

Pupils to live in shack for 40-hr famine

By **ANDREA KYDD-LAW**
MORE than 100 pupils from Geraldine High School will take part in this year's World Vision 40-hour Famine, with some of the pupils taking innovative approaches to helping those less fortunate. Martina Fellman (18) and Stacey Hendriks (17) will be "living like refugees" over the 40-hour period, which runs from May 22 to 24. This will include living in a shack

built entirely from "scavenged" materials, going without any technology and feeding themselves for less than \$2 a day.

Martina said there would still be the odd necessary luxury, such as a small gas cooker to cook their food so they "wouldn't set the village green alight" and sleeping bags "because we still want to be alive in the morning".

Their day-time shack will

be located on the village green in Geraldine, where they hope to attract the attention of passers-by and hopefully a few donations. After darkness falls, for safety reasons, they will walk to their second shack located at Martina's grandparents' property.

The pupils said they wanted to draw attention to the plight of people in the world who had very little and said the weekend would

"challenge our mental and physical strength".

They had come up with the idea through their Girl Guide Rangers group, where they had built a shack previously to experience the living conditions some people endured in the world.

The school's co-ordinator for the famine, Kate Huddleston (16), said the high level of support from pupils for the cause was probably a reflection of the type of "tight-

knit" community Geraldine was.

Kate attended World Vision training in Christchurch in March to learn about co-ordinating a 40-hour Famine for the school. She said there were some other innovative approaches to the famine by pupils taking part, such as "no talking" and "no technology" famines.



Shack shelter: Trying out a version of the "shack" which the girls will call home for two days are (from left) Martina Fellman (18), Samantha Bachelor (13), Valerie Hendriks (14), Rachel Stanton (13) and Stacey Hendriks (17).



Making sacrifices: Getting ready to live without some of the nicer things in life to raise money for those less fortunate are Geraldine High School pupils (from left) Martina Fellman (18), Stacey Hendriks (17) and Kate Huddleston (16).