

# World Vision ambassadorial role for head boy

**Rob Kidd**  
robert.kidd@waikatotimes.co.nz

After 13 years at the same school, an 18-year-old Hamilton student is taking some big steps as he prepares to leave.

Hamilton Christian School head boy Dylan Kimpton started at the Rototuna school as a five year old and has spent his final year creating a legacy.

After organising the school's 40-hour famine this year, he and his fellow students raised twice what they had before – more than \$7000.

Although Dylan was humble about his individual input, deputy principal Cor Bezuidenhout heaped praise on him. "He went the extra mile. For a small school we raised a lot of money because of his huge effort," said Mr Bezuidenhout.

Dylan was then shortlisted, along with 14 other students nationwide, to become a World Vision youth ambassador.

He was flown to Christchurch –

the first time he had been on a plane since the age of 4 – where he took part in interviews and discussions about poverty, and gave a speech about famine.

And a few weeks ago he got the call confirming he would be one of three ambassadors for 2011 which, he said, was recognition for the entire school.

"It was really cool because I'm just one person, but the whole school pulled together to raise the money for World Vision," he said.

Over the next year, Dylan will gain an insight into the complexities of poverty and development work, and will have an opportunity to participate in the solution when he travels to East Timor in January.

During their two-week adventure the ambassadors will have the opportunity to immerse themselves in the culture and meet World Vision-supported communities and children. The real work will begin on his return when he will motivate other young people to get involved in the 40-hour fam-

ine and raise awareness about global issues facing children and families in the developing world.

Next year will be a busy one for Dylan who plans to study either health science or biomedical science in Auckland in the hope of getting into medical school and, although he said he was excited about his ambassadorial role, he indicated there would be some pressure there too. "I want to make sure I'm practising what I'm preaching. I want to be someone of integrity," he said.

Dylan will officially leave school tomorrow and he said there would be mixed emotions on his departure.

Despite a lot changing in his 13 years at Hamilton Christian School, his year 1 teacher Cheryl Brothers is still there and immensely impressed by her former student. "I'm just so terribly proud, he's just the most amazing kid," she said. "I knew when he came to my class there was something special. He stood out... there have already been tears."



**Role model:** Hamilton Christian School head boy Dylan Kimpton has been chosen as the school's first World Vision youth ambassador.  
Photo: CHRIS HILLOCK