

Ka Pai Carterton

Youth put best foot forward

The Village documentary launch event truly blazed, when 230 invited guests packed the Carterton Events Centre to attend a prominent Wairarapa Youth Week event celebrating a "Youth at Risk" Housing Initiative in Carterton.

With a focus on youth, the evening kicked off with a music performance from Meg Hunter and Alex Hartley of Kuranui College – it was standing room only as guests filled every inch of the foyer space.

When the main auditorium doors were cast open, the crowd was met with a joyous pōwhiri as Te Wharekura o Te Wairarapa delivered a stunning kapahaka medley as people took their seats.

The evening was hosted by Ka Pai Carterton and engaged speakers Wayne Poutoa (co-Founder of The Village), Dale Williams (Youth 2 Work, Wairarapa and Mayor's Taskforce For Jobs, Carterton), Hon Priyanca Radhakrishnan (Minister for Youth) and Ara Taiohi (founders of Youth Week, Aotearoa). The evening was held together by Carterton local, Dallas Te Rangi who added a new string to his bow in MCing his first major speaking engagement.

The true stars of the evening were third-year residents of The Village, Jurnee Aroha Millward (20) and Isaiah Woods (22). They bravely shared intimate moments of their emotional life journeys and talked about overcoming significant obstacles to become stronger young people. Their support network of whānau, friends, educators, neighbours and agencies were all there to cheer them on.

Carterton's mayor, Greg Lang, expressed his thoughts of gratitude for the evening. "Thanks for putting on one of the most powerful and inspiring events I have been to..."

For those interested in seeing The Village documentary, keep an eye on upcoming community screenings or contact Jen or Wayne Poutoa at Carterton Baptist Church on Broadway, Carterton.



Jurnee Aroha Millward