



Bright sparks given an energy booster

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Two Taranaki students are the first recipients of major new undergraduate scholarships from Shell New Zealand.

Jessica Richardson-Land, who completed her schooling at Spotswood College last year, and Teihorangi Walden, from Francis Douglas Memorial College, have been awarded the scholarships for science, engineering and environmental studies.

The scholarships are each worth \$22,500 and will be paid in annual instalments of \$7500.

They are designed to support high performing, all-round school leavers who would benefit from financial assistance, during their university studies.

Shell will also provide mentors to help with their studies and offer holiday work.

The pair were awarded their scholarships at a function at Shell Todd Oil Services in New Plymouth yesterday.

Jessica Richardson-Land, 17, is enrolled for a degree in science at Waikato University and wants to pursue a career in earth/environmental science. She says the scholarship will provide opportunities she would not otherwise have.

"I can't describe in words how much this scholarship really means to me," she said.

"I'm so honoured, proud and ex-

tremely grateful. I hope to one day find employment in an earth science job which I'm passionate about and that I will enjoy going to each day."

Teihorangi Walden, 18, last year's head boy at Francis Douglas, is heading to Otago University to major in geology/geography with a minor in te reo Maori. He wants his studies to eventually benefit his community.

"Given the chance Maori can have the expertise and knowledge to progress towards a sustainable future. I would like to take a lead role in the opportunity to provide future direction for my people and all New Zealanders," he said.

"Also, I already have a brother and a sister at university in Otago, which is quite a financial burden on my family. So this scholarship is very much appreciated," he said.

Shell New Zealand chairman Rob Jager said it was very rewarding to be supporting high calibre students with a sense of social and environmental responsibility – values that are crucial to Shell.

"There's high demand for skilled workers in the oil and gas industry. We're very pleased to be offering the scholarships annually to encourage more participation. We congratulate Jessica and Teihorangi and look forward to their becoming part of our work community."



Energetic scholars: Taranaki students Teihorangi Walden and Jessica Richardson-Land sign their scholarships watched by Shell NZ chairman Rob Jager and corporate communications manager Shona Geary. Photo: CAMERON BURNELL/FAIRFAX NZ