

October 2005 Newsletter

This issue:

- A medal for Carol Pound—national Gold CREST assessor!
- AgResearch Awards available
- Workshops for CREST
- Student Venture Capital Fund
- CREST for Gifted and Talented.

The New Zealand Science and Technology Medals for 2004:

- A medal for **Carol Pound**, national Gold CREST assessor

At a medal presentation ceremony on 5 July 2005, **Carol Pound**, our National Gold CREST assessor, was awarded the prestigious Bronze NEW ZEALAND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY MEDAL for her long history of tireless work and effort for the CREST scheme. These medals were instituted by the Royal Society of New Zealand at the request of the Government to recognise and honour those who serve as role models in Science and Technology and demonstrate the importance of Science and Technology to the community.

Our congratulations and ongoing thanks go to Carol as her efforts continue this year for all of our Gold CREST students. She has long been an impressive role model, inspiring teachers and students alike.



Carol receiving her Bronze medal from Peter Spratt at the medal ceremony at RSNZ on 5 July 2005

AgResearch Awards available!

CREST Science Encouragement Awards

(2 x \$250/year—total \$500)
Citation: for student projects that best demonstrate any aspect of agriculture or life sciences.

AgResearch are offering two \$250 encouragement awards for CREST projects that best demonstrate any aspect of agriculture or life sciences.

To apply for an award, please get your student to write a letter describing their project to:

Cris Westrupp, National Manager of CREST
The Royal Society of New Zealand
P O Box 598
WELLINGTON.

Workshops for CREST:

A series of workshops have been held during 2005 with the aim of:

- introducing new teachers to CREST
- providing support for current CREST teachers
- allowing sharing of experiences and projects
- arranging support networks.

Workshops have been delivered so far in central Auckland, Pukekohe, Palmerston North, Botany Downs and Morrinsville. One is due to take place at Strathallon College in Papakura on 20 October from 4.30–6.30 pm and more are planned for Dunedin, Invercargill, Alexandra, Wellington, Christchurch, Wairarapa and North Auckland. For more information, please email cris.westrupp@rsnz.org.

Student Venture Capital Fund:

Don't have your students struggle with costs – have them apply for assistance for funding their projects...

One of the new developments this year is the establishment of a **Venture Capital Fund** for students doing Silver and Gold projects.

All students doing a Silver, Team Silver, Gold or Team Gold CREST project can apply to this Fund for assistance with funding their project.

Please visit the web site to read conditions: <http://www.crest.org.nz/venture.htm>

CREST as an ideal tool for use with the Gifted and Talented:

The Ministry of Education has recently contracted RSNZ to set up and guide a national network of schools to use CREST as a tool for meeting the needs of the gifted and talented.

Some background on CREST:

CREST (Creativity in Science and Technology) is ideal for use:

- in all special needs classes, including extension classes for the gifted and talented;
- with Māori students, Pasifika students, underachieving gifted students; those who are gifted and have learning difficulties;
- and as a curriculum support activity for **all** Years 6–13 technology and science classes.

CREST is particularly relevant for gifted and talented students. In CREST, students are given authentic experience in technological practice or scientific investigation, working with consultants and experts from industry, carrying out projects focussed on finding creative solutions to practical problems that are of real significance in their lives. Students work at their own pace and to their own potential.

CREST develops enterprise and entrepreneurial skills, encourages and rewards creative and innovative thinking, teaches students goal-setting and problem-solving, risk-taking and perseverance in the face of adversity. Offering both the improvement of literacy in science and technology at all levels as well as an extension of extremely able students at the higher levels, CREST also exposes students' families and local communities to their projects, thus increasing scientific and technological literacy in society generally. The CREST programme requires close collaboration between students and role models from knowledge-based, wealth-creating industries, so provides students with valuable insights into, and creates interest in careers they may not have even previously known of.

As students work on their projects they develop social, environmental and financial awareness, often being required to consider questions of sustainability, environmental impact, ethics, social responsibility and fiscal responsibility. Required to keep a detailed log of their practice, students reflect on how they could improve and what can be learned from past mistakes, so they learn to self-evaluate. The nature of this award scheme strongly promotes them being innovative, lateral thinkers, open to new concepts and ideas as well as continual self-improvement.

CREST is not a competition. Students of **all** abilities can succeed and develop to their potential, as assessment is based on meeting certain criteria which reflects:

- the student's ability to demonstrate **creativity** in solving problems
- **perseverance** in overcoming difficulties
- the **application of knowledge** in seeking practical solutions
- and the ability to communicate.

From a student's perspective features such as:

- the incentive of an award
- working with outside consultants/experts
- accepting responsibility for their own learning
- and the opportunity for multiple assessment (including NCEA credits)

have great appeal and provide a high level of motivation to produce excellent work.

If you or your school would like to be a part of this network, please contact cris.westrupp@rsnz.org, phone 04 470 5772 or 0274 575 010.
