



# Trees grow environmental awareness

In an important step forward for the promotion of environmental awareness in the town, Katikati College has joined the Trees for Survival (TFS) charitable trust.

Founded 20 years ago, the trust is in 140 New Zealand schools, providing them with a total of 75,000 native trees a year.

The environmental education programme involves young people growing and planting native trees to help landowners revegetate erosion-prone land, improve stream flow and water quality and increase biodiversity.

It creates partnerships by engaging schools, the community, local businesses and local authorities, all working together to restore New

Zealand's natural heritage. Each school is supplied with up to 1000 seedlings a year and they are grown by the students before being planted out.

In the Bay of Plenty, seedlings are donated by Naturally Native.

Bay of Plenty field officer Amanda Besley, whose husband Peter runs the Sustainable Education programme at Katikati College, says sponsorship to cover the costs of setting up and running TFS at the school has been covered by Summerset retirement village.

An official blessing for the project was held recently. Involving the school's Porua group, it included a powhiri with songs and haka, following the blessing of the plant growing

unit by local elder Pai Wanakore.

Guests included Summerset site manager Carston Nopper, Sue Morris and Rosalie Smith from Uretara Estuary Managers, and Western Bay of Plenty district councillor Mike Williams.

"It was show of unity and shared philosophy about the guardianship and care of our local environment," Amanda says.

"As a significant new development, Summerset recognise the responsibility they have to support the community."

Students will make their first plantings this month under the guidance of Uretara Estuary Managers, and land management will be supported by Summerset.