



Lightening the load: Queen Margaret College pupils Ruby Tew, left, and Emily Barrington blow bubbles to highlight fundraising for the Cystic Fibrosis Bubble Week. Photo: CRAIG SIMCOX

Honour for Eve their big reward

Katie Chapman

FOR pupils at Queen Margaret College, fundraising for cystic fibrosis isn't just a good cause: it's personal.

In 2002 a pupil at the school died from the disease, and every year since pupils have helped fundraise during this week's annual appeal.

Among collectors this year was Ruby Tew, 17, whose sister has the disease and will start at the college next year.

Watching her sister Lily, 12, dealing with cystic fibrosis gave her first-hand experience of how it affected people. Doing something to help made you "feel good all day", Ruby said.

Friend Emily Barrington, 17, said knowing someone who had the disease made the collection more personal.

"It's rewarding knowing that it is helping."

Pupil Eve Moore, 16, died from cystic fibrosis in 2002.

Cystic fibrosis is an inherited disorder that causes thick mucus to build up in the lung of sufferers, who have recurring chest infections.

More than 500 people and their

families are affected in New Zealand.

Teacher Milada Pivac said Eve had been "sparkling, alive, just beautiful" and had left an impression on everyone who knew her.

"She's just brave, gutsy, much loved... she fought a damn good battle. We hold her in our hearts a tremendous amount."

Another teacher, Laura Davison, said Eve would always be part of the school, and helping raise money was a way to honour her and others in the school community affected by the illness.

Last Friday pupils spent an hour before school collecting money from morning commuters at Wellington train station, accepting about \$3000, she said.

Margaret Nicholls, chairwoman of the Wellington branch of the Cystic Fibrosis Association, said the school's efforts made a "significant" contribution to the fundraising drive.

"We would be very sorry if we didn't have them."

This year the appeal week had a bubbles theme, because many young children with the illness blow bubbles to help improve their lung function.