Pānui pāpāho | Media release

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Project aims to demystify AI.

Bachelor of Information Technology ākonga (student) Kira Bryne is excited to support the Nelson community through the Nelson AI Sandbox project.

"I'm part of the Nelson IT Student Association, and that's how I began working for the Nelson AI Sandbox project. My tutor, Ali Kahwaji, told me about it," Kira says.

The Nelson AI Sandbox is a community outreach project designed to demystify artificial intelligence in three ways:

- easy engagement for people seeking a basic understanding,

- tutorials and workshops for businesses and staff looking to leverage AI, and,

- a self-discovery zone for computer-literate people who want to play with the tools while receiving helpful guidance.

"Nelson was built by and for intellectuals," Kira says. "We have a vast amount of mana from our ancestors. The infrastructure is there to support intellectual capital, but we are faced with an exodus of talent."

"The Nelson AI Sandbox project aims to support our community to utilise artificial intelligence," Kira says. "AI isn't going anywhere, and like the introduction of personal computers in the 90s, we have to adapt and learn."

Kira believes young people like herself should be looking for opportunities that provide valuable experience.

"A sense of purpose is worth more than a large paycheck."

She is grateful for the opportunities shown to her at NMIT, with tutors who are focused on helping ākonga find employment in areas they are passionate about.

"The tutors are so engaged in the industry, not just in Nelson, but the whole country and even around the world," Kira says.

ENDS.