

Children and teens empowered

The Burn Support Group Charitable Trust held a successful camp for burn survivors last month, with around 20 children from throughout New Zealand attending.

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Camp Awhi, was held at Camp Maynard in Albany. The annual camp, which is offered free, brings together children and teens aged between seven and 17 years old, who have sustained burn injuries.

“Our camp is a chance for kids to be kids and to be around other children who have been through what they have. Children who don’t point and tease if others look different,” says Michele Henry from Burn Support Group.

Michele says it is great to see them grow in confidence throughout the week. “The children that are new to camp arrive on day one with their scars covered. By the end of camp the same child is shirtless and embracing the camp culture. The smiles, the friendships and the compassion for one another is heartwarming. The kids are open to one another and are supportive to all,” she says.



Michele says the camps will only get better and better. This is an opinion reflected by parents whose children have attended Camp Awhi.

Letitia Blackburn from Waiuku has a daughter who has been on camp twice.

“This year’s camp was very active. The kids got to go to rocket ropes, meet the Breakers and go to a basketball game. It was a real confidence boost for her,” Letitia says.

“She met people who attended the camps last year. It’s good to have those friendships,” she says.

She said it was particularly encouraging for her daughter to meet people who have been through the same experiences.

The group fundraise throughout the year to ensure it remains free for burns survivors to attend.

For more information, visit www.burns.org.nz