



MEDIA RELEASE

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ENERGY TRUST AWARDS SIX SCHOLARSHIPS FOR 2010

The Eastern Bay Energy Trust has awarded scholarships totalling \$26,000, to six Eastern Bay students. The scholarships are for degree and pre-trade study in energy related fields, and will go towards course fees during the 2010 academic year.

Sam Hall of Awakeri received a \$4,000 scholarship towards course fees for a National Certificate in Electricity Supply at WINTEC in Hamilton.

Scott Millar of Ohope will be completing the second year of a Bachelor of Electrical Engineering degree at the University of Auckland, and also received a \$4,000 scholarship,

Four students will be attending the University of Canterbury. Tom Houston of Ohope and James Butcher of Opotiki will be undertaking the first year of a Bachelor of Engineering Degree. Simon Barr of Awakeri will be completing the second year of a Bachelor of Engineering (Mechatronics) degree. All received \$4,000 towards course fees.

The Trust also awarded \$6,000 to Horizon Energy Scholarship recipient Tom Brennan who will be undertaking the fourth and final year of his Bachelor of Electrical Engineering degree at Canterbury. 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 Eastern Bay Energy Trust's contribution covers the candidate's course fees of up to \$6,000. The scholarship also includes \$1,000 from Horizon Energy towards books and course related costs, holiday employment with Horizon and possible employment with the company upon completion of the degree.

Trust Chairman David Bulley said "The Trust is committed to encouraging young people into the energy sector, and has now approved over \$257,000 in scholarships since 2003. 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. It is very rewarding to be able to help young Eastern Bay people to achieve their best".

The students received their scholarships at a function in Whakatane on Monday night (see photo attached)

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.