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textHELP!
New Zealand



Date 27-Jun-2000
Headline Nexus Research Group
Main Summary Welcome to New Zealand's only High School based research lab. Volunteers carry out on-going investigations as a researcher, programmer or technician. They attend conferences, give seminars, build equipment, create software and visit other scientific laboratories. Visit the Teachers staffroom or read the notices while the students work in the training room.

Article Body This research group is an extra-curricula activity which means that the students volunteer to use their own time out of class to get the projects completed. They become part of real on-going scientific investigations as a researcher, programmer or technician. This involves signing a code of conduct agreement and receiving a photo-identification access card. This is to ensure that projects do not interfere with other school work, experiments are carried out safely, and that procedures meet the standards required by the international scientific community.

In return students choose their own project and gain access to a network of advisers from various educational, research and industrial agencies both nationally and overseas. The network is always expanding and includes Christine Fenton (NZ's authority on Caulobacter) and Alvin Smith (a world authority on Caliciviruses).

Highlights for 1999:

1. Congratulations to Nexus researcher Jared Broad on his highly successful efforts at the Kiwi Dairies Science Fair. Awarded a First in his section and receiving two special awards, he was also the top student overall representing New Plymouth Boys' High School. He also received the Kiwi Dairies Nexus Research Prize for Scientific Excellence.
2. We were amongst other leading national and international scientists able to attend the New Zealand Microbiological Society conference held at Otago University from the 23rd to 26th of November. Conference convenor Dr Greg Cook was reported in the Otago Daily Times as saying that the two research posters we presented were "brilliant". Nexus co-supervisor Christine Fenton is NZ's leading authority on Caulobacter and the poster presented in conjunction with Form Five student Kelly Stewart was well received.
3. The second poster reported a new photographic technique we have developed. We are able to capture stunning images of the microscopic world around us. Germs, worms, insect bodies, human cells, and a movie of a living, moving plant cell. Jared presented this ground-breaking work to conference delegates over the three days. Many commented that there should be more opportunities for Form Seven students to be involved at this level. They were surprised when we told them Jared was in Form Four!