

**To:** Media

**From:** Michelle Sutton

**Date:** 30 October 2013

**Subject:** **Students invent junk yard golf course & alarm for deaf students**

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Auckland and Christchurch students have invented award-winning projects – a junk-yard golf course, an alarm for deaf students and a school scooter parking system – to win a nation-wide engineering competition.

The Institution of Professional Engineers New Zealand (IPENZ) runs the annual competition, sponsored by Transpower, and facilitates professional engineers and technologists to work with students on designing and developing projects to enter the Transpower Neighbourhood Engineer Awards, with judging in a junior and senior category.

Transpower Neighbourhood Engineers Awards Coordinator Kristal Kitto said 42 projects from Whangarei to Dunedin were submitted by schools to the Awards this year. They ranged from an “extendable object retriever” to retrieve balls from trees and guttering by Taranaki’s Normanby School students, to building a fitness track to improve students’ fitness at Newbury School in Manawatu.

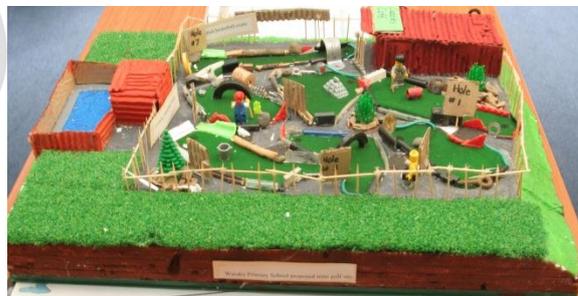
Next month a total of \$16,000 prize money and certificates will be awarded to the 26 projects which won or were given merits at school assemblies by IPENZ and Transpower.

The winning projects in the 2013 Transpower Neighbourhood Engineer Awards are:

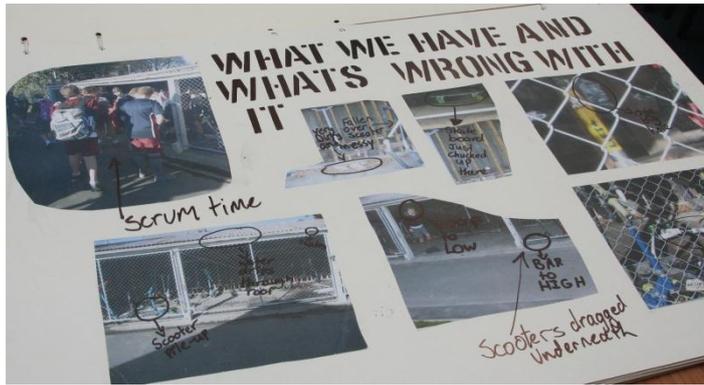


Senior winner: Auckland’s Mission Heights Junior College – Project alert. A small hand-held pocket device designed and created by four Year 9 students to help alert deaf students when a fire alarm sounds. The device is about the size of a cell phone and vibrates when the fire alarm sounds, alerting deaf students that there is an emergency.

- Joint junior winner: Waiuku Primary Junk-yard golf course. hole golf course made products such as timber, metals and old has been built on the ground and is also fundraiser for the school and open to the community to use.



Auckland’s School – A nine-out of junk recycled car tyres school’s used as a



- Joint junior winner: Christchurch South Intermediate School – Scooter parking system. An increasing number of pupils riding a scooter to school and the difficulties in finding a safe park, as a number of scooters were being damaged or stolen, led to students at Christchurch South

Intermediate School researching, designing and developing a new school scooter parking system allowing safe and easy to use parking for the increasingly popular mode of transport.

Mission Heights principal Joan Middlemiss said the idea for Project Alert came about as a solution to a problem for some deaf students who could become nervous and panicked by not being alerted during a fire alarm.

“It could also be dangerous should students with hearing difficulties be in the bathroom or otherwise alone. The idea for this project came from the students and with the help of engineer Brendan Vercoelen, of Fisher and Paykel Healthcare, they created a device similar to that of a cell phone which vibrates to alert deaf students there is a fire alarm,” Ms Middlemiss said.

“This project has introduced students to engineering and some are now seriously considering a future career as an engineer,” he said.

Waiuku Primary School is the first school to win two years running after it also won the junior section last year with its buoyancy aid project.

IPENZ chief executive Andrew Cleland said the competition introduced many youth to engineering for the first time and promoted engineering as a future career path for some.

For more information visit [www.nea.org.nz](http://www.nea.org.nz) or contact:

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TNEA awards presentations

26/11/2013	1.45pm	Waiuku Primary School	George Street Waiuku
		Christchurch South	
19/11/2013	8.45am	Intermediate	204 Selwyn Road, Christchurch
9/12/2013	8.45am	Mission Heights Junior College	103 Flat Bush, Manukau, Auckland