

Survival pack could be a winner Hospital to the rescue

By TROELS SOMMERVILLE

With their business savvy and boardroom confidence they could be Wall Street bankers – but a few things give them away.

Their school uniforms, most obviously, followed closely by their compassion for fellow human beings.

They're Auckland Seventh Day Adventist High School's Young Enterprise Scheme team and what they're selling could save lives.

After seeing the destruction caused by recent natural disasters the students decided they needed to do something about it – and that something is their survival pack.

This isn't your average torch and radio in a backpack survival pack. It's a pack with a first aid manual with instructions for pretty much "everything short of heart surgery," marketing director Chayce Marnitz says.

For the young enterprise project the students were tasked with creating a company, a product and then selling it.

Some companies make it and some don't, but these students have given themselves a great chance, commerce teacher Shirley Upton says.

They've spent hours perfecting everything from badges to business cards while raising money for every bit of the project.

"We're quite a small school but we're quite formidable because the kids are really dedicated," Ms Upton says.

The students designed the sur-



All ready: Auckland Seventh Day Adventist High School students with their survival pack, from left: Dan Wilson, Kymberly Pokura, Colin Pua, Theresa Fakura, Chayce Marnitz, Joelene Lama, Junella Leolahi and Ashley Schellingerhout.

Photo: TROELS SOMMERVILLE

vival pack from zip to lining and have had it made in China to their specifications. And they've got the pack endorsed by the Civil Defence Ministry and the Adventist Development and Relief Agency.

But it hasn't all been a stroll to the bank for the team from Mangere.

"Parts of it have been really hard because we're learning it as we go along," general manager Ashley Schellingerhout says.

"Because we've never done it before we didn't know what to expect or how to do it."

But they've obviously done something right, scoring more than 30

orders so far for their pack and expecting more soon.

But more than anything it's their confidence that's grown, Ms Upton says.

"Nobody really noticed the kids until they were part of the scheme, now everybody knows who they are."

Emergency doctors are joining paramedics on Auckland rescue helicopter missions in a two-year trial with Auckland Hospital.

Emergency department clinical director Dr Tim Parke says the new helicopter medical service aims to take the hospital to the roadside.

"We will be able to administer anaesthetic to the patient at the scene and perform amputations and ultrasound if necessary."

"Until now, this had to be done on arrival at the hospital," Dr Parke says.

Faster care should lead to "improved health outcomes" for patients, Dr Parke says.

"This trial will expand the services and adopt the recognised best practice model of a double medical crew, consisting of a doctor and a paramedic working closely together."

Eight Auckland District Health Board emergency doctors have volunteered for the trial.

The doctors will make themselves available free of charge at short notice when on administrative duties and during times of high demand including the Rugby World Cup and the peak summer holiday season.

Dr Parke says the doctors have been training with rescue helicopter crews for the last two months and started flying on rescue missions last week.

The Auckland Rescue Helicopter Trust is providing all flight-related gear for the emergency doctors.