

## Media Release

Kaikohe, Tuesday 29 August 2006



## Science & Technology students show promising future

Judging by the breadth of talent exhibited at last week's Far North Science & Technology Fair, the future of science and technology in Northland will be in good hands.

The Fair prize giving evening was held last Saturday, at The Centre in Kerikeri. Open to year 7 through 13 students and covering any area of science and technology, this year's Fair produced a very high standard of exhibits according to Fair convener, Glenys Ross. Reflecting this more than 50 prizes were awarded, including Merit, Special and Overall Excellence Awards.

Kerikeri High School's Alexandra Maloney was the winner of the Top Energy Overall Excellence in Science Award. Alexandra is a top sailor in her age group and in her project, 'What a Drag' she investigated maximising the speed of her boat in different wind velocity by adjusting the extent to which the yacht's centre board was raised. She found that in light winds the fastest boat speed was achieved when the centre board was at its highest setting.

Sven Wright, from Kaitaia College, was the winner of the Top Energy Overall Excellence in Technology Award. In his project 'MP3 Earmuffz' he worked on a successful way of incorporating an MP3 player into a set of headphones so that he could listen to music while he mowed the lawns.

Four of the winning Far North projects are to be nominated for a place at 'Realise the Dream', the national science and technology event, under the control of the Royal Society of New Zealand. The event is co-ordinated to celebrate the achievements of young New Zealanders in all aspects of science and technology. These nominees are Sven Wright from Kaitaia College with 'MP3 Earmuffz', Alexandra Malony from Kerikeri High School with 'What a Drag', Marco Eugster from Kerikeri High School with 'Pollution Solution' and Clare Nicolson and Jasmine Yorke from Kerikeri High School with 'Does Spelling Matter?'.

Mike Simm, Top Energy Deputy Chairman, on hand to make the presentations for Overall Excellence Awards, believes the Science & Technology Fair is an effective learning programme that fits well with other educational initiatives Top Energy sponsors in the Far North; WaterSafe - which teaches primary school 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 Education for Enterprise (E4E) - a programme based

originally on the Far North pilot, Young Entrepreneur Programme and designed to develop an enterprise culture in schools. E4E is now being rolled out to schools nationally.

“As a progressive company involved in electricity distribution, contracting, call centre services, and power generation, Top Energy is committed to supporting our community. This Fair is an excellent way to promote science and technology to our young people and at the same time help them develop problem-solving life skills. And if this year’s standard is anything to go by, I suggest many of these young people could go on and make their mark in a science or technology career, if they so choose”, Mr Simm said. END.

Pic: Major winners and ‘Realise the Dream’ Nominees. From left to right Sven Wright, Marco Eugster, Jasmine Yorke, Clare Nicolson and Alexandra Maloney.