



12 May 2016

**Reference for Mike King (Extract from School Newsletter)**

Well done and thank you to the Te Awamutu Lions Club for organising and supporting Mike King to come to talk to and work with Te Awamutu College and Te Awamutu Intermediate students recently. They also organised an event so that anyone in the community could see and hear him. Mike spoke honestly about his battle with depression, addiction and ongoing "recovery journey."

Feedback from staff and students who attended the sessions has been overwhelmingly favourable and positive.

**Student Feedback:**

- "inspirational"
- "connected well with younger generation – made it relevant to us"
- "shared his life experiences – captivating and courageous"
- "more people need to hear him"
- "highly entertaining and informative"
- "learnt true meaning of depression and what to do if you need help"
- "great role model"
- "hope he comes back again"
- "opened our eyes to the number of students who could have depression or other mental illnesses"

**Staff Feedback:**

- "consummate entertainer . . . very skilful weaver of the important issues into his korero"
- "able to engage both audiences – young people and adults – with humour and pathos"
- "Mike was also very encouraging, generous and kind"
- "during question and answer time at the end it was also very evident that students had been listening and they asked some really relevant questions"
- "he had the kids in his hands straight away and kept their attention. I enjoyed his humour."

Regards

Tony Membery  
Principal