

# Woodend Wins Community Development Award

Woodend School (Waimakariri District Council) gained national recognition winning the 'Strengthening Community' category for their work in achieving the status for designation as a WHO International Safe School at the National Local Authority Community Development Awards, held in New Plymouth on Thursday 22nd September, 2005.



In addition, this first WHO International Safe School for New Zealand, Woodend School also took out the Supreme Award at the awards presentation. The awards are designed to recognise and celebrate the contribution of local authorities and government agencies to enhance the wellbeing of communities.

Judges were particularly impressed, as they described the process that the school followed towards achieving the first WHO Safe School status in NZ and recognised that this was an "outstanding example" of community development. They also recognized that:



"it is a credit to Principal Graeme Barber for his leadership in the school, together with the commitment that the whole school demonstrates to safety, that makes Woodend an exceptional example to other schools both nationally and internationally".

The WHO Safe Schools Accreditation Programme is recognised as an effective, beneficial and sustainable way to promote safety and reduce injuries within the school environment. This is achieved by supporting the creation of safer school environments by applying scientifically proven practices to achieve systematic change. This community development approach is in line with the goals of the New Zealand Injury Prevention Strategy (NZIPS) of developing safe environments and a positive safety culture.

For further information visit: [www.safecommunities.org.nz](http://www.safecommunities.org.nz) and [www.woodend.school.nz](http://www.woodend.school.nz)