

Website offers wisdom on misuse

An interactive website may be the most effective way to warn teenagers about drug and alcohol misuse when well-intentioned lectures fail, writes Kirsten Grant

Takapuna Grammar students had an English lesson with a twist this week.

Project manager at the Foundation for Alcohol and Drug Education (FADE), Tanya Eddowes presented the organisation's new-look interactive website to students via an online scavenger hunt.

The website has been updated with eye-catching new additions aimed at younger people. With Tanya's help, students have gained a better understanding of a range of drugs and the health risks associated with them, plus learning to navigate the site.

"FADE provides up-to-date and relevant education about drugs and alcohol, and helps people to think smart and act safe," says Tanya.

"FADE aims to create awareness about the effects of drugs, rather than just saying don't take them."

At a time when alcohol and drugs are topical, not just for young people but over the broader spectrum of society, FADE has taken on digital technology to help a range of people learn about what they could be getting themselves into. The website's had a record number of hits since it was revamped a month ago with 164,000 hits in July.

The website has five different communities, including one called Young People, with fun resources and games to explain drugs and alcohol.

The Scavenger Hunt involved children searching this part of the site to answer certain questions

"FADE aims to create awareness about the effects of drugs"



PHOTO: KELLIE BLIZARD

● Tanya Eddowes introduces Takapuna Grammar students to FADE's website. It's an interactive mine of information on the dangers of misusing drugs and alcohol

people interested, which we've done by making it interactive and also because it's constantly changing," says FADE executive director Colin Bramfitt.

Tanya and Colin will also be touring New Zealand presenting workshops to educators including teachers, counsellors and public health workers.

The workshops run through September and October focusing on making educators aware that they can use other methods, like digital technology, to pass the message on.

helping them learn more about different kinds of drugs and their effects plus seeing what the website has to offer.

The clubbing online interactive,

also in the Young People's section, helps understand the effects that the ever-popular "club drugs" have on the body and the brain.

"The intent of the site is to keep

Natives planted to tempt birds

● by Aine de Paort

Verran Primary School pupils made the most of Conservation Week by planting native trees in their school's grounds.

Eight-year-old students Jesse Craig, Una Helu and Luke Malcolm know the important role that trees such as titoki play in the ecosystem.

They provide fruit for native birds which, in turn, help to carry the seeds far and wide to regenerate native bush.

But natives have not been faring so well against imported trees that bear juicy fruit like loquats.

Native birds have been turning their beaks up at more traditional

food and feasting on the imports, instead.

Now, Verran Primary is hoping to turn the tide by providing plenty of wholesome — and native — alternatives for birds like the kereru (wood pigeon).

PHOTO: KELLIE BLIZARD

● During Conservation Week, Verran Primary School pupils planted native trees in order to tempt native birds away from eating fruit from exotic trees. Jesse Craig, 8, Una Helu, 8, and Luke Malcolm, 8, were enthusiastic gardeners



Triangle's range extends far and wide to mark station's birthday

Almost all television watchers in wider Auckland are now able to tune into local station, Triangle Television, coinciding with its seventh birthday.

An additional broadcast spectrum acquired from the North Shore's Pinehill translator means areas such as North Shore's East Coast Bays, Albany, parts of Whangaparaoa, Takapuna, Devonport, and parts of Coromandel Peninsula are able to tune in on UHF channel 42.

The new spectrum fills the final gap in the station's transmission area to the greater Auckland region, giving the station 110,000 potential new viewers.

Triangle Television's chief executive, Jim Blackman, says blanket Auckland coverage has always been the goal.

"Now, we truly represent and broadcast to our whole target market — the wider Auckland public."

Triangle Television is Auckland's only regional, non-commercial, non-profit making television station.

The channel screens a mix of regional-access television with international news and information programmes.

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