



## **Media release**

5 October 2009

### **MainPower has joined the team.**

MainPower has announced its support for the North Canterbury Sport & Recreation Trust's Primary Schools' Sport Coaching Programme. The programme, which also receives seed funding from SPARC was trialled in primary schools in the Waimakariri and Hurunui areas from the second term last year.

The programme has two coaches who deliver active skills and coordination in over 16 sports to Year 4 to 8 children in more than 36 North Canterbury schools.

“Support for the North Canterbury Sport & Recreation Trust's Primary Schools' Sport Coaching Programme is a perfect extension to MainPower's Youth Sport Scholarship programme”, says Julie Battersby, Community Relations Manager for MainPower. “MainPower is keen to encourage youth into active sport and provide incentives to inspire their achievement. The two programmes together encourage participation for young people into healthy and active lifestyles and to achieve at a high level in their chosen activity.”

From the initial trial of the programme last year, many children have joined formal sports clubs to further their skills in the sports they have enjoyed.

Teachers work alongside the coaches and continue the programme on as the coaches' move to other schools in the region.

Michael Sharpe, chief executive officer for the North Canterbury Sport and Recreation Trust says the Trust is “extremely grateful” to MainPower for its sponsorship. “This initiative is something that has been needed for a long time, particularly for rural children, who don't always get the opportunity to participate in some of the lesser known sports that are covered by the coaches.”

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For further information contact Julie Battersby, Community Relations Manager, MainPower. 027 220 7244.