

DEVELOPMENT WEST COAST

TERTIARY SCHOLARSHIPS 2025



Te Ohu Whakawhanake o Te Tai Poutini



Renee Rooney (DWC), Robyn Verstappen (on behalf of Niko Barnett), Elyse Johnson, Iris Reynolds, Harrison Whittaker, Jake Priebe, Heath Milne

Westland District Scholarship:

JAKE PRIEBE

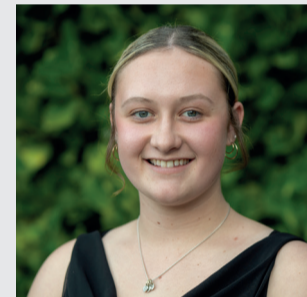


Bachelor of Civil Engineering at University of Canterbury.

Jake is a resourceful, hardworking, and versatile student with a passion for sports, both as a player and a coach across various disciplines. He is also a dedicated volunteer, contributing his time to the Grey District Youth Trust, Destination Hokitika, and Te Rito Violence Prevention.

Buller District Scholarship:

ELYSE JOHNSON



Bachelor of Health Science, majoring in Psychology at University of Canterbury.

Elyse is a positive influence, serving as Deputy Head Student and a key member of the student leadership team at Buller High. She coaches basketball and swimming and has dedicated many volunteer hours to her community.

Grey District Scholarship:

IRIS REYNOLDS



Health Science, majoring in Medicine at University of Otago.

Iris is a high-achieving student who excels across a wide range of disciplines. She was the top physics student last year and currently serves as Head Girl at Greymouth High. Iris has been actively involved in St John, competing at both national and regional levels for many years.

DWC TERTIARY SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

The 2025 DWC Tertiary Scholarships have been awarded to Elyse Johnson, Harrison Whittaker, Iris Reynolds, Jake Priebe, and Niko Barnett, recognising their exceptional academic achievements, leadership qualities, and commitment to their communities.



DWC IS ABSOLUTELY PRIVILEGED TO BE PART OF THEIR JOURNEY INTO THE FUTURE."

Renee Rooney, Chair, Development West Coast

DWC's annual scholarships, valued at up to \$32,500 per student, aim to support West Coast youth by removing barriers to tertiary education and encouraging them to return to the region after their studies. In addition to financial support, the scholarships offer summer work placements and guaranteed employment on the West Coast upon graduation.

Milne highlighted the importance of retaining the region's best and brightest talent. "I very much look forward to seeing them grow and develop until they eventually come back to the Coast and contribute to our region."

Chief executive Heath Milne said this year's scholarship group was, once again, exceptional. "The 38 applicants were of the highest standard and a credit to the West Coast, which made the panel's decisions extremely difficult."

DWC's vocational coordinator, Jade Mahuika, expressed excitement about the future of the scholarship recipients. "We look forward to working alongside these outstanding individuals over the course of their studies and can't wait to see the value and impact they'll bring to the Coast."

"All of the applicants can be proud, and the recipients will add to the outstanding alumni group of the Development West Coast scholarships."

Now in its fourth year, the DWC scholarship programme continues to foster the development of West Coast talent, with 16 students having benefitted from the initiative to date.

West Coast Regional Scholarship:

HARRISON WHITTAKER



Bachelor of Surveying at University of Otago.

Harrison is a role model and team player with a strong work ethic. He is the Sports Leader at Greymouth High this year, and also serves as a volunteer firefighter for the Ngahere Fire Brigade.

West Coast Regional Scholarship:

NIKO BARNETT



Bachelor of Science, majoring in Geology at University of Canterbury.

Niko is a hardworking and quiet achiever who served as Sports Leader at Greymouth High in 2022.



SCHOLARSHIPS VALUED UP TO:

\$32,500 PER STUDENT

The scholarships also offer summer work and guaranteed employment on the West Coast on completion of the applicant's tertiary study.