

School acknowledged for environmental care focus

BY JEREMY SMITH

Tauwhare School's efforts to improve its environment over the last four years have not gone unnoticed.

That's how long it has been an Enviroschool for and the students' hard work has been acknowledged in the form of an invite to the 2011 International Kids Teaching Kids River Conference in Adelaide in October.

Tauwhare School's teacher in charge of its Enviroschools efforts Linda Cook, said they were one of just two New Zealand schools – the other is Prabhue School near Te Awamutu – to be invited to the conference.

Tauwhare students joining Mrs Cook in Adelaide are Corwin Broekhuizen, Ella Silvester, Jack Morton and Samantha Bonnar. All four said

they are very excited about attending.

The teams from the schools at the conference are working together to prepare an "interactive presentation" which they will jointly share at the conference. "Some of our key Enviroschools' goals include reducing the amount of rubbish on school grounds. We now have a zero waste policy and are attracting birds back to school grounds," Mrs Cook said.

Students have planted a garden at the school and been to Maungatutari Ecological Island, Lake Karapiro and Pirongia with a view to learning about making better environments. They also assessed the water quality of "their" stream, the Waitakarruru Stream.

All the students said they were aware of why it was important to care for the environment. "If we don't look

after it now, when we're older things will be very different," Jack said.

"Otherwise, school would be very messy," said Corwin.

Tauwhare School has also been collecting bar codes from Anchor milk to raise money. The competition will see the winning school pick up the grand prize of \$50,000.

Tauwhare School sits fourth overall, so if you want to help, contact the school office on 824 0864.

GROWTH: Samantha Bonnar, Corwin Broekhuizen, Ella Silvester and Jack Morton, pictured in Tauwhare School's garden, will attend the 2011 International Kids Teaching Kids River Conference in Adelaide in October with teacher Linda Cook.

