

Upper Clutha Messenger

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Wanaka is officially outspoken! The inaugural OUTSPOKEN Festival is bringing a scrabblebag of the finest wordsmiths acts from around New Zealand to perform alongside our talented locals. Some you'll recognise from Mount Aspiring College or Flat Out Productions, some will be a surprise. Promising MAC students are also getting a chance to see performances and workshop their own work with slam champion Ali Jacs thanks to a grant from the Upper Clutha Community Arts Council.

Through thought-provoking, entertaining performances, OUTSPOKEN aims to promote words as the ultimate freeform of expression, a fantastic tool for showcasing creativity and fostering self-confidence. The programming is

deliberately diverse with a series of activities to inspire youngsters supported by Radio Wanaka – Liz Breslin's Rhyme Time for 5-9s at the Wanaka Library on January 20th at 11am, as well as primary school performances by John Carr, the godfather of geriatric rap, in February. More grown up talents can hone their words with award winning poet Sue Wootton on Wednesday 22nd January.

OUTSPOKEN runs until 18 February 2014 with performances every Tuesday. Visit www.outspokenfestival.co.nz for the programme and tickets. The word is your oyster!

Pictured is Liz Breslin with a group of young OUTSPOKEN Wanaka folk.