

Press Release

Waimea Intermediate School (WIS) Kiwi Kids team wins one of ten ASB Community Enterprise Project implementation awards

Casey Oglivie, Tori Granger, Lily Pearson, Bronte Haigh, Thomas Aspray and Henry Deacon, Year 7 students from Waimea Intermediate School, Richmond, Nelson have been awarded one of ten ASB Community Enterprise implementation awards for their outstanding social enterprise project planned for Refugee Services Aotearoa, New Zealand.

ASB Community Enterprise is an exciting new social enterprise initiative for intermediate aged students, offered nationwide by **Young Enterprise Trust**, leaders in enterprise and financial education. **ASB is the principal supporter of the programme.**

Students form teams (student companies), and plan a project for a not-for-profit or charitable organisation that will benefit their local community. They enter their project in a national competition, where the top ten projects are awarded the funds to implement their project.

“The WIS Kiwi Kids team’s business plan was presented in a very professional manner and their research and partnership with Refugee Services Aotearoa New Zealand, under the guidance of their teacher, Judy Larkins, was outstanding!” said Sharron Buer, National Director, Primary Enterprise and Financial Education (Young Enterprise Trust). Their welcome packs which include a ‘How to be a Kiwi Kid’ Guide, kiwiana pencil and rubber, will be distributed to refugees in the Nelson area.

The key goal of Refugee Services Aotearoa New Zealand is to support successful settlement of refugees into New Zealand with a welcoming and inclusive attitude. Their aim is to assist and equip refugees with the tools to thrive and flourish in their new society. The WIS Kiwi Kids project will go a long way to making this aim a reality.

Since winning the project implementation award, the WIS Kiwi Kids team have presented their project to the Nelson City Council and local businesses, and have been awarded sponsorship from the Department of Labour towards their publishing costs of a further 200 booklets.

Nelson and Tasman New Zealand Settlement Support Coordinator Sonny Alesana was instrumental in the project, especially connecting the students with Refugee Services Aotearoa manager Gabrielle Humphreys and enlisting the support of Tony Woodall manager of Printhouse to sponsor the printing of the first lot of booklets.

Mr Alesana said he was very proud to be part of the project and New Zealand Settlement Support saw this as an important part of providing information to children and their parents to make their settling in their new country as easy as possible.

Well done, Waimea Intermediate Kiwi Kids team!