

Cup fever drives the message home

Porirua students who queued up to view the Rugby League World Cup have been asked to consider how they could become champions behind the wheel.

When Mark Kairua, Porirua City Council's road safety co-ordinator, and Michelle Robinson of Partners Porirua heard that the World Cup was being brought to Porirua, they saw an opportunity to promote the 'Drive Safe, Play Safe' message.

Working with the Porirua Vikings Rugby League Club, the Partners Porirua team of T.J. Taotua and Henry Samia co-ordinated a lively interactive show for senior students at local colleges – illustrating how the virtues of responsibility, teamwork and leadership can be applied both on the field and on the road – using the theme of being a champion.

The roadshow, held at Mana, Bishop Viard and Porirua colleges earlier this month, involved guest speakers Julius Kuresa, premier coach from the Vikings, Alex Smits from Wellington Rugby League and up-and-coming U20s' Warrior Matty Robinson.

Ms Robinson, who is on the Vikings board of



WINNING DRIVE: Bishop Viard College students celebrate with the Rugby League World Cup during the recent 'Drive Safe, Play Safe' promotion.

trustees, said it was a presentation of champions and that provoked the theme of driving champions.

"The Vikings are Wellington premier league champions, the Kiwis are world league champions and all of us can be champions on our own roads.

Being responsible behind the wheel, being a leader – saying no or taking the lead to be a sober driver are all virtues of a person who respects the team of life and respects our community," she said.

This is the third year that Partners Porirua has

promoted a safe driving programme which sees dozens of young drivers sponsored through their learner's licence.

Ms Robinson says promoting safe driving not only contributes to a safer community but also increases skills and job opportunities.