

# Kids: listen up

## Students warn against loud iPods

By TINA LIPTAI

IT'S not every day you hear a group of teenagers urging others to turn their music down.

But that's exactly what this group of Warrnambool College year 9 students intend to do with their community education campaign about the safe use of iPods.

Thomas May, Taleah Baulch, Daniel Carlin, Jasmin Prewett, Brooke Taylor and Quentin Barrett will deliver presentations to Warrnambool, East Warrnambool and Warrnambool West primary schools about the risks of excessive volume and prolonged use of iPods later this term.

Group member Brooke Taylor said the presentations were about raising awareness in the community rather than telling people what to do.

"A lot of people have their iPods real loud and don't realise it can be dangerous," she said.

"There is a risk of people going deaf before they are 40 and we don't want that to happen."

"We want to make



Warrnambool College year 9 students with a message: (From left) Thomas May, 15, Brooke Taylor, 15, Jasmin Prewett, 15, Daniel Carlin, 15, and Taleah Baulch, 15.

091009GW08 Picture: GLEN WATSON

sure people are aware of the risk, just making them aware it has long term affects and if they damage their hearing it's permanent," fellow group member Jasmin Prewett added.

The students developed the Community Learning Project last term while taking part in a special nine-week education program at the Alpine School

near Dinner Plain Village in the Victorian Alps.

The group was among 45 students selected to participate in the intensive leadership program for year nine students from government schools.

Students from Portland and Brauer College also took part in the program.

Despite no mobile phones, television, iPods or radios allowed in the

nine weeks, the teens said the program was a great experience.

"It was great to meet lots of different people from all over Victoria," Jasmin said.

The students were chosen for their potential to be future leaders in their school and participated in a range of activities to develop leadership and presentation skills.