

Farewell Vincent

By MONICA TISCHLER

THE DEATH of popular Sea Scout and prominent drama student Vincent Loos has left a big hole in the West Auckland community.

Vincent, who drowned in the swimming pool of his Swanson home on February 11, was a senior member and venturer of the New Lynn Sea Scouts.

The 16-year-old also belonged to the Blockhouse Bay performing arts school Kids 4 Drama and the West Auckland Woodturners Guild.

Kids 4 Drama principal Stephen Dallow says students will honour Vincent during an annual production at Blockhouse Bay Primary School in September.

"It will be a chance for them to acknowledge and grieve for him in their own way," he says.

Proceeds from the opening night production will be donated to a charity of the Loos family's choice.

Vincent was comical and a good team player – important attributes of an excellent performer, Mr Dallow says.

"Losing any one at such a young age is a tragic waste.

"There will be a big gap here – it's like losing a family member."

Vincent's family moved to New Zealand from Germany in 1998 when he was six months old.

Younger brother Lucas, 12, remembers an older sibling who was also a good friend.

If Vincent wasn't bossing him around they would be outdoors "climbing trees or roasting marshmallows on a fire," he says.

Vincent had an interest in the marine industry and was due to start a boat building course at Unitec next week.

New Lynn Sea Scouts member Jacob Willis, 18, describes his friend as a "jack of all trades" and the "go-to guy".

Fellow member and sailing partner Ana Canty, 17, spent a week with Vincent



Guard of honour: Friends, family and New Lynn Sea Scouts members at Vincent Loos' funeral at the Blockhouse Bay Boat Club on Sunday.



Sorely missed: Vincent Loos.



Ocean ties: Vincent Loos on the water with sailing partner Ana Canty.

travelling from Sydney to the Bay of Islands in last year's Trans Tasman Tall Ships race.

New Lynn Sea Scouts awarded Vincent a Queen's Scout Award, the highest scouting qualification at his

funeral on Sunday.

Section leader Andrew Stevens says he possessed all the qualities of a successful recipient.

"A Queen's Scout is an acknowledgment that someone can apply and challenge

themselves and the community can be proud of them," he says.

"The passion Vincent had for the water was contagious and he could apply himself to anything."

"He was involved in the club for four years but it

seemed like a lifetime.

"The impact he's had on us as a teacher, role model and friend is huge," Mr Stevens says.

The coroner is yet to establish the cause of the drowning.