



Listen up: Acoustics engineer Andre Cowan helps Freemans Bay School with its award-winning project to reduce traffic noise from its classrooms.

Pupils engineer a victory

A group of inner city students may have a solution to cutting out the noise of heavy traffic next to their school.

Freemans Bay School won a junior merit prize at the Transpower Neighbourhood Engineer Awards for its project Listen Up.

The annual competition partners schools with engineers and technologists who work with students on developing their ideas.

More than 40 entries were

received from across the country including a junkyard golf course, an alarm for deaf students that was reported in *Auckland City Harbour News* last month and a school scooter parking system.

Students at Freemans Bay set out to improve their classroom environment by minimising the impact of traffic noise from the Wellington St motorway on-ramp beside their school.

After brainstorming ideas the young team found old clothes, bed-

ding and blankets put in file boxes and attached to walls made for a quieter classroom.

Andre Cowan, from Marshall Day Acoustics, says mounting absorptive materials on the walls reduced the reverberation time from 1 to 0.6 seconds.

The recommended reverberation time for a primary school classroom is between 0.4 to 0.5 seconds, he says.

The school was presented with its award and \$750 last week.