

Superb primer for life, Lt-Governor tells DofE Award gold recipients



The 14 young people who received the badges and brooches after completing their gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award. Left to right: Caroline Allen, Clement Le Pelley, Eleanor Coe, Jonty Inderwick, Courtney Chapman, Matthew Le Maitre, Kirsty Dempster, Lt-Governor Vice Admiral Sir Ian Corder, Anastasia Robert, Emma Harris, Rebecca Lesley, Esme Mackrill, Isabelle Le Marchant, Kate Harding and Natalie Le Noury. (Picture by Tom Tardif, 16998329)

VOLUNTEERING on an environmental project in Fiji, travelling independently across Africa and representing the island abroad were just some of the activities young islanders undertook as part of their gold Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Fourteen young people were presented with their gold award badges and brooches by the Lt-Governor, Vice Admiral Sir Ian Corder, last night at Government House.

The new award holders had to work through five different sections of the DofE programme, which are volunteering, physical, skills, residential and an expedition.

Natalie Le Noury, 25, took a few

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months off from her job at Ravenscroft to complete the off-island parts of the scheme, which included choosing to do her residential in Africa.

'I definitely learnt a lot from travelling through Africa on my own, meeting new people and pushing myself to do something I had never done before,' she said. 'I have gained a lot of confidence from all the different challenges and the experience really rounds you as a person.'

Jonty Inderwick, 18, set himself the target of achieving the award in the shortest time possible for a

direct entrant, which he achieved by completing it in exactly 18 months.

'I have quite a late birthday and wanted to catch up with my friends who were doing it,' he said. 'The best part was probably the experiences at the Lake District and Snowdonia as I enjoy being outside and the adventure of it.'

'It was great fun and I would definitely recommend it.'

Esme Mackrill, 23, a fourth-year medicine student at Southampton University, spent four weeks in Navatu Island, Fiji, where she worked on environmental projects.

While she said the experience complemented her area of study, the personal side of the experience had been equally significant.

'I learnt a lot about myself from living in such a large group of people and from being in a really different kind of environment,' she said.

Sir Ian said the ceremony was a great opportunity to celebrate the scheme's lifelong value for those who take part.

'It is a great pleasure to recognise what people have achieved through the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, especially on an island where the support for it is so huge,' he said.

'What this [event] has brought home to me is the breadth of activities that have happened under the banner of the DofE. The scheme is a fantastic confidence-builder and a superb primer for life.'