

Media Release

Kaikohe, Wednesday 1 September 2004



Turf management and toothbrushes give budding scientists the edge

Several hundred people gathered at the Kaikohe Memorial Hall on Saturday evening as prizes in this year's Top Energy Far North Science & Technology Fair were handed out.

Open to Years 7 through 13 students and covering any area of science or technology, entrants are encouraged to choose a topic which involves investigation, challenge and imagination.

Top Energy Chief Executive, Roger de Bray, who was on hand to present overall winner prizes, believes the Science & Technology Fair fits well with other education initiatives his company sponsors in the Far North. Together, they represent around \$100,000 p.a. in sponsorship funding from the local lines company. These are; WaterSafe - a programme which teaches primary school aged children to swim and be safe around water; The School-to-work Programme – which provides Scholarships for senior students wanting to get paid part-time work experience while still at school; and the Young Entrepreneur Programme - which provides training and mentoring for senior students and school leavers on how to establish their own businesses.

“The Fair is an excellent way to promote science and technology to our young people and at the same time help them develop investigative and problem-solving life-skills”, Mr de Bray said.

Projects judged the most deserving were recognised at the Prize Giving ceremony. As well as the overall Junior and Senior Prizes, 42 students were given Merit Awards and 32 entries gained Special Awards.

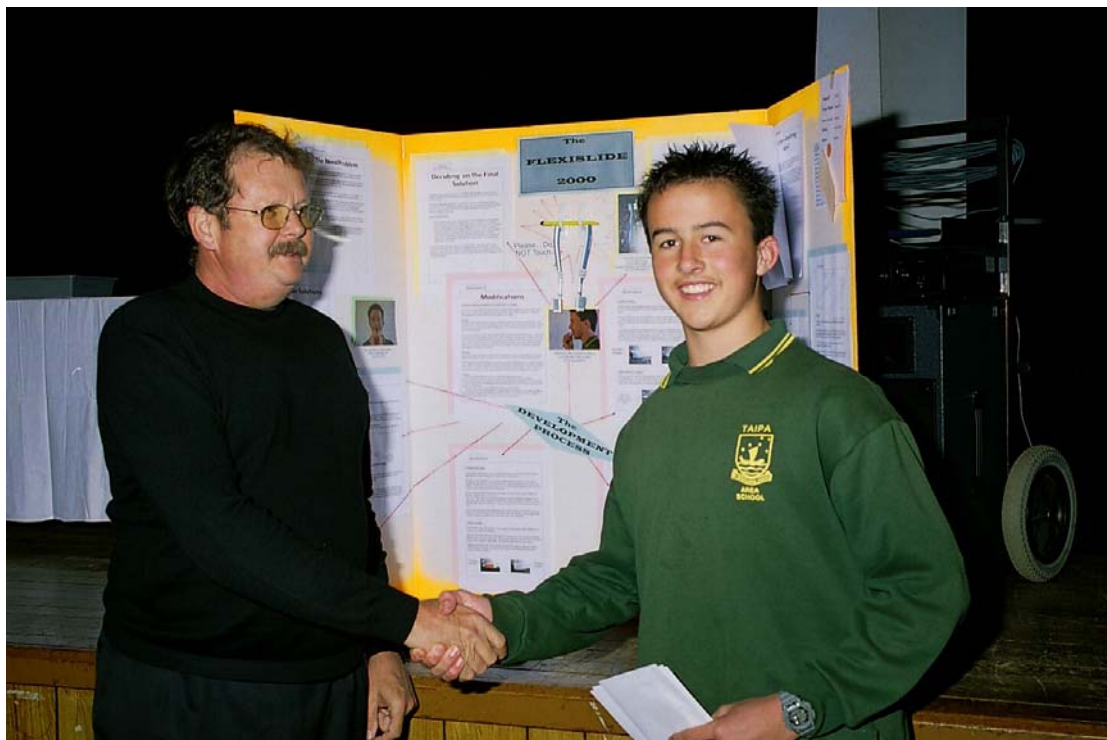
Daryl Sabin of Taipa Area School won the overall Junior Prize, with his exhibit, “Flexislide 2004”. Realising that ‘necessity is the mother of invention’ Daryl needed to find a quicker but no less effective way to brush his teeth! His project dealt with investigating different brush head mechanisms and attachments which would do the job, including the building of several brush prototypes. Impressed with Daryl's innovative approach to this vexing problem, the

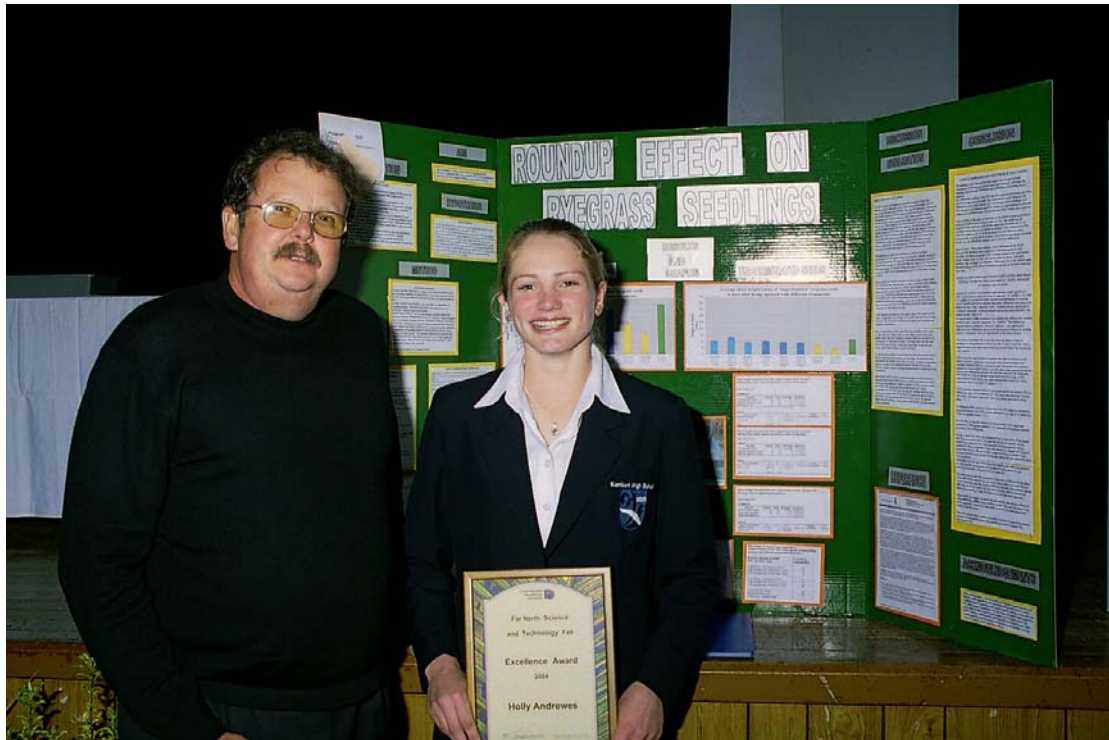
Judges also awarded his entry the Kerikeri Medical Centre Special Prize, for the best entry with a health focus.

The overall Senior Prize was won by Holly Andrewes, from Kerikeri High School with her “Kikuyu Investigation” exhibit. Holly’s project was centred on the effects of Roundup herbicide residue on soil following the spraying of Kikuyu grass, as it relates to the optimum time for re-sowing replacement turf. Holly’s use and understanding of statistics and statistical analysis also won her the New Zealand Statistical Association Special Prize. And in recognition of her all round excellent approach to her project, she also won the Northland Regional Council Excellence Award for a student who has shown outstanding qualities in their science or technology exhibit.

Far North Science & Technology Fair Convenor, Tracey Chamlin said, “The support for this year’s event was again amazing. We are very grateful to our sponsor Top Energy, to the Judges and to the many teachers, parents and friends who have lent their support. Overall the standard of entries was excellent this year and I congratulate all students who took part.”

Both the overall Junior and Senior Prize winning entries have been nominated to go forward for entry acceptance at the National Science & Technology Event, “Realise the Dream”, to be held later this year.





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Pic. (Credit. R. de Bray) Top Energy's Roger de Bray congratulates Junior Prize winner Daryl Sabin from Taipa Area School.

Pic. (Credit. R. de Bray) Senior Prize winner, Holly Andrewes of Kerikeri High School, with Top Energy Chief Executive, Roger de Bray.