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ROLE MODELS: Pukehou School's David Rawsley (left) and Hereworth's William Gunson received Sir Peter Blake Trust Young Leader Awards this week.

Youngsters lead way to awards . . .

By Morgan Tait
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Two Hawke's Bay schoolboys are among just a handful of the country's primary and intermediate aged pupils recognised for their leadership skills by the Sir Peter Blake Trust.

Year 8 students David Rawsley from Pukehou School and William Gunson from

Hereworth School were among 112 primary and intermediate aged students throughout New Zealand awarded the Young Leader Award this week.

Central Hawke's Bay mayor Peter Butler awarded David his badge and certificate during an assembly on Tuesday, and Tukituki MP Craig Foss will congratulate William at his school assembly today.

Pukehou School principal

Jenny Prebble said David was a strong leader in many different areas, including academics and sports.

"He's an academic leader in the school and in the Ross Shield squad, he's been in the cricket reps and shows great leadership around the school. He's also in the Leap sports academy for CHB," she said.

Hereworth School principal Ross Scrymgeour said William

was the school's head prefect and a valued member of the first XV and first XI teams.

"First of all it's a great tribute to Will, he's just one of those boys. He's a great leader but he's also a great follower — too many kids at this age don't know that leadership means you have to be a great follower too."

The leading pair, both 12, said they have similar role models and leadership aspirations for the

future, with David admiring All Blacks captain Richie McCaw and William aspiring to one day occupy the role himself. The boys also shared ideas of what attributes a good leader should have. David valued "integrity, determination, being trustworthy and someone you can really talk to" while William plumped for "perseverance, making mature self-decisions, taking responsible risks and using common sense".