

the RISING FOUNDATION NEWS TERM FOUR 2022

*"Unlocking Young People's
Potential since 2009"*

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Many Thanks

Hi everyone

Incredible to think that the year is coming to an end. What a year it has been. Full of the usual challenges and the ongoing effects of the Covid pandemic on our community.

We enjoyed our end of year graduation and I remain humbled and delighted by the enthusiasm and dedication that our graduates display. This years graduation saw our largest ever ceremony with 46 of our cohort completing our programme.



When you consider that the last 3 years have been severely impacted by Covid lockdowns and other restrictions around physical attendance at school our graduates have shown remarkable stickability to The Rising Foundation programme and deserved the many accolades from staff, family and other supporters that they received on the night. The range of vocations, trades training, University and other higher education courses that our graduates were embarking on next year was very impressive and we look forward to following their progress as they start on their successful career paths.

2023 looks to be another challenging year for our staff and students but I am very confident that we as a team will take these challenges on board and turn the year into another successful one.

The year starts with a very exciting trip for 4 of our students and Tiare our Employment Pathways Manager to Botswana. Our travelling team will be visiting game parks and meeting with local communities in Botswana to exchange cultural experiences and see first hand the amazing work being done with conservation efforts in that Country. Our trip has been enabled by the generosity of Doug Easton and John Ziegler of Celestielle Travel in collaboration with the generosity of Great Plains organisation in Botswana. Our sincere thanks go to these incredibly generous people that will enable some of our cohort to experience this amazing trip. I am sure it will be a life changing event.

Finally I would like to thank all of our sponsors and supporters for your most generous ongoing support. Friends and family continue to work solidly behind the scenes and our ongoing support from the Schools we base ourselves in remains a cornerstone of our programme. Thanks to you all !

Our staff remain the best in class and I thank them all for their dedication and professionalism. To our Board of Trustees a big thank you also for your governance expertise and guidance. Your generosity of time and professional capability is much appreciated.

Finally I would like to wish you all an amazing Christmas with your friends and whanau and wish you all a happy and successful 2023.

I look forward to catching up with you all in the New Year, stay safe and enjoy a well deserved break.

Regards,

John

John Bongard ONZM, CRSNZ
Board Chairman, The Rising Foundation

U n l o c k i n g Y o u r P o t e n t i a l

Joyful Jaz!



Ko Taupiri te Maunga, Ko Waikato te awa, Ko Tainui te Waka,
Ko Waikato Tainui te iwi, Ko Ngati Tamaoho te Hapu, Ko Nga
Hau E Wha toku Marae, No Pukekohe ahau.

Ko Rosie toku Mama, Ko Robert toku Papa, Ko Veronica toku
tuakana, Ko Jahron raua ko Heather toku teina, Ko Jazmin
Walker toku ingoa.

No reira tena koutou, tena koutou, tena koutou katoa.

Kia Ora, my name is Jazmin Walker Junior Programme
Coordinator at Pukekohe High School. I was a part of the
"OG" TRF Pukekohe group in 2010, one of the first to
experience what TRF was all about. I graduated from the
programme in 2013 and three months ago I started as a
Coordinator. I was born and raised in Pukekohe 'Darkside'
and have recently spent seven years of my life in Australia.

My junior years at Puke High were not the best, but thanks to
TRF they helped turn my life around. I give a lot of praise to
The Rising for giving me the tools I needed to get me through
life and achieve big things.

They helped me to find my identity and gave me a purpose.
The adventures and experiences I had with TRF were some
of my best memories. One of my favourite memories from
TRF would be, when we got to bungee jump off the Auckland
Harbour Bridge.

At first I refused to jump but thanks to my friends, peers,
leaders and staff encouraging me, I overcame my biggest
fear. It made me so proud and I felt that sense of
accomplishment like I could do anything!

Honestly I would do it all over again if I could. My family
never had money to do these sorts of things, so I am very
grateful for these opportunities.

My Mum has been a big inspiration. My passion for our
people, our Rangatahi and our communities comes from
when I went with her to help out at holiday programmes,
whanau days, community events, community gardens,
cleaning graffiti and youth groups.

Our Maori and Pasifika people rarely get the opportunity to
unlock their full potential to be adventurous and usually this
is due to financial circumstances.

So for me this is my opportunity to give back to the next
generation, that will eventually lead the generation after. I'll
be forever grateful for this organisation. TRF Family for life!



TRANSITION

A FOND FAREWELL TO 2022

Over the last three years we have built a valuable relationship with Julia Arnott-Nene. First through PeopleforPeople and now through her new venture FIBRE FALE, a Pasifika tech advocacy network which she launched this year with her business partner and tech powerhouse, Eteroa Lafaele.



Julia and Eteroa at the Fibre Fale Launch

We love their energy and passion for promoting the many opportunities the tech industry has to offer and we especially love their wholehearted commitment to helping young Pasifika students see a future for themselves in web development, digital design, coding or any one of the host of possible careers that FIBRE FALE promotes.

As more than half of our TRF cohort come from Pasifika points of origin, we see our relationship with Fibre Fale as an important boost to our promotion of the S.T.E.A.M (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) subjects that we want more of our young people to get into, because Maori and Pasifika are under represented in these vital areas of work in New Zealand.



In late October, Fibre Fale organised our third installment of our annual Vaka experience, this time we were invited to the Vodafone Head Office in Takapuna to get some exposure to the wide world of technology. This event had been a plan 'in the works' for a while now.

Our students had a blast! Their perspectives were broadened beyond the scope of the stereotypes of the technology world and it definitely gave them some clear insight into what their future careers in this sector could look like.

Our hosts, Vodafone and the Palo Alto Network provided students with a keynote speaker panel and four workshops including an amazing tour of the building. We were even invited into spaces their own employees do not have access to. Thank you to the team at Palo Alto, Vodafone and our friends at Fibre Fale for continuing to give our students these great workplace exposure opportunities.



Following the Vaka experience there was a Fibre Fale Fono held at the Blue Light Youth Centre where a selection of guest speakers were invited to share their insights on a panel about their journeys into the tech space.

Each panelist was open and honest about the struggles and rewards of being a person of Pacific Island origin in a predominantly pakeha/palagi arena. Each had suffered from the prejudice and ignorance of their peers in these environments but each had overcome these challenges with courage.

The Fabulous FIBRE FALE Fono

Our students tend to gravitate towards the nuggets of wisdom held within the personal stories and journeys of our guest speakers, so it was cool to see everyone engaged and asking questions.



Hosting this event was made extremely easy for us through the excellent organisation of the Fibre Fale and the generosity of our hosts at the Blue Light Youth Centre who allowed us to use their venue.

This fono wraps up our T2 formal events for the year but don't worry we will be full on giving our students the work and driving support they need and we already have lots of great plans for 2023!

Here are some photos from our Fono evening, we hope you get a feel for the event.



The expert panel hosted by Julia



Julia

Eteroa



Quiz time



Our Keynote Speaker

SIOSAIA
MAKA

Software Development
Intern and Entrepreneur



Wendy

Tiare

Maia

Happy Christmas from the T2 Wahine Toa!



TRANSITION CAMP 2022

If you've been in a position where you've transitioned from Intermediate into High School, you may remember the sporadic nerves churning in your stomach as you searched the sea of people for a familiar face.

You may remember the undercurrent of panic at the thought of being lost in unfamiliar territory or the grating sense of uncertainty as you stood in the assembly.

Transition Camps have been held over the years with the purpose of easing that transition between Intermediate and High School as well as introducing Year 8 students to The Rising Foundation Programme.



The essence of these camps is to create close relationships of trust between the High School students and the Year 8's providing a network of people for them to turn to on their first day, should they get lost or need guidance.



It also creates the foundation of a peer mentoring relationship that falls under the tuakana teina model. This year we have extended this process beyond just a transition camp and started interacting with the Intermediates a bit earlier.

We went into the Intermediates for the first two sessions so that we can get to know them and vice versa.

The third school session was hosted at Rosehill College with our high school cohort, followed by a parent information evening. It's a positive experience for us to interact with the students and their families as soon as possible so that they know who we are and what we do.

The transition camp itself was wicked! The Year 8's brought so much energy and life into the week that it made it that much more exciting. We always tell our students that the more they put in, the more they'll get out and that's what we saw!



The weather was a bit hit or miss, but believe me when I say we found entertainment regardless.



Our two major activities for the week were surfing and rock climbing which both presented their unique challenges. For a lot of people the ocean can be dangerous, so it's cool to have an activity which equips the kids with basic knowledge of how to navigate the ocean. (See below!)

Rock climbing is a classic way to challenge those who fear heights and despite many of them having that fear, they pushed through and participated anyway.

As coordinators we were inspired to see the Year 8's grow within their respective groups from awkwardly shy to confident and comfortable.

Within our TRF workshops we found their insights to be valuable and a strong foundation for forward thinkers.

Undoubtedly there were challenges and hiccups along the way but we were proud of how they performed and composed themselves throughout camp.

We are excitedly anticipating this group next year when they join our Rosehill crew. Looking like a bright future for Rosehill College TRF!

Rosehill College Programme Coordinator - Shani Apelu



Hot pools on the way home,
another TRF tradition.



Surf safety training with our
Operations Manager - Gideon Rihari
Before ...



... and after!

TRF Graduation 2022



The extravaganza emerges once again after two years where our numbers and especially the possibility of holding this event, took a hit. But we are up and running again and this year saw a whopping 46 graduates cross the stage! This year we were also able to return to our favourite venue, the MIT Manukau Theatre to host this celebration, and what a celebration it was!

It was humbling to see many family and friends of the graduates come along, as well as the many friends we've made throughout the years who have supported our programme.



The emphasis of every graduation is to make the graduates feel celebrated and loved, so the committee members this year made sure to invite parents and friends via home delivered letters and gift each grad with a handmade ribbon leis which took a considerable amount of labour to create.



This year's cohort had students who have journeyed with us from as far back as Year 8 where they attended their transition camp in 2017.

But regardless of the time they spent with us, every person who walked across the stage has been acknowledged as a worthy candidate for receiving the title, John Bongard (JB) Graduate.

Their journeys are a testament to their character and resilience that they've honed throughout their time with us and we could not be more proud of these young people.

We work hard behind the scenes to raise the running costs of our excellent programme. Will you partner with us?

Look for: The Rising Foundation Trust

on

chive

www.chivecharities.nz/charity/the-rising-foundation

Unlocking Your Potential

They have upheld the legacy that their predecessors entrusted to them and have passed down their legacy to the next generation.

While we are sad to see them go, we are more excited for the adventures that lie in their wake outside of High School.

A parting message to the Class of 2022:

The Rising Foundation whanau have given you the space to cultivate your potential. Now you have stepped onto the threshold of adult life and you have just scraped the surface of all the great things you will become.

We've enjoyed the years of laughter, tears and many memories and we send you off with high hopes. So dive deep and step forward with confidence. You have learned the skills you need to get where you want to go. We'll always have your back so don't be afraid to pop in for a chat anytime. Head out and smash life fam!

We'd also love to extend a huge thank you to all those who helped make the night possible; from our very own staff, their friends, family members and students who made the leis, to our junior students from Manurewa and Rosehill College for helping out on the night with the hospitality and photography.

We'd also like to thank Fane Likio for the designs and Aviata Tanielu for the collation and creation of the yearbook.

Thank you to Bridget Mey and Viola Zheng for liaising with us for the venue and catering. Thank you to Trizella Parties for the beautiful balloon garland and the companies who helped with printing the yearbook and jackets.

We can't forget Donna Rogers for all her guidance and the TRF team for filling in the gaps on days where my mind faltered. Finally, thank you to the grad committee crew- Shani Apelu, Jordan Tanielu and Maia Tipu for the late nights and endless trips, for the small details that made the night what it was- the mahi you all put in was shown in the event and made it a memorable one.

We are beyond grateful for all your support and for making the vision a hundred times better with your input.

As you can see we have so many hands that go into the organisation for one night and we cannot thank you enough for all your efforts. It was an amazing celebration and we hope everyone enjoyed it as much as we did.

Again, a final congratulations to the graduating class of 2022. On behalf of the Graduation Committee 2022, and all the TRF whanau, we are signing off, over and out!



Our JB Graduates from Pukekohe High School



Our JB Graduates and friends from Rosehill College



(Above) Our JB Graduates from Manurewa and (Below) Papakura



(Below) Our JB Graduates from Sir Edmund Hillary Collegiate





THE FOUR PILLARS OF TRF

INSIGHT

(Thinking Systems)

The ability to extract, grasp and internalise principles, develop higher moral reasoning and mature in emotionally healthy ways.

KNOW
IT

SYNERGY

(Collaboration)

The ability to function well within an established group while maintaining the identity and purpose of each individual.

SHARE
IT

INTEGRITY

(Accurate Representation)

The ability to put values and principles into practice consistently and wholeheartedly in our daily life.

LIVE
IT

CREATIVITY

(Innovation)

The ability to continually develop new ways to express our values and principles for the benefit of ourselves and our community.

SPREAD
IT

Unlocking Your Potential

THE PARTING SHOT

The quality of our programme delivery, the depth of connection we have with our students and the reputation we build with our schools and communities all depend on the attitude and character of our team.

TRF is only as good as its people and we can't wait to see what our excellent team is going to do in 2023!



Back Row: Aviata, Gideon, Alex, Jordan and Eddie

Front Row: Wendy, Shani, Donna, Tiare, Maia and Jaz

A Community of Friends of TRF

The Rising Foundation would like to acknowledge all Sponsors, Philanthropic Trusts, Corporate Businesses, Individuals, Local Businesses, School Trustees, Principals, School Staff, Families and our Community Trusts who sponsor students or have helped us to expand our programme. During the thirteen years that the programme has been running, we have seen 2000+ students and their families and friends benefit from our work across the wider Auckland area. Without your generous support and collaboration none of this would be possible.

Thank you for choosing to support The Rising Foundation; we all truly appreciate it.

MAJOR SPONSORS



Unlocking Your Potential