

Bottles maintain a sustainable thirst

An innovative water brand packaged in a biodegradable bottle has won the Northland Young Enterprise Scheme (YES) awards.

Tahi Wai from Dargaville High School was announced as the winner of the Top Energy Award for Northland YES Company of the Year.

The awards on Saturday night celebrate the success of students in the Lion Foundation scheme.

Tahi Wai has created a new bottled water brand using a bottle which is biodegradable and made from 100 percent renewable plant sugars.

The bottle can be thrown in the compost once empty and will break down without any contamination.

The water is sourced from an underground spring near a bottling plant at Kaiwaka, called Certified Springs.

The Tahi Wai bottles are being sold throughout the Kaipara and can be labelled for corporate use.

Tahi Wai also won the Northern Advocate Award for Excellence in Communication and the Gilmore Brown Award for Excellence in Financial Management.

The five Dargaville

students, Freya-Rose Newman, Mia Adams, Libby Harding, Emma Curruthers and Andrew McLaren will travel to Wellington in December to represent Northland at the National YES Awards.

Whangarei Girls' High School business Wrap and Gap placed second in the YES Company of the Year awards.

Created by Laura-Marie Casey, 16, and Briar Fabian, 17, Wrap and Gap produces a heat-proof mat and case for hair straighteners, providing a safe place to rest them while heating up and allowing them to

be wrapped up while still hot.

Kaitaia College's Favoloso, which produces colour-changing bikinis, placed third and also won the Dave Templeton Award for Commitment.

Other winners include Chur from Taipa Area School, a record label featuring performances by Ahomairangi.

Chur won the North-Tec Award for Excellence in Business Management and the Manaaki Solutions Award for Best Maori YES Business.

The Northpower Award for Excellence in Technology was won by Spil, also from Taipa

Area School, which creates organic mandarin-flavoured lip balm.

Water on tap: Dargaville High School award-winning Young Enterprise Scheme students have created Tahi Wai, water in biodegradable bottles. From left: Freya-Rose Newman, 15, Mia Adams, 15, Libby Harding, 15, and Emma Curruthers, 15. Absent: Andrew McLaren.

