



Eastern Courier

## Chuck takes up Singapore challenge

By KRISTINA RAPLEY - Eastern Courier    Last updated 05:00 07/08/2009

One of Manukau's brightest young stars has taken flight to Singapore to compete with the best of the best.

Seventeen-year-old Chuck Slogrove has been hand-picked to compete in the 2009 FedEx/Junior Achievement International Challenge.

The Macleans College student left for Singapore last week for six days where he is competing with others from Australia, Hong Kong, Korea, Malaysia, and Singapore.

Chuck is one of six students from New Zealand selected on their performance after a 48-hour national FedEx trade challenge.

All participants are involved in the Lion Foundation Young Enterprise Scheme run by Enterprising Manukau.

It is a year-long secondary school initiative and provides students with a chance to use their entrepreneurial skills running a business. Chuck is director of his team that has an online tuck shop service called Lunchmate.

The five senior students from Macleans College are launching their school lunch-ordering website at Owairoa Primary School in Howick next Tuesday and plan to sell their business idea to schools nationwide.

LunchMate was judged first in the Counties-Manukau Region Young Enterprise Oral presentations earlier this year also.

The Bucklands Beach student is thrilled to be going on an all-expenses-paid trip to Singapore and says "the hard work and determination" has paid off.

"I really really wanted it. I was confident that I tried my best, everybody deserved it, but I guess I just stood out.

"The judges weren't particularly looking at who produced the best results, but more who proved to be the best thinkers, hardest workers and who was putting in the effort the whole way through."

The international trade challenge is part of FedEx's three-year sponsorship programme with Junior Achievement Worldwide. The students get first-hand experience in international trade, and developing their sense of teamwork, risk-taking and self-confidence.

Chuck says he will learn a lot about business on his trip, but he is looking forward to the culture Singapore has to offer too.

"Experiencing the new culture is going to be awesome. It's more than one new culture as well, we will be meeting people from all over Australasia, it's a great time to network and a chance to test myself against the best in the world."

When Chuck returns it will be business as usual for him and his Macleans College teammates as they work to develop their company Lunchmate for the Young Enterprise Scheme nationals at the end of the year.

If you are interested in finding out more about Lunchmate, email [lunchmate@hotmail.com](mailto:lunchmate@hotmail.com).