

... and the award goes to

The News recently announced Katie Ayers as the winner of the inaugural NZDA Outstanding Young Dentist Award, in recognition of her significant achievements in research and teaching, and extensive contributions to the profession via many NZDA activities.

She received her award during this year's NZDA Centennial Conference in Napier (15-17 September), which included this impressive carving by Delanie Brown of The Wairakei Terraces (pictured).

The carving was commissioned to reflect the values, role and history of the NZDA, and to incorporate the principles of the award. It was carved from a single piece of 2000-year-old totara log.

Known as 'Te Prow of the New Zealand Dental Association', the carving shows that the tau ihu (prow) is what leads the way when a tribe voyages upon a waka. It is a physical manifestation of beliefs and values. The waka that this prow belongs to is the NZDA. Its journey and success comes from the work that each paddler or employee does. The patterns adorning this prow depict the wairua (spirit) of each person on board. Within the patterns are symbols that depict strength, leadership, vision and unity. It is these qualities that all aboard the waka must embrace in their journey as they strive for perfection and excellence.



winning achievements

NZDA Outstanding Young Dentist Award winner, Katie Ayers, graduated BDS (1995) and MDS (1999) and already her achievements include:

- 17 publications in peer review literature (six international journals)
- RACDS Young Lecturer of the Year 2000
- presentations at national and international meetings
- commissioned report to the Ministry of Health entitled *Development of a comprehensive public health approach to improving child oral health and reducing child oral health inequalities, 2004*
- submissions and reports to the Ministry of Health on behalf of the NZDA on *Healthy Eating* and *Fight the Obesity Epidemic*



- reviewer for four journals including the NZDJ
- examiner for masters examinations in dental public health, oral and maxillofacial surgery and paediatric dentistry
- examiner in PhD examinations, dental public health
- chairperson of the Hospital and Community Dentistry Conference in Dunedin, 2002
- winner of Supreme Ground Royal Arch Chapter of NZ Freemasons Travel Scholarship, 2002
- winner of the Sir Thomas Hunter Scholarship in Dentistry, 1999
- winner of the Allan Coster Trophy, 1996
- winner IADR Post-Graduate Colgate Poster Competition, 2000
- recipient of several NZDA Research Foundation grants
- senior lecturer, teaching at both under & postgraduate level

Katie is currently:

- coordinator of the NZDA recent graduates' professional development programme (GPDP) in Waikato
- fluoridation spokesperson (Waikato)
- executive member Waikato-BOP Branch of NZDA
- executive member of ANZSPD
- member of Waikato DHB Oral Health Advisory Group

Katie is also in part-time specialist practice and has two young children. She is married to Angus Colquhoun, who is currently undertaking the oral and maxillofacial advanced surgical training programme.