

The Microsoft logo, consisting of the word "Microsoft" in a bold, sans-serif font with a registered trademark symbol.

Who are they?

The New Zealand Academy of Sport: South Island – Education Trust

Where are they?

Based in Dunedin but servicing athletes throughout the South Island

What do they do?

Administer scholarships from SPARC that assist elite and talented athletes achieve tertiary and vocational qualifications while pursuing excellence in sport.

What did they receive?

Microsoft Office Professional Plus 2007

The Outcome?

Increased processing efficiency and transfer of information; enabling the Academy of Sport to provide studying athletes with high-performance support.

The New Zealand Academy of Sport South Island Education Trust assists talented and elite athletes achieve tertiary and vocational qualifications while pursuing excellence in sport. In 2010, approximately we awarded 352 scholarships to athletes across 25 National Sporting Organisations; including Paralympics, Triathlon, Bike, Netball, Cricket and Winter Sports—to name a few.

The type of support we provide allows athletes who may have forfeited the opportunity to gain tertiary or vocational qualifications to pursue these dreams, alongside the dream to represent their country, and become World Class athletes. It also means athletes do not have to choose and potentially give up their sport, which we think is vitally important as active role models are exceedingly important in today's society.

It takes a world class system to help create world class athletes and every part of that system, right down to the IT, helps create New Zealanders who can win. And when New Zealander's are winning on the world stage it helps create a sense of national pride and sends out a positive and healthy message.

The administration of our scholarships has become increasingly complex. Automating processes has enabled us to cope with such things as the large number of payments being made to institutions and athletes and the uploading of online reports by athletes that gauge their progress. Other automated or electronic processes adopted have strengthened interaction between the Academy of Sport in the South Island with the Academy of Sport in the North Island.

The connectedness of an automated system was helped by the generosity of Microsoft. With their help we were able to upgrade our software without having to reduce the number of athletes we were able to provide with scholarships. It also means less time needs to be spent on administration, so more of our time is now spent helping athletes achieve.