



Titiro Whakarunga Ki Nga Puke

TAITA COLLEGE

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“Transforming Lives.” Helping Taita’s next Generation of Academic Leaders

Daemon Iti-Adam is Taita College’s 25th recipient of a First Foundation scholarship. He had the honour of speaking on behalf of the 80 successful scholars from across New Zealand at their annual awards Ceremony, held in Auckland on May 2 this year. Also acknowledged was Jaxson Tautala-Hanita, Taita College Head Boy 2019, who received the 2023 Trustees Award, from all the graduating scholars at this prestigious event.

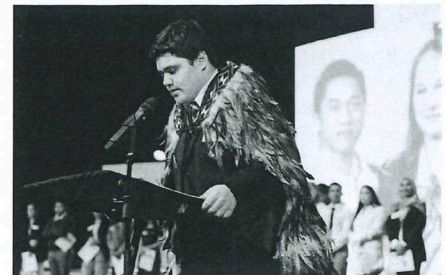
Jaxson says the proudest moment of the past four years for him would be finishing his degree. “It’s allowed me so much mahi and so much mana.” The impact of the First Foundation scholarship is profound. Jaxson comments that “I genuinely don’t think I could have gotten where I am today without First Foundation’s support.

Since 2002, First Foundation has been a driving force in promoting equitable access to education at Taita College. Recognizing that financial barriers should not hinder potential, the organisation has allocated significant resources to support talented students through their educational journey. Over the past 20 years, First Foundation has worked with Taita College to provide 25 scholarships to Taita College students who have shown academic potential in Year 12.

The First Foundation is known for their comprehensive support. These scholarships have been a catalyst for change in the school experience for so many students. The scholarships not only alleviate the financial burden of higher education but also provide a range of invaluable support services to ensure students’ overall success. Each scholarship provides \$4,000 each year for three years, a mentor, work experience as well as a place in the ‘First Foundation whanau’. Students are guided and helped through the challenging transition between school and university studies. First Foundation truly does ‘transform lives’.

Taita College’s exceptional success, as seen at the 2023 Awards Ceremony, highlights the college’s dedication to fostering academic excellence and empowering students to be the best they can be. The achievement of these scholars not only serves as an inspiration to their peers but also exemplifies the transformative power of educational support and opportunities. As the application process for the 2023 scholarships begins, we eagerly await the scholars who will embark on a journey towards pride through success at Taita College, alongside the unwavering support of First Foundation.

Alongside is a list of the students who have been lucky enough to have received a First Foundation Scholarship over the past 20 Years



Daemon Iti Adam delivers his speech of thanks.

Scholar’s Intake Calendar Year

Scholar Name	Calendar Year
Jermaine Chambers	2002
Kristal Hallahan	2002
Josh Hemara	2005
Hayley Hewer	2006
Kimberley Olivecrona	2006
Haley Strickland	2007
Sarai Hemara	2007
Jamal Peneha	2009
Tommy McLoughlin	2010
Brooke Hanlon	2010
Gemma Toma	2012
Tuniva Taula	2012
Bailey Angus	2013
Rosalina Sitagata	2014
Alana Levi	2015
Anna Trethewey	2016
Jonnie Tiaki	2016
Sarah Pihema	2018
Jaxson Tautala-Hanita	2018
Penina Sitagata	2019
Mir Welsh-Duffin	2020
Nikita Old	2020
Elizabeth Yu	2021
Vika Tupou	2021
Daemon Iti-Adam	2022



FF alumni, and 2015 Head Girl, Rosalina Sitagata; current FF scholar, Daemon Iti-Adam; FF graduate and 2019 Head Boy, Jaxson Taitala Hanita; Teacher, Emma Henderson.



Jaxson Tautala Hanita receives his award.