

Bounding to Outward Bound

Hawke's Bay students will soon be bounding ahead thanks to a new fund designed to sponsor 50 of them to attend life skills course Outward Bound in the Marlborough Sounds every year.

Outward Bound Hawke's Bay last year established an Endowment Fund for students in the region who would not usually be able to attend the \$4000, 21-day course.

Chandler Owston and Cerise Wilson, of Flaxmere College, were the first to benefit from the scheme and yesterday met Outward Bound officials to discuss how they benefited from the challenging wilderness programme. Chandler said the opportunity showed him he could overcome self-doubt and achieve things that previously

seemed impossible.

"I am really afraid of heights, I struggled with the high ropes," he said.

"But throughout the course I learned to work together and my team really gave me the confidence to get through it."

The course entailed sailing, tramping, volunteer work, fitness exercises, kayaking, rock-climbing and team-building exercises to develop leadership skills.

Cerise said the course challenged her fitness levels and changed her perception of community work.

Outward Bound finance and funding manager Diane Leyton and local spokesman Geoff Yates visited the students yesterday and met five others who will attend the



MEMORY LANE: Chandler Owston, Flaxmere College; Diane Leyton, finance and funding manager, Outward Bound, Wellington; Cerise Wilson, Flaxmere College; Geoff Yates, spokesman, Outward Bound Hawke's Bay — looking over some memories of the students' recent course with, in the background, the five Flaxmere College students who will go on the course later in the year.

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PHOTO: DUNCAN BROW

course this year.

Mr Yates said the course was often life-changing and the new fund allowed that impact to spread

into more Bay communities. Mrs Leyton said the charity did not receive Government funding and welcomed community

contributions.

To inquire about the fund, contact Geoff Yates on 06 8350024 or geoff.yates@xtra.co.nz.