

Challenge inspires Aparima student

BY JANETTE GELLATLY

KRISTEN McKenzie is not only a winner – she is really inspired.

Returning from the FedEx Express Junior Achievement International Trade Challenge in Auckland, the Aparima College student is “having a big rethink” about her future.

Seventy-four Young Enterprise students, aged between 16 to 19 years, travelled from as far away as Orepuki to Kaitaia to take part in a series of teamwork and enterprisal exercises in the two-day challenge, hoping to win one of six places to represent New Zealand in Bangkok in Thailand in August.

Aparima College Young Enterprise Scheme teacher Lynne Grove had nominated Kristen for the Trade Challenge.

“Kristen has been the most diligent, (Young Enterprise) managing director with the best communications skills.

“She’s good at communicating face-to-face, and digitally – on Facebook, Twitter and email. The two things combine to make her great at marketing, organising her company and communicating with the regional co-ordinators,” Lynne said.

Catching up with Kristen at the airport last Friday on her departure to Auckland, the most overwhelming thing for Kristen was the nerves.

“My teacher nominated me – I took



High flier: Aparima College student Kristen McKenzie.

a media class, the Young Enterprise Scheme was within it.”

Kristen’s idea was for a cook book, but not just an ordinary cook book, Kristen wanted it to be provincial. - so the idea of a hunter’s cook book began.

“I saw the gap in the market, and being in the middle of the area with all the hunters.”

Kristen said she hoped to publish about 500 books, with photos of the dishes and maybe some hunters, with typical hunting food covered, such as deer, venison, rabbit, seafood, pork and duck.

“I am hoping for at least 75 recipes, and to feature people from the local

community,” she said.

“Local chef Scott Richardson has already emailed some recipes in.”

At the Trade Challenge, the students were divided into 16 teams and looked after by a corporate host, with Kristen’s team sponsored by Telecom.

“They mentored the team, with 12 hours spent in the ‘glass towers’ of Auckland,” Lynne said.

In 24 hours the teams had to put together a business plan, plan a space exhibition, and write and present a business plan – sleep was not an option.

Although Kristen did not win a place in the top six of the Trade Challenge, her Enterprise in Action team won the Team Challenge.

Lynne said of the 16 teams in the Enterprise in Action challenge section of the Trade Challenge, Kristen’s team, Team Telecom, came first, with each of the eight team members winning \$5000 towards their further education.

As for her future, Lynne said Kristen was in the process of digesting all the excitement, experience and new-found opportunities.

“It has totally changed her future – she has been thinking that she may go into business... she would love to go back up to Auckland, and go to uni and study,” she said.

“She’s having a big rethink.”