

## Profiles of some past winners of the Prime Minister's Pacific Youth Awards

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### Black Bulb Company

- **Wilson Lesa Samoan**
- **Naotia Atiana Kiribati**
- **Raniella Sebastian Samoan**
- **Mile Fonia Samoan**

### 2014 BUSINESS AND ENTERPRISE AWARD

- ***Sponsored by Pacific Business Trust and Westpac***

The former Manurewa High School students, aged 18-20 are managing their studies and thriving in food business.

The four entrepreneurs have been gaining a following for providing premium food goods.

Wilson, who won the 2014 Lion Foundation's Young Entrepreneur of the Year award, says the focus is to promote healthy food products in a new way.

Their premium black garlic aioli won first prize at the 2014 Food Show. The group is also doing well in their studies, with Mile at Otago University, Naotia completing law and business at Auckland University and Raniella and Wilson at AUT completing Bachelors of Business.

Black Bulb Company will use their awards to help pay their manufacturer so they can start distribution in local stores.

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### Thomas Fonua, 23, Tongan/Samoan

### 2014 ARTS AND CREATIVITY AWARD

- ***Sponsored by Creative New Zealand***

Thomas is currently overseas where he continues to make a big mark on contemporary dance.

Thomas will use his award to help establish a dance company in New Zealand focusing on Pacific and indigenous contemporary dance.

He plans to fuse his distinct style of movement with Pacific and indigenous history and culture.

Last year Thomas joined Australian Dance Theatre as a guest artist for the Indonesian tour of *Be Yourself* and made his Adelaide debut in *Proximity*. This year he performed in the Australian National Tour of *Be Yourself*.

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### Manatu 'Ofa Mei Vailahi Fia, 22, Tongan

### 2013 INSPIRATION AWARD

- ***Sponsored by Cogita***

Manatu has completed his studies and graduated from the University of Otago with a Bachelor of Science with Honours.

She has used the prize money to cover travel costs to the Pacific for post-graduate research into mental illness in the Pacific community.

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**Aaron Unasa, 23,  
Samoan/Cook  
Island**

**2013 CREATIVITY AWARD**

- ***Sponsored by Weta Workshop***

Since winning the award, Aaron has focused on his internship at Weta Workshop mostly working in the mold-making department. The internship has put in him a position to learn different skills, techniques and new materials.

The award has given him an opportunity to network and learn from people with a lot of experience in the film industry.

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**Edmond Fehoko,  
24, Tongan**

**2013 INSPIRATION AWARD**

- ***Sponsored by Cogita***

Currently working as a learning adviser at Auckland University of Technology (North Shore campus), Edmond has completed his Master's Degree in Social Sciences.

His research explored how the cultural practice of kava-drinking (or faikava) can become an identity marker for New Zealand-born Tongan males in Auckland.

A number of publications with New Zealand Sociology have published his findings and he has presented in conferences.

The award has allowed him to travel to Oxford University to present in the 8<sup>th</sup> *Global Conference on Multiculturalism, Conflict and Belonging*.

Edmond is now looking to pursue his studies to obtain a PhD.

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**Reina Vaai, 25,  
Samoan**

**2013 VODAFONE NZ FOUNDATION MOBILES 4 GOOD  
AWARD**

- ***Sponsored by Vodafone New Zealand***

Reina was admitted to the bar in April and graduated in law in May.

She is working at a law firm in Auckland. Reina will soon be launching her own social media page, *Truth She Wrote*, which will feature YouTube clips each week of *Girl Bosses who brunch*.

The aim is to profile an inspiring Pacific woman each week and she will be talking to them about their hopes and dreams.

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