MEDIA RELEASE

TE KURA O TITITEA
MOUNT ASPIRING COLLEGE

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TOP HONOURS FOR MAC STUDENTS IN NEW ZEALAND SCHOLARSHIPS

Four Te Kura o Tititea Mount Aspiring College 2025 senior students have achieved prestigious New Zealand Scholarships, recognising their exceptional academic performance.

Year 13 students in 2025, Ania-Kanu Saklani (Drama), Tanyn Wood (English), Zoe Giles (Health and Physical Education), and Charlie Blampied (Geography) have been recognised as top secondary school scholars in their respective subjects.

New Zealand Scholarship assessments recognise the country's highest-achieving secondary students. To be awarded the New Zealand Scholarship, students must demonstrate deep subject knowledge, advanced critical thinking, and the ability to apply their understanding to complex situations.

Ania-Kanu Saklani (Drama)
Head of Learning Area for Drama Emily McRae says Ania-Kanu demonstrated an engaged and curious attitude throughout her preparation. "As a 2025 head student, Ania-Kanu navigated an extremely busy year, bravely committing to the scholarship exam. It's a highly challenging and rigorous assessment requiring confident live performance under pressure and the ability to communicate complex ideas clearly."

Now studying drama and psychology at Victoria University, Ania-Kanu says the Scholarship course was challenging but very fulfilling.

"It gave me a much deeper understanding of drama and how a performance flows. Your pieces need to show your range as an actor, and working with Mrs McRae taught me how to dive deeper and make my performances feel truly lived-in. I also loved working closely with Mrs McRae and shared so many laughs and special moments along the way. I could not be more thankful for the experience."

Tanyn Wood (English)
Tanyn, who is now studying a Bachelor of Laws and a Bachelor of Arts at Otago University, says she found Scholarship English challenging but believes it has prepared her for higher learning across different contexts.

"The Scholarship English workshops were engaging, and I enjoyed discussing the content in more detail. It was great to have these regular critical discussions."

Academic English and Scholarship English Teacher Fiona Gibson says Tanyn took great joy in the study of literature and language. "Tanyn was consistently interested and constantly organised. A lifetime of interest in literature and ideas in the world around her made the scholarship course come together for her."

Zoe Giles (Health and Physical Education)
Zoe attended MAC's Hostel Programme in 2025, arriving at the college with a Level 3 Excellence endorsement gained in Year 12. Head of Learning Area for Health and Physical Education Neil Stuart says Zoe excelled in physical education, balancing sporting and academic success.

"Zoe enrolled in university papers to extend and enrich her learning in health and physical education. I was particularly impressed by her exceptional time management and the way she fully embraced every opportunity available to her at the college."

Zoe is now studying health sciences at the University of Otago with the aim of commencing physiotherapy next year.

Charlie Blampied (Geography)
Charlie attended MAC's hostel programme in 2025. Social Sciences Teacher Lana Whipp says Charlie's Scholarship success is a testament to her analytical rigour and meticulous attention to detail.

"Charlie's year-long focus on complex data and map interpretation in Level 3 geography ensured she was exceptionally well prepared for the exam.

"She demonstrated an ability to integrate her own perspectives on extreme natural events and showcase the high-level critical thinking we strive to develop in our students."

This year, Charlie is studying law, psychology, philosophy and geography at Otago University.

The scholarship examinations are run by the New Zealand Qualifications Framework. Students sit the exams in addition to their external examinations at the end of the year. Students who achieve New Zealand Scholarship can receive a monetary award ranging from a one-off $500 payment for a single subject award to $10,000 per year for up to three years for premier award winners.

More information: Please contact Principal Nicola Jacobsen on 03 443 0498 or principal@mtaspiring.school.nz