

Nelson girls can stand the rain

By Charles Anderson

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Arna Wilson and her friends want to do something to help poor countries, so they are spending 40 hours in her garden with no food and only the shelter of a cardboard box.

“Mum wanted us to put mattresses and a tent out there but I had to tell her that is not what it is about.”

Year 9 student Arna, 13, said she and her friends from Nelson College for Girls wanted to raise awareness about some of the issues facing less-developed nations.

“The [40 Hour Famine](#) is a good way to do it.”

Arna has taken part in five [World Vision 40 Hour Famines](#) and all five times, she only craved one thing: chocolate.

The [40 Hour Famine](#) is New Zealand’s most popular youth fundraising event. It

began in 1975 in response to the immense famine in Ethiopia. Thirty-four years later, it has become part of New Zealand youth culture, with more than 120,000 people participating each year.

Arna said there were many different types of famines available.

“You can do a no-technology one, a no-talking one. We are thinking about doing that but it might be quite difficult.”

Especially if it rains.

“Well, we will just have to deal with it.”

Arna wanted to raise about \$80 from sponsors for the event. This amount would almost provide three primary school students with materials to help them receive an education.

The [40 Hour Famine](#) runs from May 22 to 24, when Arna and her friends hope the weather and sponsors will be kind.



Roughing it: Alice Bailey, left, Tessa Patrick, front, Ama Wilson, back, and Stevie-Rae Barber, all 13, are preparing to sleep out in cardboard boxes for this weekend's [World Vision 40 hour Famine](#). Photo: MARION VAN DIJK 215088