

to school in February. On her last day here her parents came and picked her up and she said 'hooray'. Her parents thanked me.

"She disappeared but her parents car was still out the front and I thought that was funny. About five minutes later there was a timid knock — I didn't even look up. This kid came in in tears, she wanted to know if she could come back at the end of the first term.

"In my opinion that's what this caper is all about. What they are not getting at home we have to give them here. Her supervisors gave her a good record — I'm pleased to be able to make a statement like that."

The trust has concentrated on gardens. Members built a large glass-house at the back of the St George's Gate base, mostly from things other people had thrown out.

It produces 5000 plants a month and provides plants and seedlings to trusts and charitable groups throughout the Wanganui and South Taranaki regions. Over Christmas it gave away 49 cases of

mixed vegetables and 25 sacks of potatoes.

Mr Ward now hopes the trust will eventually employ 40 people — but to do that more buildings will be needed so work does not stop then the weather is bad.

"I can't see us looking back now. We started slowly and I hope to continue building-up slowly. Should the work skills programme finish we would have a financial battle but I think we could continue as a co-operative, and still hold our own."

While leadership is provided from the top and though responsibility is demanded, Mr Ward said everyone contributes to decisions.

"We don't want anybody standing there like Hitler. We sit down and talk about it then we come up with a decision."

Early on he was criticised at a house meeting. "I have a loud hailer on the truck. One day I wanted to talk to one of the people who was working up the road.

"I didn't walk up but called out to him on the loud hailer. He took exception to the fact that I used the loud hailer on him.

"At the meeting he said it was getting more like a police operation around here.

"I think we have been lucky that people have stuck. Where they have been turned-off it has been possible to get them back on the rails, sometimes by leading them and sometimes by pushing them. They seem to get it together eventually.

"You can see for yourself that the quality of the place has improved — it's business-like. The place is viable.

"When we first started we rang people and said we were Manaakitia and they wondered who the hell we were. Now I can ring them and say, 'It's Manaakitia, John Ward speaking' and they know who we are. And when we need it they are ready to give us help and advice.

"I think we're underway — at last I'm prepared to admit that," he said.

## Award for trainee chef



From the scarce job market of Whangarei and Northland, one Bream Bay College school leaver and trainee chef has quickly found his feet.

With determination, and help from Lion Breweries, Greg Smith was awarded the Auckland Rotary Club's vote of Best 1982 Student in the Maori pre-employment course at the Auckland Technical Institute last month.

The award is made to the student who is a diligent worker and who mixes with staff and students.

At 19, Greg is well on the way to completing his ATI chef's course and establishing a career in catering.

He is a cook at the Ellerslie Oak's Jolly Poacher restaurant and attends the Technical Institute part time.

He will sit his final exams for qualifications as a chef at the end of next year.

Greg said his talent for cooking comes from his mother, who is a food supervisor at Northland Hospital.

Greg is a popular staff member at the Oaks. In recognition of his achievements the management presented him with a set of carving knives.

Mr Greg Smith of Takahiwai, near Ruakaka, at work with a set of carving knives in the Jolly Poacher restaurant at the Ellerslie Oaks Motor Inn in Auckland. The knives were given to Mr Smith by his employers, in recognition of his achievements.