

CITATION: TASMAN COCKS-WHEATON

Winner: 2013 Newsboys Foundation Youth Leadership Award

Aged just 15, Tasman Cocks-Wheaton has consistently taken on leadership roles for the past six years.

During his seven years with the 1st Bright Scout Group he has organised and led hikes, camps and events. He has also planned and led training opportunities, including first aid, camp cooking and water safety.

He is a regular volunteer with an array of community organisations and has helped with several fundraising initiatives in Bright, where he lives.

He achieved his Australian Scout Medallion earlier this year and is currently working towards his Queens Scout award in the Venturer section.

Tasman developed skills by attending Scout Leadership Courses and has become a “Youth Helper” for the Bright Joey Mob and Cub Pack. Without Tasman’s hard work and leadership, both of those groups would struggle to operate because of a lack of leaders.

Tasman is an Alpine Shire Youth Councillor and has been instrumental in establishing a Youth Centre in Bright, getting involved in every aspect of the project, from initial planning, to promotion and marketing, and supervising younger attendees.

Not only has Tasman’s efforts seen the establishment of a space for young people, which had been lacking in Bright. He also provided a positive male role model for many of the young people who attend the Youth Centre.

Through his work and example, Tasman has improved the opportunities and the potential outcomes for many young people in the Alpine Shire.

Tasman is a dedicated student at Bright P–12 College. He is currently in Year 9. Tasman was dux of his year level in Years 7 and 8.

Tasman’s passion is film making, and he plans to use the prize to pursue professional training and development in film making. He has already produced short films, music videos and advertisements. His goal is to create films and documentaries that explore social issues such as mental illness, multiculturalism and substance abuse and how these issues affect young people and the broader community.