

Ka Pai SOUP

Star Safari shines brightest

Every kid – big or small – wonders what is out there when they look up at the stars at night, and now the frontier of astrobiology is even closer for our community of Carterton.

At Ka Pai SOUP round 4, held at the Carterton Events Centre in March, Haritina Mogoşanu, executive director of the New Zealand Astrobiology Network, pitched the concept of a competition for Carterton schools to win a planetarium experience, plus the opportunity for one child to win a full year of space science mentoring.

The audience was wowed not only by the opportunity for our youth, but also with Hari and partner Sam Leske's plans for a space science centre at Stonehenge Aotearoa.

"What an opportunity for our community; to live within one of the world's largest dark skies reserves and educate the next generation of space scientists, right here in Carterton." said one audience member in awe.

While Star Safari won in the voting, the audience were equally impressed with and keen to learn more to support all five pitches on the night. Mike Osborne pitched "The long conversation lunch", aiming to make new connections amongst community through food and conversation.

Abby Hollingsworth pitched "The Ruth Project" and its work in supporting women and families through perinatal depression.

Minty Hunter wowed the crowd with his footage of Wunder21, showcasing the hottest young Wairarapa musicians through a mind-blowing music gig at Carterton Events Centre. His pitch was to deliver this as an annual event.

Lisa Birell and Jo Hehir pitched their menstruation and sustainability education programme, "Divine River", which they are working to deliver across Wairarapa schools.



Jan Farr, left, congratulates Haritina Mogoşanu

All pitches are available to view at www.kapaicarterton.nz/events.

Ka Pai SOUP will be back for Round 5 in June, so if you have an idea, project or small business you want to pitch for community awareness, support and funding, get in touch hello@kapaicarterton.nz