

Student translates bus timetables

By RENEE CLAYTON

Institute of the Pacific United student Yurika Yasukawa has been helping Horizons' Regional Council become more multicultural through the translation of bus timetables into Japanese.

Miss Yasukawa is a third-year student from Japan taking the internship programme where students are made to work in the community for a minimum of 130 hours.

Aspiring to be a translator in the future, Miss Yasukawa is pleased to be given first-hand experience to help her towards her dream, while providing a service that will help new people to Palmerston North.

"I am very grateful that I have been given hands-on experience as it helps me with communication and listening skills in the English language and workplace.

"When I came to Palmerston North I could not speak or read English and noticed that some systems like the bus systems were hard to understand. I think this will be very beneficial for people visiting Palmerston North and Horizons."

Horizons' Transport manager Phil Hindrup says Yurika has quickly become part of the team.

"When we were approached to take Yurika on for an internship we were thrilled as we're always keen to develop students who want to experience the workplace. The great thing about Yurika is while she is getting workplace experience we're also getting the benefit of her opinions and perspective on transport in the region."

He said a great internship shouldn't be one sided and they should be learning as much from her as she does from them.

Miss Yasukawa also helps translate road safety and questions on bus timetables along with monitoring bus route times and drivers.



LEARNING: Yurika Yasukawa writing translations out for the bus timetable.

PHOTO: SUPPLIED

IPU spokesperson Joseph Rush says he appreciates the opportunity Horizons' have given IPU.

"IPU love to help the community and Horizons' is helping us to do that by making it easier for new Japanese people travelling to Palmerston North. We would love to see the translated timetables in the community in the future."

Miss Yasukawa has also been an intern for Te Manawa along with many other students.

Te Manawa chief executive Andy Lowe described the relationship Te Manawa has with IPU as great.

"Our relationship with IPU opens new experiences not just for the students but for the whole Te Manawa community and is an essential component for a museum that aspires to be a welcoming and inclusive space for all cultures."

A total of 59 students have participated in the internship working around the community this year and have helped Palmerston North become more multicultural while gaining work confidence and learning new skills.

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