raakaunui | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 Term 3 starts | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 Whiro | 30 | 31 |



Study: Bachelor of Arts majoring in Psychology with a double major in Education and Sociology

Occupation: Peer Support Worker – Mind and Body / Emerge Aotearoa



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“My ultimate goal is to become a manager and run my own dairy farm”



Jed Te Aho

Ngāti Rereahu, Ngāti Pāhauwera

For Jed Te Aho, life couldn't be any better. He is living the dream working on a dairy farm and is well on his way to achieving his goal of one day owning and managing his own dairy farm. As a 2IC Manager, the 26-year-old spends his days helping run the 350ha dairy farm, milking 1050 cows in Mangakino. "I enjoy the lifestyle and how you can progress in the industry. You put in as much as you get back," he said. "It's a challenging environment but it's also a way of life – I love it."

Jed's connection to the land started from a young age growing up in the small King Country town of Maniaiti/Benneydale. "During my high school school years I used to work as a wool presser during the school holidays and after three years of that, I moved into dairy farming. That's when my love of farming developed." However, Jed was also drawn to Tangaroa, the ocean. "Growing up mainland, I wasn't really interested in hunting. I always enjoyed fishing and swimming and became interested in learning about marine biology."

After completing Year 13 at Te Kūiti High School in 2013, Jed enrolled at Bay of Plenty Polytechnic in Tauranga (now known as Toi Ohomai Institute of Technology) to undertake a Diploma in Environmental Management (Marine Biology). During the two-year course he learnt about biodiversity, how fish and seaweed live, surveying, how the ocean currents work and how to navigate safely. "I was quite passionate about Marine Biology and understanding the ocean itself," he said. "We did a lot of scientific diving and fish counts, and the course took me to a lot of beautiful places, and great places to dive." However, a few years after completing his diploma, Jed discovered that "you can take the kid out of the bush, but you can't take the bush out of the kid."

"Once I got an understanding of how Marine Biology actually works and the industry itself, I figured that it wasn't really for me. I still love Tangaroa, but it remains just a hobby for me now." The appeal of a rural lifestyle and farming pulled Jed back home to Maniaiti/Benneydale. "I missed home. I'll always be drawn back home to Benneydale," he said. "Having security was important to me, and I wanted to get back into dairy farming again, so I came back to a casual position at a farm in Pureora." That was five years ago, and he's been going strong ever since. Jed now works for Wairarapa Moana Inc, a dairy farm enterprise in Mangakino and is currently studying towards a Certificate in Agriculture Level 4 – Dairy Farming. His efforts and achievements in dairy farming were recognised last year (2021) when he placed runner up in the Dairy Trainer of the Year category of the New Zealand Dairy Industry Awards for the Bay of Plenty Region. "I used to doubt myself, but receiving the award and getting the acknowledgment was a proud moment in my career and confirmed I was on the right path," said Jed.

"My ultimate goal is to become a manager and run my own dairy farm, but for now I am happy where I am. I am learning a lot about different aspects of the industry, I am gaining confidence and learning to believe in myself more. "And home is always just over the horizon, and that's what I love best – the security of having a job I love, and support from my family and friends nearby."

AUGUST

20
22

| Mon | Tues | Wed | Thur | Fri | Sat | Sun |
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| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 Raakaunui | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 Kingi Tuuheitia Potatau Te Wherowhero VII |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 Whiro | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | |



Study: Diploma in Marine Biology.
Currently studying Level 4 Agriculture
(Dairy Farming)
Occupation: Dairy Farmer



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“ I was always really into learning at school ”

Sophie MacDonald

Life is poetic for Sophie MacDonald – she finds that when the world presents open ended questions, the only response is a willingness to engage and to learn. The 22 year-old explores her post-university life with this willingness, and the skills she has learnt through university – oftentimes using poetry as a way to navigate through life.

Sophie grew up in Te Kuiti but spent her preschool years in Japan. She attended St Joseph’s Primary School and Te Kuiti High School, where she was Head Girl in 2016, and was also named proxime accessit. Sophie left school and enrolled at Victoria University in Wellington to study conjoint degrees – a Bachelor of Commerce and a Bachelor of Arts, majoring in Anthropology, Philosophy, Public Policy and Political Science. Her interests in Humanities and thirst for knowledge was so much so that one degree was simply not enough.

“I was always really into learning at school, and I loved social science classes, history and economics. I initially enrolled in a development studies major at university, but dropped it for other classes that I found to be more in-line with my interests. If there is one thing that I wish I knew before I started studying, it would be that your degree will likely change, and that’s okay – what’s most important is to follow your interests.” Sophie said the workload was technically more than normal, but very manageable, and because she loved learning so much it didn’t feel like hard work at all. “I really wanted to fit it all in and make it work, so I did. I was totally in my zone and loved it,” she said. “Once I knew my majors, I planned out each semester and met with course coordinators to ensure that I was meeting all of my degree requirements, so I did not have any surprises at the end”. “Having a broad range of subjects also kept my interests alive. Because they’re all humanities subjects, they are all broadly related so you could see how each subject has implications in others, as well as many areas of society.”

Sophie also spoke about poetry. “I’ve always loved reading, but poetry is what I am most passionate about so I spend a lot of my spare time reading and writing poetry,” said Sophie. “I’ve been writing for a few years now and I’ve had a few poems published in books and literary journals. It’s a real passion of mine and I’m not going to stop it any time soon.”

“I’m still trying to work out what I want to do, but I’m really interested in working within the policy-making environment so I’m keeping an eye out for jobs in the policy realm,” she said. Sophie currently works as a procurement specialist for the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment in Wellington and spends her days carrying out due diligence on applications for All of Government panels.

SEPTEMBER

2022

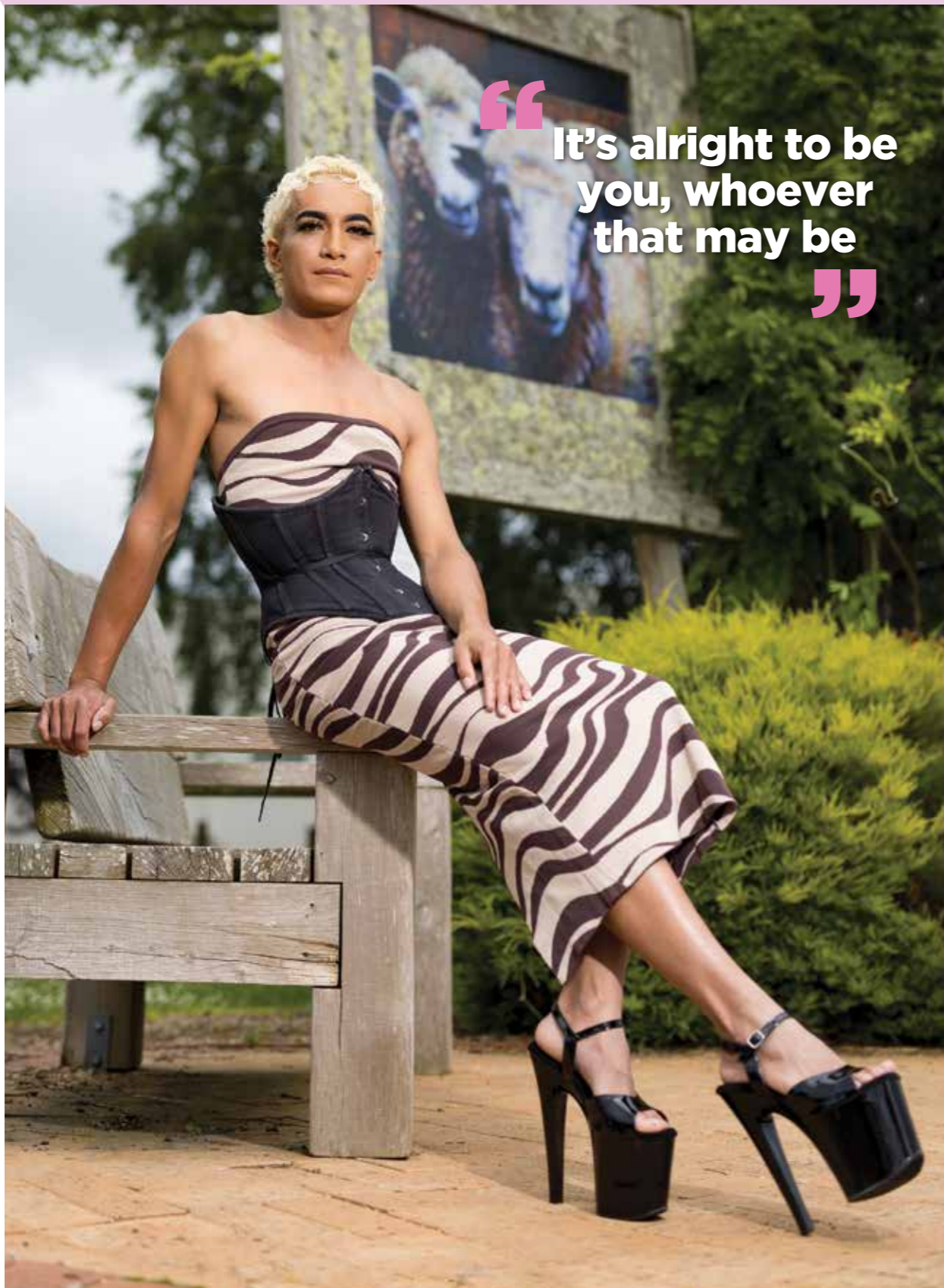
| Mon | Tues | Wed | Thur | Fri | Sat | Sun |
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| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 Fathers Day |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 Raakaunui | 11 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 Whiro | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 Term 3 ends | | |



Occupation: Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment
Study: Bachelor of Commerce and Bachelor of Arts



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“It’s alright to be you, whoever that may be”

Taonui Campbell

Ngāti Maniapoto

Farmer by day, Drag Queen by night – such is the life of Piopio’s Taonui Campbell, commonly known as Tinz. It’s a life he loves and one he wouldn’t change. The 24-year-old admits some people may find his lifestyle and career choice “out of the ordinary”, but Tinz is anything but ordinary, and believes diversity and inclusion are becoming more acceptable in modern society. “It’s alright to be you, whoever that may be – just remember to stay true to yourself and love yourself.”

Tinz has always had an affinity for agriculture and the rural lifestyle. Growing up in Te Kuiti surrounded by a large family, it was an easy choice to move into farming and throughout his schooling, he would help milk the cows. “I enjoy working outdoors and with animals. You have to really love farming - it’s either for you or it’s not.” After he completed schooling at Te Whare Kura o Maniapoto, Tinz moved to Australia, and it was there that his new passion developed. “I’m a very spontaneous person and while living in Alice Springs in Australia I found another side of me,” Tinz said. “Australia is a really open place and people aren’t afraid to show who they are. I like to experiment and I enjoy trying new things so I challenged both genders, started dressing more feminine, experimented with my sexuality, and it grew from there. “I ended up discovering who I really was.”

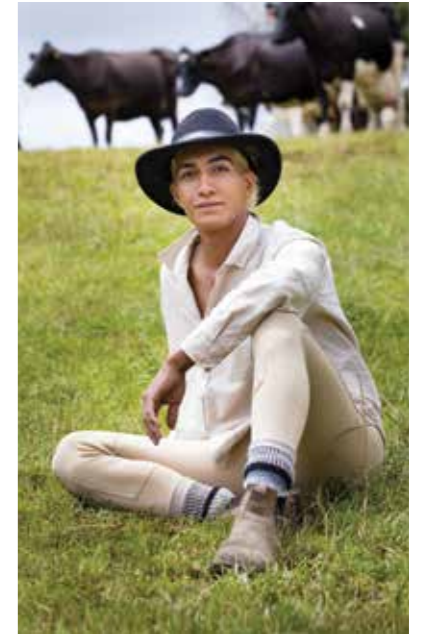
Tinz says the journey into the LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer) community was scary to begin with as he was still discovering boundaries and a new way of life. “I grew up in a very masculine household so I was afraid of letting people down, but my family have been 100% supportive and I wouldn’t be where I am today without them.” After a few years across the ditch, Tinz came back home to Aotearoa. He enrolled in a fashion design course in Wellington, but after a year, moved back to Te Kuiti. “Family and farming brought me home,” he said. Tinz is currently working for his sister on a farm in Piopio and in his spare time, enjoys the social aspect of his transgender lifestyle.

“I love dressing up, I’m a flamboyant dresser. I love makeup artistry, dressing in drag and socialising with friends.” Tinz’s advice to others in the LGBTQ community is simple: “You have to look after yourself. There will be challenges, everyone has them, but people will accept you and eventually come around. There is no rush.” Looking ahead, Tinz would love to have children one day and is also hoping to become a veterinarian. “At the moment I’m enjoying living day to day. But family and children are a “must” for me because it’s always been an important part of my life and I’m going to be a fantastic parent.”

OCTOBER

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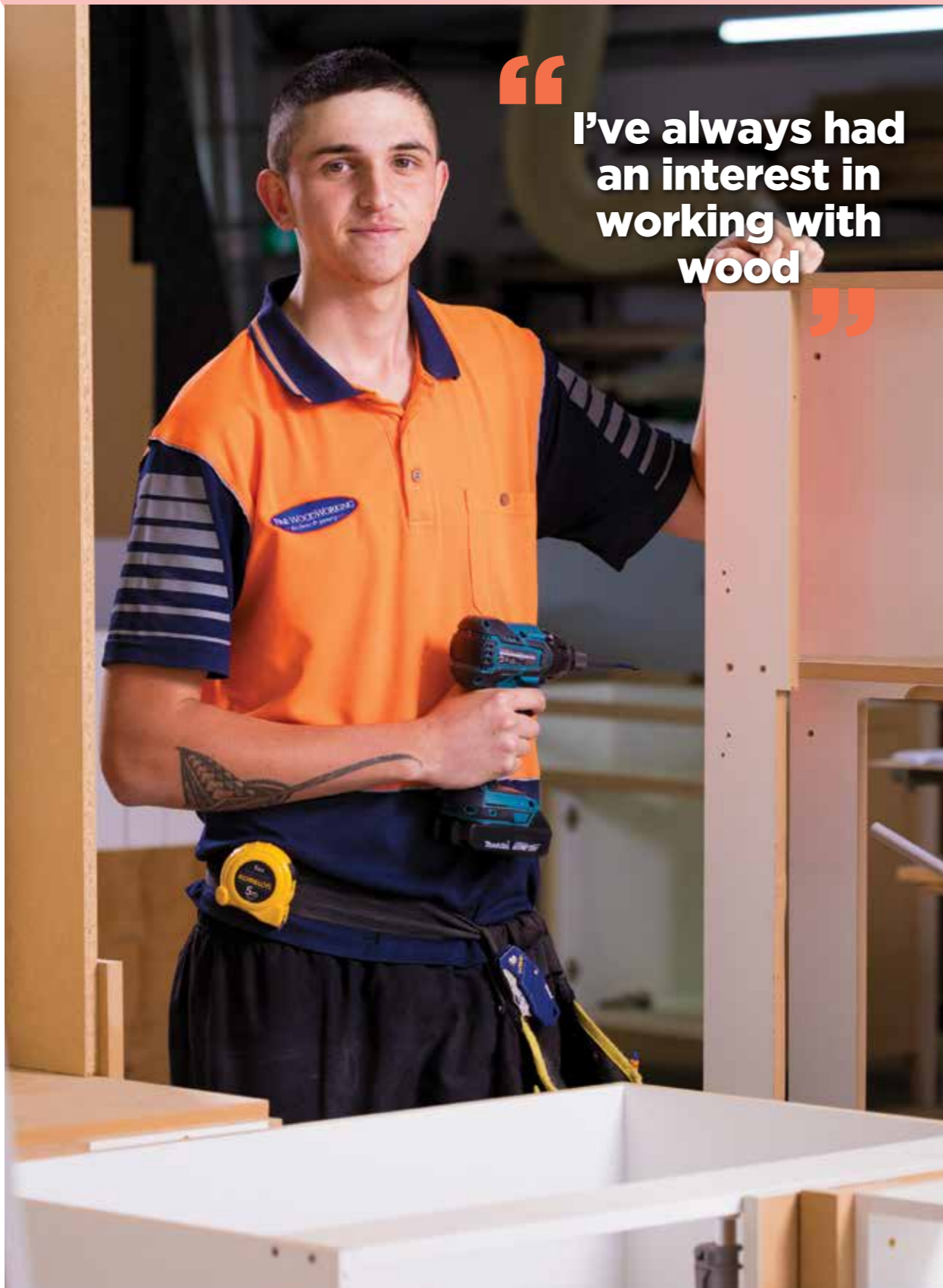
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| 31 | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 Raakaunui | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 Term 4 starts | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 Labour Day | 25 Whiro | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |



Occupation: Dairy Farmer



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“I’ve always had an interest in working with wood”

Callum Harrison

For Callum Harrison, learning a trade is an important part in building his future. The 18-year-old has known from a young age the goals he wanted to achieve in life, and he is well on his way. “My goal is to become a police officer, but my parents said it’s important to learn a trade first so that you have something to fall back on,” said Callum. “I value and appreciate their support and advice. They’ve never let me down.” A King Country boy at heart, Callum was born in Te Kūiti and grew up in Aria during his younger years, before settling back in Te Kūiti more recently. Callum was able to secure a job working for Fine Woodworking, a local family-owned business specialising in kitchen timber joinery and custom furniture “I’ve always had an interest in working with wood, and wanted a trade under my belt, so I was more than happy to work for a great company.”

The variety of the work also appeals. “Here at Fine Woodworking we do a wide range of things from cabinet making and assembling to doors, windows and stairs, all timber work,” said Callum. “My role is to assemble cabinets and setting up each kitchen ready for installation on site. Callum said the workshop process is important as it helps identify if anything is wrong before it is installed in a home. No two days are the same for Callum as each job is customised to the client’s wishes from the materials used, to the shape, layout, and colour. Fine Woodworking is also contracted to provide kitchens for Davies Homes based in Cambridge, so Callum is never short of work. In fact, what started as a job has now evolved into an apprenticeship through BCITO. “I’m in my second year of a three-and-a-half-year apprenticeship,” said Callum.

“My apprenticeship covers all timber work, but it’s mainly tailored to joinery. We take photos of the work we do and then we upload to an app for our tutors. We also attend yearly block courses and workshops and our tutor will also do site visits.” Callum is also part of the Mayors Taskforce For Jobs initiative that Number Twelve are looking after in our community. This programme primarily supports young people to find long term sustainable employment. “Starting a new job can be quite stressful but Number Twelve has been really helpful. They made sure everything was going well for me and help has always been available when needed. They gave me the incentive to keep going and even helped pay for the tools I needed for the job,” said Callum.

Once Callum completes his apprenticeship, he will become a qualified joiner. “Right now my main goal is to become qualified and then either learn another trade such as plumbing or pursue my long term goal of becoming a police officer. “It’s something I’ve always wanted to do since I was about three years old and I’m particularly interested in dog handling. “But for now, I’m happy to get more life experience under my belt first. The real world is a lot different to how it seems when you are younger, and I was always taught to see things in the bigger picture so I’m happy to take one day at a time.” When Callum isn’t working, he enjoys playing football in the Summer League tournament in Ōtorohanga, and enjoys writing and recording music.

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| 28 | 29 | 30 | | | | |



Occupation: Timber Joiner at Fine Woodworking



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“It’s the most intense and challenging time of your life”

Brayden Burnell

Ngāti Porou

Courage, commitment, comradeship and integrity have become an important part of Brayden’s life since joining the Navy in 2020, and he is proud to be serving his country as a trainee Marine Technician. Growing up on his family farm in Piopio, Brayden was no stranger to hearing about life in the Navy because his father Doug and Uncle Will briefly served in the Navy.

After completing Year 13 at Piopio College, where he was Deputy Head Boy, Brayden applied for the Navy and was successful in earning a placement. However COVID-19 hit and his recruitment was delayed when the country went into lockdown. After several weeks of uncertainty, he eventually made it to Devonport Naval Base in Auckland ready to take on the gruelling 16 week basic common training. “You know it’s coming and you think you’ve prepared enough, but nothing can really prepare you for it,” said Brayden. “It is the most intense and challenging time of your life - mentally and physically. It is designed to test you and push you beyond your limits.

“It’s about setting the right standard and the Navy has very high standards and expectations, from the way you dress and present yourself, to how you walk and conduct yourself, not only on base and on ship, but around the public as well. You never know who could be watching. So you need to learn to be resilient, mentally strong and show the core values of the navy at all times” After completing basic training, Brayden moved into specialist training, which he says is just like school where he attends classes and learns all aspects of operating a ship. “A Marine Technician’s job is to maintain the naval ships and ensure they are operational. This includes making sure the engines are running properly, the electrical systems are functioning. “There are two different paths you can take as a Marine Technician, electrician or propulsion and I’d like to learn the propulsion side, which is about what drives the ship.”

Halfway through specialist training, the delta variant of COVID-19 made its way to New Zealand and Brayden’s training was paused as Navy personnel were required to work in Managed Isolation and Quarantine facilities in Auckland. “COVID-19 has had a huge impact on my time in the Navy, and although working as security in an MIQ facility for 10 weeks was tiring and long, I saw it as another way of serving my country. “We were stationed off-base, shuffled around quite a bit, we had to take regular COVID tests and we were separated and isolated from everyone. It was quite hard at times, particularly with not being able to see my family or do anything else because of lockdown.”

Brayden is now back in the classroom and is looking forward to completing his training this year and one day sailing the seas. He said although his service has only been two years, he has come to love the way of life the Navy offers and he values the bond developed between his fellow sailors. “I am happy with where I am at. I love the Navy and wouldn’t want to be doing anything else. “The bonds you develop while in the Navy are unbreakable. When you have a bad day, there is always someone there to pick you up. “And there is still so much to come. There’s travelling to be done and the world to see. “I’ll get there one day and when I do it will all be worth it.”

DECEMBER

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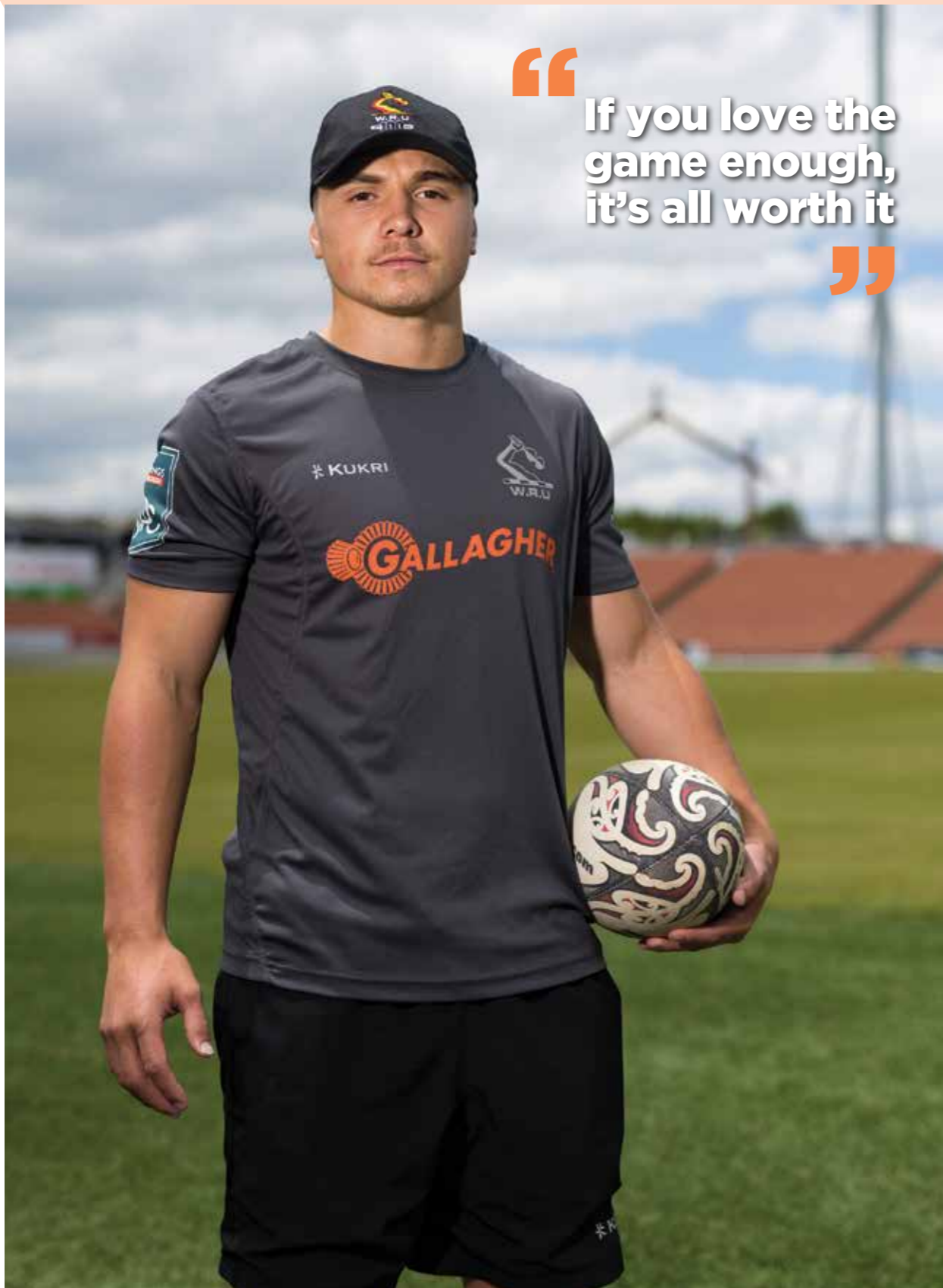
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| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 Raakaunui | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 Whiro | 24 | 25 Christmas day |
| 26 Boxing day | 27 Christmas Public Holiday | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | |



Occupation: Trainee Marine Technician - Royal New Zealand Navy



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“ If you love the game enough, it’s all worth it ”

Cortez Ratima

For Cortez Ratima, nothing could be better than strapping on a pair of rugby boots and throwing a ball around the field with his fellow team mates. The Waikato Half Back is determined to one day wear the black jersey and represent Aotearoa. Cortez’s passion for rugby started at a young age when he used to watch his father Peter Lee play rugby in the King Country, so it was only natural for him to follow suit.

Cortez grew up on a farm in the back of Piopio and attended Piopio Primary School and Piopio College before a year stint at New Plymouth Boys High School. He then returned home to Piopio College for one year, played for Pio Pio and the King Country under 14s. His family relocated to Hamilton so Cortez could finish his school years at Hamilton Boys High School. Cortez’s talent on the field drew the attention of HBHS and the Waikato Rugby Union (WRU) as a 15-year old, and soon after he was a regular Waikato representative through all the grades. During Cortez’s final years at school he was a part of the 1st XV which won the super 8s competition. He then represented the Waikato Chiefs U18s team, NZ Maori U18s team and the New Zealand Condors 7s team.

Thanks to his growth through HBHS he was able to continue that same attitude through to the Waikato Rugby Academy where he played his first senior premiere club games as a 17-year old fresh out of school.

In 2018 Cortez was named Waikato Premiere Club Player of the Year. He was also part of the Jock Hobbs Waikato U19s team and was fortunate to play for the Chiefs U20s and NZ Māori Under 20s team.

The following year, Cortez was given the opportunity to sign a two year contract with the Waikato Mitre 10 Cup Squad. He also played for the Chiefs Development team and recently the NZ Under 20s team.

He said he has been lucky to have the support of many people, but his parents, Peter Lee and Deiresa have helped nurture his rugby career through the ups and downs. “A massive learning curve for me has been the resilience that is required to get back up from season ending injuries, bide that time and work hard to get back on track to do it all again,” said Cortez. “My Dad has always helped me out and kept me on track. My first year out of school he made sure I studied and kept my options open, but also encouraged me to give everything I could to rugby.”

“During the NPC season, it’s a fulltime commitment, but during other times training is quite individually driven. This is when I work part time as a teacher aide, biding my time before I can get back into rugby again.” A defining game in Cortez’s sports career was helping the 2021 Waikato Bunnings NPC Squad win the premier championship final against Tasman 23-20 in November last year. “I really enjoyed the game and it’s always a rewarding experience when you can help take your team to a win.” Looking to the future, Cortez can’t see himself doing anything else, and he is more determined than ever to reach his goal of playing in the Super Rugby competition and making the All Blacks. “Coming out of school I never thought I would be where I am today. But with hard work and commitment and a positive mindset, it’s possible. And, if you love the game enough, it’s all worth it

JANUARY

20
23

| Mon | Tues | Wed | Thur | Fri | Sat | Sun |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| 30 | 31 | | | | | 1 New Years Day |
| 2 Day after New Years Day | 3 New Years Public Holiday | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 Raakaunui | 8 |
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 Whiro |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |



Occupation: Professional rugby player for Waikato Rugby Union



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