

# William a winner on water

## Tricks take top spot

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William Leigh doesn't need water-skis to win trophies, he does it in his bare feet.

The Kuranui School student competed in the Barefoot Skiing National Championships last week and achieved second place in the slalom division, first place in the tricks division and first place over all.

William also received the Most Promising Newcomer award and was selected for the Junior Development squad.

The event was held in Otaki, Kapiti, in which William, 10, competed in the sub junior under-13 boys' division, which consists of three rounds.

He skied for two 40-second bursts a round, in each category and was pulled by a jet boat which travelled at approximately 58 kilometres an hour.

When asked how he felt about winning the competition William said it was cool and the trophy was huge.

After being selected for the Junior Development Squad, William



**Barefooted brilliance:** Kuranui School student William Leigh received the most promising newcomer award at the Barefoot Skiing National Championships.

will also go to a special training camp where he will compete with others in his class and if selected

he will compete in the World Barefoot Championships which will be held in Texas next year.

William is excited about the opportunity and trains at least three times a week with his fam-

ily. Apart from winning the national championships he has also competed in the Wellington regionals, the Waikato regionals and the Bay of Plenty regionals, in which he won first place in the tricks and slalom divisions, and also first place overall in all three events.

The tricks section involves skiing on one foot, then one hand, then proceeds to sit down, stand up, tumble over, go on his back, spin around and finally to stand back up.

His favourite event is the slalom division, which consists of 15-second bursts from one side of the boat to the other.

William has only been barefoot skiing for a year and said he already loved it, and had taken to it like a duck to water.

He was introduced to the sport through his cousin Tom who went to a barefoot skiing camp in Atiamuri.

When William heard about it he decided to give it a go as well.

William said he also liked to water-ski but now enjoyed barefoot skiing much more.

Although he wishes to be an architect when he gets older because of design classes he enjoys at school, he said he wanted to continue with barefoot skiing for as long as he could.

"I enjoy the adrenalin rush the most," he said.