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Business pitch: Young Enterprise Scheme (YES) entrants pitch their ideas to judges at Rangī Ruru. St Andrew's pupils Alex Deller, left, Ryan Varcoc and Matt Walton put their idea for Pour On Poo (POP), a liquid fertiliser, with the help of Rosie Deller, dressed for the part. Photo: DEAN KOZANIC

Pupils display entrepreneurial skills

Tina Law

Toy helicopters, earthquake survival kits, scarves, and an organic fertiliser are being pitched as business ideas by Canterbury secondary school pupils this week.

In total, 246 pupils from 12 secondary schools have formed 44 businesses to

compete in the national Young Enterprise Scheme (YES).

The scheme aims to give pupils an opportunity to test their entrepreneurial skills and run a business.

The teams are presenting their ideas to three judges this week.

YES regional co-ordinator

Juanita Reddish said entry numbers were the same as last year despite the February earthquake.

"I think it's like a distraction in some ways."

The teams would also compete at a trade fair in August, before presenting their annual report in October.

The Canterbury winners would be announced on October 31, with a national final on December 1.

A team from St Thomas of Canterbury College in Christchurch won the national award last year after producing a luxury soap with ingredients sourced from Samoa.