



# South Auckland poets review

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WANAKA SUN

Five young Polynesians wowed a Wanaka audience with poems about their cultures and identities at the Masonic Lodge on Tuesday night. The South Auckland Poets Collective was in Wanaka to perform in the Outspoken Festival of Words

and Storytelling. Led by Dietrich Soakai, the other poets who came south were Marina Alefosio, Luti Richards, Olive Asi and Ryan Tuera (pictured).

Dietrich is proud to claim German, Irish, Scottish, Tongan and Samoan descent. As well as performing and teaching poetry all over New Zealand,

and more recently in the United States, Dietrich is a youth worker with Youthline. His poems ranged from one about reasons to skydive to one about troubled youth. All the poets drew on their own experiences, and an aim of the collective is to use poetry as a tool for social change. A standout poem was

one by Luti Richard about her much-loved father who now has Alzheimer's.

The night's entertainment was of the same calibre as most shows we see in the Festival of Colour, and it would have been gratifying to see more of that festival's fans enjoying this remarkable show.

