

## Potted history



CAMERON SIMMONDS doesn't quite fill his boots but is confident his Cashmere Avenue School will fill 60 buckets with Maori potatoes. The seven-year-old was one of 120 children from the Khandallah primary school to take part in Spud in a Bucket yesterday.

Buckets of potting mix were planted with the Maori spuds, which should be ready to harvest in February.

Maori potatoes range in colour and size from long, thin tubers similar to yams to large, white fleshed tubers similar to their European cousins.

They are a collection of spud varieties cultivated by Maori for at least 200 years before European settlement, though now include some varieties that may have arrived with early settlers. The project was established by the

National Maori Vegetable Growers Collective — Tahuri Whenua — in 2006. It grew out of Massey University's taewa project to establish Maori potatoes as a sustainable horticulture crop.

Teachers will use the project to teach youngsters about Maori culture and horticulture. Parent David Robinson made the project possible by paying for all the materials.

Picture: KENT BLECHYNDEN