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Teens in top gear with instructional DVD

By **BRUCE MUNRO**
NEW drivers Charlotte Meiklejohn and Alysha McKay are producing a video to teach other young people to drive.

With the ink barely dry on their driver's licences, the 17-year-old Otago Girls' High School pupils are drawing on their own experiences learning to drive manual cars, to create an instructional DVD for their peers which has been tipped to be a business success.

Both teenagers said other young drivers played important roles in helping them learn how to drive.

Hill starts were a problem, Miss Meiklejohn said.

"Then a friend explained how she did it. It was perfect after that," she said.

Miss McKay's early driving lessons with her mum were "bunny hop city".

"Mum was clutching the door handle and the hand brake," she said. In the end, a teenage friend taught her to drive.

Their experiences were the inspiration for their entry in the national youth entrepreneur competition, the Young Enterprise Scheme.

"We are making a film to teach other teenagers how to drive," Miss McKay said.

From putting on a seatbelt



Driven to succeed: Otago Girls' High School pupils Charlotte Meiklejohn (left) and Alysha McKay (both 17) are recorded by Video Factory sound operator Aleeza Stettner and cameraman Pat O'Neill for their driving instruction film *Learning Kerb*. PHOTO: BRUCE MUNRO

and turning on the key, to changing gears and those ubiquitous hill starts, *Learning Kerb* would be the complete DVD-based, peer-to-peer driving course, she said.

New Zealand Automobile Association southern district manager Nick Horn said the concept was novel and positive.

"It's a good idea because

it's upskilling young drivers.

The restricted phase is the most dangerous because they are out there on their own," Mr Horn said.

"I think if they pitch it right there will be demand."

Young Enterprise Scheme (YES) regional co-ordinator Paul Allen said he believed the DVD would have a lot of potential in New Zealand.

"And the concept could be adapted quite easily for a wider market," he said.

The young women received a \$1000 grant from the Otago Motor Club Trust. Advice was given by Mr Horn and by driving instructor Alan Carter. Filming and production is being sponsored by the Video Factory and Speed Print.