



MEDIA RELEASE

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ENERGY TRUST AWARDS TEN SCHOLARSHIPS FOR 2009

The Eastern Bay Energy Trust has awarded scholarships totalling \$45,000, to ten Eastern Bay students. The scholarships are for degree and pre-trade study in energy related fields, and will go towards course fees during the 2009 academic year.

Four scholarships were awarded to students undertaking a National Certificate in Electricity Supply.

Anthony Sykes, Darcy Vercoe and Geoff Searle each received \$4,000 towards course fees at Wintec in Hamilton, while Daniel Byrne received \$5,000 towards course fees at BOP Polytechnic in Tauranga.

Also attending BOP Polytechnic is Kane Reo who will be studying for a National Certificate in Electrical Engineering, and who received a \$5,000 scholarship.

Richard Wilson and Scott Millar each received \$4,000 for the second year of their Bachelor of Engineering degree at the University of Auckland. Jonathon Milne will be completing the third year of a Bachelor of Engineering degree at the University of Canterbury, and was awarded \$3,000.

Two Horizon Energy Scholarships were awarded this year, both to students attending the University of Canterbury. James Gommans, who was the inaugural recipient of the scholarship in 2008, will be undertaking the fourth and final year of his Bachelor of Engineering – Electrical degree. He is joined by Tom Brennan, who goes into the third year of his Bachelor of Engineering – Electrical & Electronic.

The two-year Horizon Energy Scholarship is offered by Horizon Energy in conjunction with the Eastern Bay Energy Trust to develop industry skills for the benefit of the Eastern Bay of Plenty. The scholarship includes \$1,000 towards books and course related costs, holiday employment with Horizon Energy and possible employment with Horizon upon completion of the degree.

The Eastern Bay Energy Trust's contribution covers the candidate's course fees is up to \$6,000 per year, for years three and four of the degree.

Chairman of the Trust's education committee, Trustee Rex Wilson said "Scholarships make a huge difference to the students who receive them because it reduces the pressure of having to earn money to pay their fees. This means they can focus on their studies, and their results speak for themselves. The Trust is committed to encouraging young people into the energy sector, and it is very rewarding to be able to help Eastern Bay people to achieve their best".

For further information contact

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Background:

The bachelor of engineering course is a four year programme that consists of academic and practical training that leads to registration as a professional engineer. This degree enables the graduate to embark on a wide range of career paths such as design, consulting, project development and research in the electricity supply industry.

The Eastern Bay Energy Trust has made a strong commitment to industry education and training. Along with the scholarships, the Trust provides funding to support Eastern Bay contractors who create apprenticeship positions for line mechanics or electricians, and an annual taster course which introduces senior secondary school students to the electricity supply industry.

The Trust works closely with the Electricity Supply Industry Training Organisation (ESITO) and is the only energy trust in New Zealand to have made this commitment to industry training.