

MEDIA RELEASE

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15 YEAR OLD MADDISON WINS SUMMERSET SCHOLARSHIP

Maddison McQueen Davies' proposal to fix cartilage and help osteoarthritis sufferers with a miracle gel has won her a \$5000 Summerset scholarship.

Maddison's entry in the Aging Well category of the 2017 Sir Paul Callaghan Eureka Awards was presented the Summerset Gold Scholarship at an awards evening in Wellington last week.

Applicants for the Summerset scholarship Aging Well category had to explain how science and technology could be used to sustain health and wellbeing into the later years of life.



Maddison is in Year 11 at Palmerston North Girls High. Her speech was inspired by how a miracle gel, currently in the experimental phase overseas, could make life easier and more comfortable for people living with osteoarthritis.

"I read about a gel that would help fix cartilage and alleviate pain from osteoarthritis. I thought, wow," says Maddison.

"My grandad has had two knee replacements. So I have seen that knee replacements are expensive and not perfect. You have to take six weeks off work, they only last 15-20 years, and there is a massive waiting list. I think this gel would make such a huge difference. That's why I entered Eureka.

“If New Zealand introduced the gel it would make a massive difference to people’s lives, New Zealand’s economy, as we could save money and there would be environmental benefits.”

Summerset CEO Julian Cook said Maddison’s entry showed her passion and enthusiasm. “It’s great to see someone so young determined to make a difference to the lives of older people.

“Our hope behind sponsoring the Aging Well scholarship was for young people to explore innovative and thought provoking ways to progress current thinking around aging and aging well. Maddison has certainly done that.”

Eureka Awards convener Francis Wevers says the awards are designed to show how Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) ideas can benefit New Zealand’s economic, environmental, social wealth and wellbeing <https://www.eureka.org.nz/eureka-awards/>

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ABOUT SUMMERSET

- Summerset is one of the leading operators and developers of retirement villages in New Zealand, with 22 villages completed or in development across the country. In addition, Summerset has six sites for development in Avonhead (Christchurch), Richmond (Nelson), Rototuna (Hamilton), Lower Hutt (Wellington), St Johns (Auckland) and Parnell (Auckland), bringing the total number of sites to 28.
- It provides a range of living options and care services to more than 4,400 residents.
- Four-time winner of Retirement Village of the Year and Silver Award winner in the Reader’s Digest Quality Service Awards 2017.
- The Summerset Group has villages in Aotea, Casebrook, Dunedin, Ellerslie, Hamilton, Hastings, Havelock North, Hobsonville, Karaka, Katikati, Levin, Manukau, Napier, Nelson, New Plymouth, Palmerston North, Paraparaumu, Taupo, Trentham, Wanganui, Warkworth and Wigram.