

# CREST Newsletter - January 2005

Welcome to our January newsletter! We hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and a relaxing break. We also hope you are full of energy for the new teaching year, and plan to get into those CREST projects with your students! Those of you who had students undertake a Silver project last year, should be encouraging those students to do a Gold CREST award this year. Please contact us with any queries in relation to the Gold award.

Why are we so passionate about CREST? The latest 'bright' magazine from NZTE helps give us a broader picture of exactly why CREST is so important. The article "High-value leadership" on p 18 investigates why there are relatively few leaders of NZ companies with science and technology backgrounds, compared with other countries; and the initiatives underway to change this. Steve Thompson, CE of RSNZ, says:

'it's the unique mix of analytical and creative qualities that make technologists or scientists particularly valuable in the business world (p 19).'

Unfortunately we have comparatively low numbers of science and technology graduates and George Slim (NZTE) suggests that students with an interest in science and a desire to go into business choose to study accountancy or commerce because they believe them to be the only avenue into business (p 20). Initiatives are underway to rectify this situation, and one of them is the CREST national awards programme. Time and again, what we here at the Society see is that undertaking a CREST Award project gives students authentic experience in scientific investigation or technological practice which can inspire, from an early age, an enduring passion for these subjects.

The CREST scheme is growing and the following table compares numbers for 2003 and 2004:

CREST Awards achieved:

	2003	2004
First CREST	1,050	1,140
Team First	178	372
Bronze	607	1,051
Team Bronze	128	99
Silver	39	278
Team Silver	33	76
Gold	1	4
Total:	2,036	3,020

It is pleasing to note the increase above of nearly a thousand awards overall during 2004. We hope to continue this trend during 2005.

**Gold Update:** Haydn Luckman, a second-year student at the University of Auckland Engineering School, was presented with a Gold CREST award by Helen Anderson, Chief Executive of MoRST, on 21 May 2004 at a Chatshop celebrating promising young New Zealanders. Haydn spent two years developing a heat exchange unit to extract waste heat from shower effluent. Winner of the 2002 Genesis Energy National Science and Technology Fair, he attended both the Beijing Youth Science Creation Competition and the London International Youth Science Forum.

We have four students currently completing their Gold awards, and a Gold **Team** award is being developed which at this stage we anticipate will be ready for the 2006 year.

**Sponsorship:** Sponsorship was actively sought during 2004 and we are delighted to announce that the **Todd Foundation** have chosen to sponsor CREST over the next three years. Our grateful thanks go to them.

A donation of \$5,000 was also received from **Eastern and Central Community Trust** in Hawkes Bay for CREST travel and communication costs to promote and develop CREST in that region. Our thanks go also to them.

**CREST on-line:** The major development for CREST during 2005 is to be put on-line. Soon it will be possible for schools to register, order and pay on-line which will be both more time- and cost-effective. This is a very exciting improvement and we will keep you posted!

**Annual registration required for CREST!**

Please remember you do need to pay for registration each new calendar year. The specific materials (eg First CREST, Team First, Bronze, Team Bronze, Silver, Team Silver or Gold) can be ordered when registering or at any time thereafter.

*Registration costs are:*

First Crest and Bronze (Individual and Team)	\$25.00
Bronze, Silver and Gold	\$50.00
All Awards	\$60.00

Registration forms and Order forms can be downloaded from this web site or just send an email to [cris.westrupp@rsnz.org](mailto:cris.westrupp@rsnz.org). I can send out an invoice with your order.