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Christchurch teen shows “Incredible Resilience” in Overall Merit award win

“What an amazing opportunity for Kylie and we are very proud of her achievement in winning this award. This is a great confidence boost for her as this course was very much outside of her comfort zone. She has shown incredible resilience!” states Rowan Milburn Principal – Hagley Community Centre on Kylie Walshe’s Overall Merit Award win at a recent Blue Light Life Skills camp.

Kylie (15) walked away with the Overall Merit award by beating an exceptional group of young people from across the South Island at the camp held on 2-6 May at Burnham Military Camp.

Kylie comments, “Even though I found this course really hard, I gained self-discipline skills and I am much more confident now. It was nice to try something different and not give up! I would really recommend this for others, especially if you are into outdoor activities. I now know a lot about the Army, Navy, and Airforce as career options too! I really appreciated how the staff supported and cared for me.”

Blue Light’s Life Skills Coordinator Nicola Patterson notes “Kylie was awarded the Overall Merit Award through “her consistent progress throughout the camp, her self-discipline, and support of others”.

The camp in Burnham offered Kylie the ability to learn Life Skills such cleaning ablution blocks and the exterior of the camp, rising early, making their bed, and cleaning their room by 6am for morning inspection. Kylie also took part in experiential learning activities such as the High Wire Course, mountain biking, learnt parade ground drills, took part in leadership, teamwork, and physical activities, along with a visit to the International Antarctic Centre.

“We are delighted to see that Kylie has taken this opportunity to grow her leadership skills through a Blue Light Camp. Thank you Blue Light for these amazing opportunities for our Rangatahi.” Rowan Milburn Principal – Hagley Community Centre states.

Blue Light’s highly successful Life Skills programme has been run in partnership with NZ Defence Force for the past 12 years and has adventure-based experiential learning as a key part of the programme. The programme provides 14-17-year olds’ critical life skills such as self-development, self-control, and teamwork that will enable young people to be successful at home, school, communities, and employment.

Up to 12 courses are held each year in Auckland, Central North Island and Burnham locations.

For more information about the Blue Light Life Skills camps visit www.bluelight.co.nz.

Blue Light is grateful for the support of the sponsorship of the Lion Foundation and community supporters.

New Zealand Blue Light

Blue Light is a not-for-profit charity that works in partnership with the Police to create positive connections between young people and the Police, helping young people find direction, fun, and sense of belonging within their communities, enabling young people to develop life skills, leadership skills and find employment opportunities.

Blue Light believes that it is through the empowerment of disadvantaged youth to reach their full potential that their overall wellbeing can be improved and in turn the wellbeing of their communities.

Blue Light achieves this through removing the barriers for disadvantaged youth to participate positively in the community, through both its national and locally- based programmes, activities, and events.

Blue Light's work in the community is unique – it is not a one size fits all approach. We have 68 local branches working with NZ Police to create meaningful experiences for young people in their regions, including cultural, sporting, and educational activities that are alcohol, drug, and violence free.

Although Blue Light is supported by Police, the two operate totally independently.

For many participants, the programmes decrease the risk of youth offending and becoming victims of crime through access to positive role models, time with other young people away and the opportunity to see the world outside their current environment.

Blue Light originally began in Australia as a community policing initiative and remains very strong in all the Australian states. As well as in New Zealand, it is now active in the Solomon Islands, East Timor, Cook Islands, and Scotland.

See www.bluelight.co.nz or visit www.facebook.com/nzbluelight



PHOTO ABOVE: L to R: NZ Police Youth Aid Officer, Selwyn, Senior Constable Bruce Ward, and Overall Merit Winner Kylie Walshe.



PHOTO ABOVE: New Zealand Blue Light Life Skills camp 2-6 May 2022 Graduation photo



PHOTO ABOVE: L to R: Staff and students on New Zealand Blue Light Life Skills camp 2-6 May after completion of the High Ropes course 2022
Overall Merit Winner Kylie Walshe. (Far Right, Rear)