



Schoolboy scientist impresses meeting

By John Gibb

Jared Broad may be only 15 but his plans to become a career scientist should be taken seriously.

Jared, a fourth former at New Plymouth Boys High School, raised eyebrows at the New Zealand Microbiological Society Conference in Dunedin this week with his contributions to two scientific poster presentations.

He took high magnification photographs of small organisms, showing the value of a low-cost digital camera system, used in one poster.

He also contributed to a second poster on the isolation and analysis of a species of micro-organism believed to play a significant indirect role in transferring antibiotic resistance to humans.

The presentations were made in association with the Nexus Research Group, run by Michael Fenton, a science and chemistry teacher at the New Plymouth school.

Mr Fenton said Jared's conference involvement was ground-breaking. Fifth former Kelly Stewart had also been involved in the research, but could not attend.

For secondary school pupils to put up their findings for review by the general scientific community was normally unheard of, he said.

Jared said he planned to pursue a career as a scientist.

Conference convener Dr Greg Cook said Jared was the youngest participant he had met at any scientific conference.

His efforts were brilliant and other research contributions by university students at the conference were also impressive, Dr Cook said.



Young scientist Jared Broad and his science teacher, Michael Fenton, discuss two scientific presentations yesterday.

Friday, 26-November 1999