

It is with great pleasure to write in reference to the fantastic opportunity I was given to be sponsored by the Blenheim South Rotary Club to participate in the January 2016 RYLA. Not knowing what to expect, upon arrival I was greeted by some very friendly Rotarians and ex RYLA participants who steered me in the right direction of which I mingled amongst 48 young people, at first were complete strangers who quickly became close, trusted friends and team mates.

After enjoying five full on days speaking, listening and dealing with very stimulating and influential people, I came away feeling very inspired. Motivated to make a difference in how I operate as an individual and to prove I, a strong independent woman can also have a positive influence on people I interact with, within my career and also those of the entire Marlborough community.

Being of an age of only 23, I work in a very competitive environment, dealing with people of all ages, religions, beliefs and opinions. Having been taught some fantastic skills on individual resilience, emotional and physical support, trust building and communication skills to name a few, has extensively helped me whilst dealing with my clients. Some of these skills I have gained have given me great confidence to assist people with decision making, communicating amongst parties and have most certainly helped me ascertain a level of respect from these people despite my age purely from my performance of specified knowledge of the industry, the personal relationships I build and my helpful and approachable persona.

Having taken on most opportunities put past me in my life, RYLA 2016 is sure to be one that has had a significant influence on me. Now feeling ready to take on the world, my ambitions are stronger than ever – continue becoming a confident successful young professional within my career taking on more leadership within the business and contributing more to the local community. With a focus to encourage and prove to other young people the sky is there limit and if they put their heart to it, it can be accomplished.

Thank you RYLA – wish me luck!

Georgia Ryan