

Bright Sparks

A celebration of Porirua's Young Bright Sparks

Brought to you regularly by Partners Porirua, a provider of the Youth Transition Service and facilitator of business, education partnerships

Bright Sparks is a new column dedicated to the celebration of the achievements of Porirua's youth. Often the media are criticised for highlighting the negative news. Instead this column will celebrate the positive. If you have a nomination of a Bright Spark drop us a line at info@partnersporirua.org.nz.



Jewelz Kilino

Last year when the government announced a new funding scheme to help get young people into work, Partners Porirua was able to take on two new young employees for six months.

One of those young people was Jewelz Kilino, a young Tokelauan woman who was previously on the unemployment benefit and who had been caring for her sick father.

"I was unmotivated to do anything and I just relied on heaps of people" she said. Jewelz approached Partners Porirua, one of the youth transition service providers in Porirua to help her get her driver's licence. "I wanted to get my restricted licence to drive my father to the doctor and to get his medication."

While on the course Jewelz met Henry Samia, an employment advisor, and Michelle Robinson the manager at Partners Porirua. "At the time, we were looking to add some "young blood" to the team at Partners Porirua," says Michelle, "and the Community Max funding meant we were able to offer Jewelz a work placement for six months. Jewelz wanted to make some positive changes in her life and we felt good about her as a potential employee."

Jewelz impressed during her first six months with her eagerness to learn and her hard working attitude and so she was offered a permanent position and is now a vital team member at Partners Porirua. Part of her role is running the Drive Safe programme that she had previously taken. Her work duties include organising the programmes, liaising with participants, introducing the course to the attendees and following on their progress towards a full driver licence. She also looks after the website, updates facebook and assists with administration and special events.

For Jewelz, gaining employment has meant that "now I can help out my family's financial needs at home. I'm more responsible," she said. "I feel like I can connect more to other young people because I was in their shoes. I just want to help them out. I reckon I'm kind of fresh and I think that's why I get on well with other youth, I'm on the same level as them. I am also thinking more about my future as I have plans to continue with my studies towards a Diploma in Career Guidance. I am involved with the Porirua City Council's Youth Advisory Group; we discuss youth matters in the city and plan projects for young people. Being in this job has made me aware of my potential and what I can give to the community; I just feel privileged to be working with a great team at Partners Porirua."

Jewelz may be modest about her achievements but her employer thinks she's a Porirua Bright Spark. In a small organisation every employee has to pull their weight and be a team player. Jewelz has stepped up to the mark and gone above and beyond her job description. Managing the website and the face book has been a special contribution said Michelle. "We simply didn't have the time or knowledge around social media previously. Jewelz has a fresh perspective and has brought us all up to speed!"

DO YOU HAVE THE MOTIVATION AND ENTHUSIASM TO BE A FUTURE BRIGHT SPARK?

Partners Porirua can help you to create a work and training plan to get your future on track. If you are aged between 15 and 24 give our friendly staff a call.

DEVELOPING
YOUTH
FOR THE
WORKING
WORLD