

Media release – 3 September, 2013

## Big night for music students

Music students with stars in their eyes are building up to the biggest public test of their talent, a full-on rock and reggae gig at the Regent, Greymouth, on Thursday, September 26.

For a gold coin donation, the public is invited to come along, dance to their music and see for themselves if these aspiring musicians have what it takes.

For eleven students from the Foundation Sound and Music programme at Tai Poutini Polytechnic (TPP) it's their big night after months of study in the basics of performance music, audio engineering and live sound.

It's the first music programme conducted by MAINZ, a faculty of TPP, in Greymouth since the 1990s and a return to the West Coast roots of the renowned institute which began life in the Blackball Community Centre.

MAINZ programmes have been only held at its central Auckland and Otara and Christchurch campuses but demand from students on the West Coast brought about its return.

"The programme has had a challenging start to the year, but has got stronger and stronger as the year progresses in its first year back in Greymouth," says Foundation Sound and Music (FSM) tutor Dean Thomas.

"The students have been working hard to get ready for the Regent gig. The whole night is entirely down to them, organising the light and sound, choosing the songs, planning the sets – everything," he says.

"They had a gig with a Kiwiani genre in Hokitika earlier in the year but they've come on leaps and bounds since then," says Mr Thomas.

At the Regent, the students - a mix of male and female, from 17 years to middle aged – will perform in three bands, doing a mix of reggae and rock and roll. Concert goers can expect two hours featuring the best of Bob Marley, Blondie, Pink Floyd, Men at Work and others.

For the MAINZ students, it's their chance to show how far they've come and they'll be assessed as part of their grading.

Dean Thomas says the Foundation Sound and Music programme is a great introduction for students to see if they want to go on to higher study in live sound, audio engineering, music

performance, event management or DJ and electronica at MAINZ in Christchurch or Auckland.

For others who may be inspired by the concert at the Regent, another MAINZ Foundation Sound and Music programme will run again at the Greymouth TPP campus next year.

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