



YOUNG AND INSPIRED

2017 Presenters



Marie Palzer

Marie grew up in beautiful Marahau, where she spent her childhood exploring her natural surroundings. Marie's upbringing enabled her to develop a connection with the environment and this has given her a greater sense of wonder and awe for the world which now feeds her dreams and adventures. In 2015, Marie founded a movement called 'Hoofing Around for Change', which promotes self-worth and empowerment to follow one's dreams. Hoofing Around has empowered Marie to share her passion for nature and humanity with others, allowing her to make a positive difference to the people around her. Last year Marie rode her horse down the length of the South Island to promote awareness of poverty and fundraised for Tear Funds Micro-prize and Empowerment projects. Marie was (unofficially) the first person to complete this distance solo, without a support crew and without a pack horse. In just a few months time, Marie will compete in the world's longest and toughest horse race - the Mongol Derby.

James Perham

For a young man, James has already accomplished a lot. During the last five years, James has been involved with six different start-up businesses, and was Director of a business venture that was awarded The Lion Foundation Young Enterprise Scheme Company of the Year for 2016. James has now gone on to follow that entrepreneurial spirit to run his two companies full time, whilst still finding the time to mentor up and coming young entrepreneurs and start-up businesses from around New Zealand. James has also achieved international success with the release of the first edition of educational children's book 'Where's Woolly'. The publication is currently distributed to over 28 countries across the globe. James's current focus is based on bringing education to life with interactively engaging content. From starting out with literally nothing, going through countless setbacks of failures, rejections, and disappointments, to now being an 18-year-old, managing his own companies on National, and International levels.

Steph Scurr

Steph's area of expertise is in the animal companion sector. She has been involved in a variety of animal and people rehabilitative programs and has been formally recognized for her contribution and commitment. The 'Read to a Dog' initiative had her visiting Nelson-Tasman schools and supporting children struggling with reading. The program also reached out to the elderly and sick, visiting rest home residents and Nelson hospital patients. For over eight years Steph volunteered for The Nelson Ark, undertaking a variety of roles including youth advisor and then secretary on the board of trustees. She also helped establish the doggy day care program, which she has since taken over the independent running of as her own business, Doggy Daycare Nelson. Steph now lives her dream every day. She enjoys working with dogs and photographing them just being dogs and having fun. Along with Doggy Daycare, Steph also owns her own Scentsy business and lives by the motto 'you never have to work a day in your life when you enjoy the job you do'.

Risaleaana Pouri-Lane

Risaleaana Pouri-Lane, more or less known as Risi was born in Sydney, Australia and moved to New Zealand when she was younger. Risi comes from a proud sporting family. Her older sister represented Canterbury and Manusina (Samoa) in rugby, her dad represented New Zealand in freestyle wrestling, and her mum was a former body builder. Risi is currently in her last year at Motueka High School and has represented her school in a variety of sports including soccer, athletics, touch, and rugby (15s and 7s). In 2015, she was selected in the New Zealand Secondary Schools 7's tournament team and earlier this year was part of the New Zealand women's development squad that toured Japan. Risi also represented New Zealand at the Oceania Championships, competing in judo, and competed in touch rugby at the Under 18 Trans Tasman comps.



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Amy Harvey

Amy is a 20 year old, born, raised and living in Nelson. Amy has Auto Immune Hepatitis, a condition where her immune system attacks her liver. Depression and anxiety are also a part of Amy's life but she has found her own way to manipulate the things life throws at her and works it to her own benefit. For Amy, living her dream is about constantly adapting and changing her goals and aspirations into things she can achieve. She challenges societal expectations of what a typical young adult should do and be, and mixes things up so that she can get what she wants out of life. Amy still manages to make a positive contribution to her community. She is passionate about helping others, and is an active volunteer in the community. She has recently completed a Certificate in Youth Work and is dedicated towards developing and supporting other young people to reach their potential.

Billy Dravitzki

"You are confined only by the Walls You Build Yourself"

On the 27 August 2016 Billy had a nasty crash on his mountain bike. The crash left him with a broken T5 vertebrae in his back, and has confined Billy to a wheelchair. For the next 3 months Billy relearned how to be an independent person at Burwood Hospital. Prior to his injury Billy worked part-time, went to school, played basketball and rugby for Tasman, snow boarded, skied and mountain biked. Since the accident, Billy spends his days doing all he can do, to be the best person he can be, doing what he can do to help him be fitter, faster and stronger both mentally and physically. Billy's is often asked, 'How are you so positive about it all?'. His response is an inspirational insight into the strength, courage and character of the young man. 'I don't see the point in being negative. It's not going to help. I just get on with it and do as much as I can. Being negative only makes a difficult journey more difficult. You may be given a cactus but you don't have to sit on it'.

Jack Turu

Jack is a program facilitator for Dances for School, New Zealand's best and leading school dance provider which has taught over 10,000 students since the company's inception in 2014. Raised in Nelson, Jack first started dancing from a desire to not conform from what was 'expected'. At a young age, Jack had a huge passion to pursue more in life and from the age of 10, he began training in both Hip Hop and Salsa which has seen him showcase and compete nationally and internationally. In 2016, Jack was invited to be a part of Dances for School which has seen him teach his learnings onto thousands of students every year, ranging in ages from 4 to 12 years old. Jack wants to continue pushing his craft and hopes to keep inspiring youth to pursue more in their own lives.

Paul Williams

Paul is a born and bred Nelsonian. He continues to carve a pathway for himself in the entertainment industry, with regular guest appearance on TV3's Jono and Ben show, and a recent nomination for the prestigious Billy T Award. Paul first got a taste for live performance through the Nelson College Theatre Sports Team, the Nelson Youth Theatre Company and Nelson Musical Theatre where he was a regular performer on stage. Upon graduation, Paul moved to Wellington to study Musical Theatre and performed his first ever stand-up comedy set. Paul has also performed on the international stage, with guest performances at the New Zealand International Comedy Festival, the Melbourne Comedy Festival and the Edinburgh Fringe Festival as part of Rose Matefeo's show 'Finally Dead'. Paul is set to return to the stage later this year with a solo set at the New Zealand International Comedy Festival and Edinburgh Fringe Festival.