

Going for gold in Hollywood

By JOHN LEWIS

A DUNNEDIN North Intermediate pupil Kenzie Whyte (12) rub shoulders with some of the entertainment world's movers and shakers in Hollywood this year, after winning a gold medal at the New Zealand championships of performing arts.

Kenzie Whyte sang in the competition in Auckland last weekend, winning a gold medal in the country and western category, a silver in the variety category and a bronze in the Broadway/musical category.

Her performances won her selection to represent her country at the world championships of performing arts in Los Angeles in July.

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Kenzie will compete in the country and western, and pop categories against representatives from more than 50 countries — a daunting prospect, she said. "I'm a little nervous. There

are going to be talent scouts there. It would be my dream to be discovered by a talent scout and get a recording contract. This could be my big chance."

The competition is endorsed by Hollywood movie star and Governor of California Arnold Schwarzenegger. It is structured to simulate the processes widely used in auditioning and casting for film, television and theatre, and emphasises contestants' entertainment value and marketability.

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With entertainment industry personnel on the judging panel, the event is considered by many as a giant Hollywood casting call.

Prizes included a scholarship to study at the School for Film and Television in New York.

While it would be exciting to be discovered, Kenzie was realistic. She expected the competition to be fierce and there was bound to be plenty of criticism of her performances from Simon Cowell-like judges, she said.

"There's always going to be people out there that knock you. As long as I try my best, I will have done all I can do."

Minister Helen Clark and Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao will witness the signing. — NZPA

Eminent NZer dies

Wellington: Eminent New Zealand journalist, soldier and commercial television pioneer Sir Geoffrey Cox has died in England.

Southland-born Rhodes Scholar Sir Geoffrey, who was 97, was a University of Otago graduate. He founded *News at Ten* on Britain's first commercial TV channel.

As well as TV, he worked as a newspaper foreign correspondent, as a New Zealand diplomat based in the US and served in World War 2. An obituary will follow. — NZPA

Kiwis moving home

Greyhound: About a dozen of New Zealand's rarest kiwi will be taken to an island in Foveaux Strait next week in a plan to save the species from extinction by creating a backup population.

Only about 300 Haast kiwi are left in the wild. Chicks will be returned once they are big enough to fight off stoats.

The first birds will leave from Centre Island, in the middle of Lake Te Anau, destined for Rarotoka Island. — *The Greyhound Star*

Hawea man found

A 67-YEAR-OLD Hawea man was found by a helicopter crew last night after being overdue from a tramp in the Lake Hawea area.

Constable Mike Johnston said the man was two days overdue and police decided to launch a search about 5pm yesterday. The man was found about 10pm.

The man was in believed to be in good health, and was taken back to Wanaka. — NZPA

Alcohol top date rape drug

Wellington: Alcohol is the No. 1



Star quality? ... Dunedin North Intermediate pupil Kenzie Whyte (12) hopes to be "discovered" while competing in the world championships of performing arts in Hollywood this year.

PHOTO: JANE DAWBER