

ESTABLISHED 1861
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Students in hands-on project

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RESOURCEFUL: Nelson College students, from left, Mathew Gibson, Matt Macquet, Huw Phillips, Jack Gidall and Sam Deaker with hand warmers the students are selling as part of their year 12 business studies.

An enterprising group of 10 Nelson College students are on a mission to line their pockets by warming people's hands.

The year 12 business studies students are taking part in the Lion Foundation Young Enterprise Scheme.

Students taking part in the scheme throughout New Zealand have until November to create a business and successfully design, market and sell an original product.

The Nelson College team's product, the "Nelsun" hand-warmer, coincided nicely with winter's chill, said group member Mathew Gibson, 16.

The hand-warmers are activated by flexing a metal disc the size of a 20-cent piece floating in liquid inside red, blue or yellow plastic casings.

Group member Sam Deaker, 16, said the metal disc puts out an electric pulse that activates a chemical reaction in the fluid, causing it to crystallise and radiate heat.

The hand-warmers stay warm for 20 minutes the first time they are used and up to an hour thereafter. Boiling them reverses the reaction so they can be re-used.

Mathew said the group spent "a few thousand" getting 3000 hand warmers made in China and would have to sell more than 500 to break even.

The group has set up a website and a Facebook profile to market the Nelsun hand-warmers, which cost \$5 each or two for \$8, and will be selling them outside YHA Nelson from 10am to 1pm on Saturdays.