

# Recognising the value of adult learning

## RACHEL MCFADDEN

Twelve learners, tutors and providers received awards for their outstanding contributions and achievements last Friday during Adults Learners Week.

The awards were given out by REAP House community education organiser Ailsa Carey and Marlborough Mayor Alistair Snowman at Marlborough Community College to recognise the value of adult education.

Long-term adult educator Nancy Sherwood was recognised for her contribution to the community as a youth mentoring coordinator responsible for training youth mentors for the past 15 years, while Margaret Bond was recognised for contributing to the revival of Maori art through her weaving classes taught through Te Wananga o Aotearoa.

Training providers for computers in homes and community law programme also received awards for training adults to be legally and technology savvy. Marlborough Community College was recognised as this year's most outstanding provider category.

"Through all the changes in government education and training programmes over the years

they have remained constant in providing an alternative educational facility for young people who don't suit the mainstream system," Ailsa told the packed Marlborough Community College cafe.

Learners Brad Renner, Isobel Smith and Katrina Healy were recognised as outstanding learners. Katrina Healy travelled to Nelson three to four times a week to complete a degree in Applied Social Science while raising two children. Katrina who has dyslexia says, "if you want something enough you find a way".

Isobel Smith went out to prove that you are never too old to start learning. At the age of 80, Isobel enrolled in Te Reo Maori and Te Arataki Manu Korero courses.

Liz Collyns says Isobel is a witty and enthusiast learner who always speaks from the heart. "She is an absolute inspiration," Liz says.

Graduating from the course at 83, Isobel was thrilled to be recognised as the most outstanding learner.

"Learning satisfies my curiosity and gives me a great sense of pride," she says.

"You are never too old to learn," she says.



Recipients of this year's most outstanding learners, trainers and providers award at Marlborough Community College.

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