



BOUNDING AHEAD: Chandler Owston and Cerise Wilson (holding the pamphlet), of Flaxmere College, were the first students to benefit from a fund established to enable 50 Hawke's Bay students to attend Outward Bound each year. Behind them are Norah Poko (left), Mereana Purcell, Shalem Otene, Maekayla Tatana-Lawton, and Drew Ngametua, who will go on the course this year.

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Teens get chance to attend life-changing course

By Morgan Tait
morgan.tait@hbtoday.co.nz

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 tell how they benefited from the challenging wilderness programme.

Chandler said the opportunity showed him he could overcome

self-doubts and achieve things that seemed impossible before.

"I am really afraid of heights, so I struggled so much with the high ropes," he said. "But through the course I learned to work together and my team really gave me the confidence to get through it and that helped me do it."

The course entailed sailing, tramping, volunteer work, fitness exercises, kayaking, rock-

climbing and team-building exercises to grow leadership skills.

Cerise said the course challenged her fitness levels and changed her perception on 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 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 geoffyates@xtra.co.nz