

Press Release
October 25, 2011

ILT Youthmark Awards celebrate success

The latest crop of Southlanders to earn a prestigious ILT Youthmark Award has been announced.

Photographer Shelley Clark, who has been involved with the initiative for the past 19 years, said the 2011 recipients rated amongst the most talented she had captured through the lens. "Every year there are one or two students who really stand out but this year there are some truly incredible recipients," she said. "When you look back at previous Youthmark students, iconic names like Jeff Wilson, Lesley Nicol, Hayden Cohen, Storm Uru, Wendy Frew and Aaron Barclay grab your attention – young Southlanders who have gone on to represent New Zealand successfully on the world stage. Who knows what this latest group can achieve in the future."

The Invercargill Licensing Trust contributes \$10,000 a year to fund the ILT Youthmark Awards, which are designed to showcase the academic, cultural or sporting achievements of 50 students from secondary schools throughout Southland and the Wakatipu.

"Youthmark was established at a time when attitudes towards youth in Southland were very negative. It was created to celebrate the success of Southland's young people and highlight their achievements," Ms Clark said.

ILT chairman Alan Dennis said the Youthmark Awards had a positive impact. "It's a fantastic opportunity for these incredibly talented students to have their achievements acknowledged publically alongside their peers," he said. "The diverse range of genres is testament to the various fields our young people are endeavouring to make their mark in and we need to encourage them as much as possible to continue in their respective quests."

Traditional sporting codes rugby, netball and cycling feature alongside volleyball, equestrian and golf, while in the academic and cultural ranks ballet and hip-hop are joined by Japanese, leadership and even the bagpipes.

The 2011 ILT Youthmark Awards will be held on Wednesday, October 28, at 7.30pm at the Ascot Park Hotel.

2011 ILT Youthmark Award recipients are: Terri McCracken (Aparima College), Katie Burgess, Jaykib Holland-Collins (Aurora College), Omea Geary, Katie Brock, Jared McCulloch, Kirsty Thwaites (Central Southland College), Emily Humphries (Fiordland College), Lisa Catto, Hamish Cooke, Janelle Gibson, Maxine Vercoe, Aaron Shirley (Gore High School), Alice Alsweller, Sarah Bester, Philippa Buzzard, Sian Chilton, Lori Comer, Callum Clark, Katelyn Froude, Morgan Hunter, Asya Schmidt, Eroni Sotutu, Tessa Young (James Hargest College), Anna Poole (Menzies College), Moana-Lyn Te Whata (Northern Southland College), Mackenzie (Mac) Smith, Robbie McKenzie, Keanau Kahukura, Graydon Hayes, Troy Smith (Southland Boys' High School), Anna Sanford, Grace Smith, Kelsey Timpany, Ashleigh Horton, Amy MacKenzie, Katie Heywood, Stephanie McManus (Southland Girls' High School), Alice Wilkins, Emma Millard (St Peters College) Regan Bennett (Tuatapere Community College), Andrew Ridden, Jessica van Rossum, Katie Telfer (Verdon College), Emily Burns, Jared Campbell, Caleb Dawson-Swale, Max Gunn, Daisy Hylton, Ali Macharg (Wakatipu High School).

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