

2026 BLUES AWARD WINNERS



Service and Leadership

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BLUES²⁰²⁶
AWARDS

Timothy Maurice Carson

Faculty of Arts and Education

Timothy led national music education initiatives as the voluntary Chair of the New Zealand Ukulele Trust. These included a ukulele curriculum, song bank and learning app used in more than 550 schools and kura, successful advocacy for ukulele funding in all schools from 2027, nationwide Kiwilele Jams and an intergenerational programme connecting people through music.

Dylan Yash Chand

Faculty of Engineering and Design, Faculty of Science

Dylan organised and led an Aotearoa Youth Delegation to the United Nations' COP30 in Belém, Brazil, presenting the delegation's Youth Statement on the international stage. His leadership bridged local and global climate advocacy, engaging New Zealand Ministers, MPs and Pacific leaders and demonstrating how young people can meaningfully influence climate policy.

Briarna Kate Higgs

Faculty of Science

Briarna was named Instructor of the Year and Junior Surf Coordinator of the Year at the 2026 Surf Life Saving Eastern Region Awards of Excellence. She qualified 16 new

lifeguards, led a Junior Surf programme involving 187 participants and coordinated an inter-club exchange camp with Raglan SLSC, reflecting her contribution to surf lifesaving and youth development.

Humeera Imran

Faculty of Law

Humeera has demonstrated sustained leadership across the University and wider community over three years. She has led two major clubs, co-chaired a national student body, served on a Citizens Advice Bureau board and conducted more than 250 community interviews while excelling in her law studies. Her significant contribution reflects a strong commitment to service and leadership.

Xavier William Walsh

Faculty of Arts and Education

Xavier is a community and union leader whose work has advanced Living Wage accreditation at Auckland Council, strengthened housing advocacy and encouraged wider participation in collective action. During six years as National Co-President of Unite Union, Xavier has made a sustained contribution to social and economic justice. Xavier plans to build on this work through doctoral study.