

PRESS RELEASE 27th MAY 2008

INVERCARGILL secondary school students are being encouraged to jump at the chance to apply for \$40,000 worth of ILT scholarships to the Outward Bound adventure school.

The Invercargill Licensing Trust is giving away 10 scholarships to Invercargill pupils aged 16 years and over, with two scholarships going to each of the five city-based secondary schools.

The ILT has been awarding the Outward Bound scholarships to city pupils for 10 years and two will also be offered to fulltime Invercargill campus students at the Southern Institute of Technology, plus two to ILT staff.

The scholarship packages cover the three-week course fee and travel assistance to Anakiwa, in the Marlborough Sounds, and they are worth just over \$4000 each.

Southland Boys' High School's outdoor education head, Sander Meijer, is urging all eligible Invercargill school pupils to seriously consider putting in an application.

Mr Meijer promotes the scheme at SBHS and he believes the outdoors experience at Outward Bound is rewarding in many ways for the participants, and even life-changing for some.

"A couple of kids who went last year were absolutely stoked with it," he said. "And for some kids it could be that life change that they need and the direction they need."

Mr Meijer says he's noticed that Outward Bound graduates from SBHS have returned with new-found leadership skills and confidence to accept new challenges.

"We've had some reasonably quiet boys who have done it in the last few years but when they have come back they have been all chirpy and couldn't stop talking about it," he remembered. "It was huge for them."

ILT president, Alan Dennis, said the Trust was again thrilled to offer the opportunity for Invercargill students to attend Outward Bound.

"Outward Bound is recognised world-wide as a leading organisation for helping young people, in particular, realise their true potential through adventure and challenge in the outdoors," Mr Dennis said.

"The ILT thinks it is very important that as many of our young people as possible get the opportunity to experience this unique confidence-building outdoors course."

Since Outward Bound began in 1962, more than 50,000 New Zealanders have taken part in courses run at its Anakiwa location.

The Mind, Body, Soul course is the Outward Bound experience for 16 to 18-year-olds. Over the 21-day adventure, course participants will be challenged like never before and learn outdoor skills like sailing, kayaking, bush and navigation.

The ILT will carry out interviews of short-listed pupils next month.

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