

the RISING FOUNDATION NEWS TERM THREE 2021

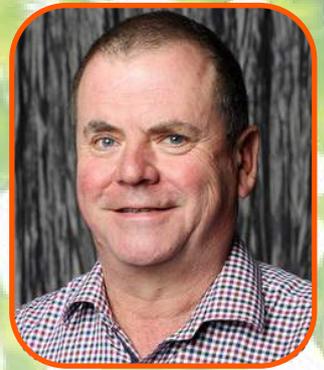
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Many Thanks

Hi everyone,

Our short and sharp lockdown is now in week 11 with at least another 2 to 3 weeks to go before we even look like a meaningful revision of Auckland's level status.

Very frustrating for all of us I know but my heart really does go out to our students and their whanau as they cope with the continuing lockdown, exam/study pressures and just making ends meet.



Our Board and staff are all either fully vaccinated or are working towards being fully vaccinated and our staff continue to work incredible hours maintaining contact with our cohort. Unfortunately we had to cancel our Term 3 camp and with the Government's recent announcement it appears that any other camp activities remain extremely unlikely this calendar year.

Unfortunately, due to lockdown our funding streams have been negatively impacted due to the gaming industry being totally locked down over this time. I am proud of our staffs efforts in reducing expenditure to assist in coping with this lack of income

Given all the above though we remain positive and supportive of our staff, students, extended whanau and supporters as we hopefully move into more positive territory. Good work continues in developing new funding streams, growth concepts and collaborations with other similar minded people and organisations

Kia Kaha! Stay strong and look after yourselves and your loved ones.

Regards, *John*

John Bongard ONZM, CRSNZ
Board Chairman, The Rising Foundation



Working under a blanket!

The team feel like Covid veterans now and I suppose the mood of our frontline workers could be described as frustrated but determined. We are a youth led organisation, our programme thrives on big, energetic gatherings and close influential conversations. We gain the most ground when our powerful, values based, messaging is shared around in a positive peer group, in conversations between school classes or at meal times on camp. We are a tightknit community and Covid 19 has once again thrown a big, wet, isolating 11 week blanket over that.

Of course we haven't given up. We have been in regular contact with our students over this time, checking on their emotional well-being making sure they are still socialising with each other on line. We also help them to continue on their employment pathways and their driving theory preparation and encourage them to engage with their online school-work. But it's not the same. As I write there's lots of insecurity in the community as our seniors head back to school hoping to salvage some exam success, but in this edition of **TRF News**, we are looking back on a term mostly spent under that heavy blanket.

Inspiring Inoke



Malo e lelei, my name is Inoke Paea but I was known by many names during my long years in high school. I am a 2016 JB graduate of the GOAT (greatest of all time) school Sir Edmund Hillary Collegiate. I am a New Zealand born Tongan, Home of the Brave raised, young man of Christ.

My time in TRF started when two handsome men that go by the names of Feleti Lotulelei and Jordan Tanielu reached out to see if they could make a change in my troubled life back in 2014. During that time of my life, I would only focus on what would happen in the moment, never caring about what tomorrow would look like. But from that moment I met them, my life had changed for the better.

My time in TRF has helped to close doors that I had struggled to close on my own, but also opened doors to a clearer path to my future. I finally understood what it was like to be a leader.

A leader, leads our younger students in the right way and not the way I once thought was fun. The Rising Foundation would set challenges that, in my mind, I would refuse to do but my heart would remind me of my family and the struggles we went through! This helped me to soldier on and tackle these challenges to the best of my ability.

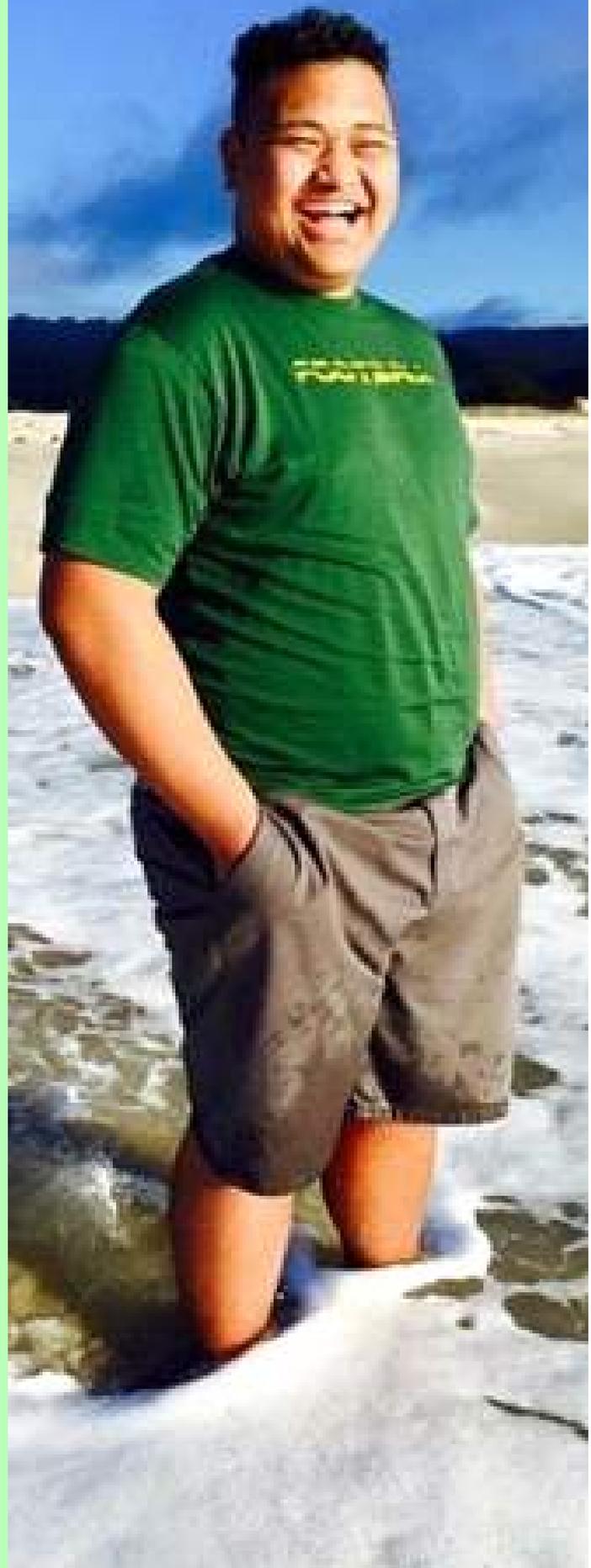
My biggest career desire was to become a plumber and TRF has helped me pave a way through all the obstacles I have faced. It was hard being labelled a 'troubled breed' and always seen struggling to make ends meet, but through it all I have never feared anything as I knew I was never alone on my journey.

I am currently on an apprenticeship where I am studying and working in the Plumbing and Drain laying Industry. What is that you may ask? Well, I'll let you in on a little secret. I put drains in the ground. It is hard but fun and I enjoy it a lot, as I have an amazing team and the environment is great. The only downfall is the early starts and late finishes but again, I will go to the deepest ends of the sea to support my family.

My word of advice for the next generation is to 'cry now and laugh later'. I hold this quote close to me as I had been through a lot but I never gave up on that end goal. The meaning behind this is to cry now, which is all the hard work you put into getting to your goal, and laugh later with the success you have put on your name after all the hard work pays off. Never be afraid of making mistakes as all you can do with that is learn from it. Only up from there!

I am forever grateful for the help and support that TRF has given me and my family. Thank you!

Ofa Atu, *Inoke Paea* Tongan Horse



Manurewa Legacy Camp

The original vision and nature of this camp was to establish a legacy for our Year 13's to leave behind, to give the "Big Homies" a chance to take the reins and create and present an example of excellence that the next year levels coming up will have to follow.

We wanted the Year 12's to take their final lessons from the Year 13's and transition into their next role of being "Big Homies" and overseeing TRF MHS as a whole. They help the Programme Coordinator, provide peer pastoral care, help maintain unity, they give input on the overall direction of the group. We encourage the older students to take full ownership of their peers and Little Homies, this forms the foundation of more core members.

This was also the time for the Year 11's to transition out of their role of being "Little Homies" and into their new role as "Big Homies". For them to complete the process of being like sponges absorbing all of the knowledge and wisdom from their elders and then step up into a place of influence where they can put everything that they have learnt into practice.

I wanted to take this opportunity to provide a focussed space for TRF Manurewa students to learn about the importance of leaving a Legacy.

Retreating away to a different environment often helps in getting our students to think deeply and critically about the teaching content and the Bluelight Lodge near Taupo gave us the best possible space to support our students in their bid to think critically about the future they want to have and the legacy they want to leave.

I believe we succeeded in creating an atmosphere where we could complete this 'passing of the torch' of leadership, and reflect on where we currently are and where we want to go as a cohort next year.

Because of this camp I believe that our students are more

understanding of the lasting, positive and negative effects of legacy. They are now positioned to aim high, with great vision and expectation. I was pleased to see that they understood that this isn't just a legacy for themselves but for their siblings and future generations to come.

The parents of our students are able to hear their children articulate with confidence how they want to carry on and even improve on their own legacy. This, in turn, leads to better wrap-around support for our students by their parents. Lastly, our communities get to flourish with students who know who they are, what they want and how they will contribute to the community one day through the legacy they will leave.



TRANSITION 2

meaningful work for our rising generation

Term 3 has been full of challenges but we can humbly say that we were ready and equipped for them. This new way of life has forced us to innovate and this resulted in the many ways we have found to deliver our service both in person and online.

This is the time when our Year 12's get to make academic plans that align with their future aspirations and our Year 13 students thrive in preparation for post-schooling opportunities. Though the practical component of DRIVE has had to be postponed for now, it has allowed the magic of TRF WORK to come alive and provide the space for reflection, allowing our students to dream big.

Spotlight on Reece Morrison



Reece is now a Duty Manager

Reece is one of our Pukekohe High JB Graduates from 2013. We are celebrating because he has been able to secure employment with Coupland's Bakery in Hamilton and we have just recently received news that he has been made Duty Manager at his store which means a permanent contract with fixed hours, a pay rise and extra professional development.

T2 were able to support Reece with his uniform and appropriate footwear for the many long hours on his feet!! Working in a fast-paced hospitality environment, we can understand the need for some comfortable shoes.

Reece is a great example of our commitment to help advocate for our taura in these spaces to progress in their jobs. Reece said: "I enjoy being able to learn how a business works, make delicious treats every day and work with an amazing team. I have learnt how to craft my own brand of customer service, gain good acumen and have what it takes to do well in the retail industry."

TRF DRIVE

Prior to lockdown, many of our students were able to have their second dose of professional driving lessons with Deb from Class 1 Driver Training. We are fortunate to have partners like Deb Jackson to guide our young people through the anxiousness that a test brings with her calm demeanor and invaluable experience as an ex testing officer.

We have had to postpone close to 30 Full and Restricted tests of our Students and JB Graduates as a result of lockdown. These have been rescheduled for a later date. However we are proud to testify that all of them have kept quite a positive attitude, bearing in mind that the more practice time they get, the better off and safer they will be on the roads.

With many thanks to Rhanae, Rahera and Kaya from Te Ara Haepapa (AT) and Rebecca from Class 1 Driver Training, students have been able to attend online workshops for Full and Restricted test preparation that reinforced their road code learning and gave them a pre-test checklist. Our highlight from the workshops have been the collective effort of everyone involved to show up and stay motivated through this bumpy journey.



Necessity is the mother of invention and our Transition 2 Team have needed to try a number of new approaches to make sure that the Auckland Delta Outbreak didn't rob us of too much momentum. Our in-school programme instills determination, resilience and enthusiasm. These are just the qualities that isolation periods and cancellations of driving tests, job interviews and industry visits can erode. We are grateful for technology and collaborators who are willing to reinvent their processes to support us.



We want to express our deepest gratitude to the **Harcourts Foundation** for their continued support towards TRF DRIVE.

After road code training and workshops, the hope is that our young people are supported right up to test day too. The recent generosity of Harcourts has covered Defensive Driving courses, Driving Lessons and Learners and Restricted Licence fees.

The funding will support 24 students and JB graduates from Papakura High School and Rosehill College TRF with a licence or other micro credential as soon as alert levels allow.

We're thankful for local businesses who are willing to support local young people.

Ngā mihi nui kia Harcourts Foundation!

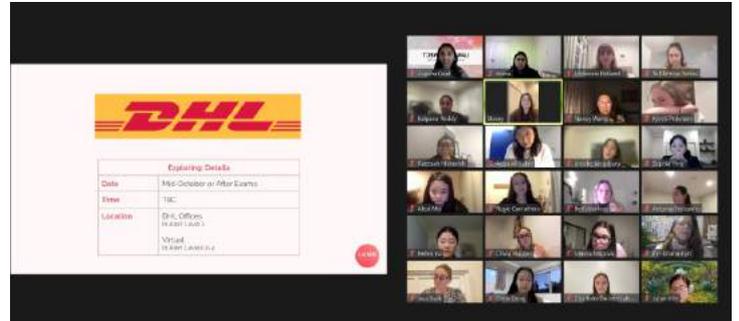
TRFWORK

We have hosted our Tautoko the Taura (TTT) sessions with current University students and our Year 13 students who are potentially going into the same degrees. We're fortunate enough to have our TRF Alumni, family and friends to be ambassadors to our students while creating a comfortable space so our students can ask questions without hesitation. A highlight of our TTT sessions has been our JB Graduates who participated in TTT last year, having this come full circle as ambassadors for our current students. This has really shown us the benefits TTT provides for our young people. A key message we've seen through these conversations is the adaptation to a 'Covid way' of University life now. Learning about the way they've adapted to online learning and examinations and how to manage this new way of studying.



One of our popular Tautoko the Taura sessions

Through our partnership with Thinkpod, two of our students, Mya and Saiatua were invited to attend an online seminar hosted by The University of Auckland - Women in Business Association called "Connect: Exploring Business". This is where current BCom students had the opportunity to network with female representatives from a variety of businesses including Microsoft, DHL, Blush and Balloons Co, Chowhill and more.



Our students got a lot out of "Connect, Explore Business"

Both Saiatua and Mya have expressed their desire in being business owners in the future. So by joining a breakout room and listening to Temiringa, founder of three New Zealand businesses, they took away many gems of wisdom through listening to her journey and experience.



With huge appreciation we wish to acknowledge our partnership with the Skills Organisation, who have kindly donated another vehicle to our **TRFDrive** programme, we now have another means to assist our young people as they learn practical driving skills.

A dedicated team vehicle like this also allows our wider staff to help with driving practice hours, increasing our capacity to match our commitment to providing excellent driving support to our young people.

We are grateful to the Skills Organisation for their generous assistance in making this dream so much more possible.

Having dedicated vehicles takes the stress of car maintenance off our families shoulders, or provides a vehicle where families don't have one. This is a genuine and tangible support for our young people on test day. **Malo aupito Skills Org!**

TRF SOCIAL MEDIA

With Social Media being a large part of our engagement with our young people and an important way for us to promote our programme, we decided to create some new segments to share and interact with our students.

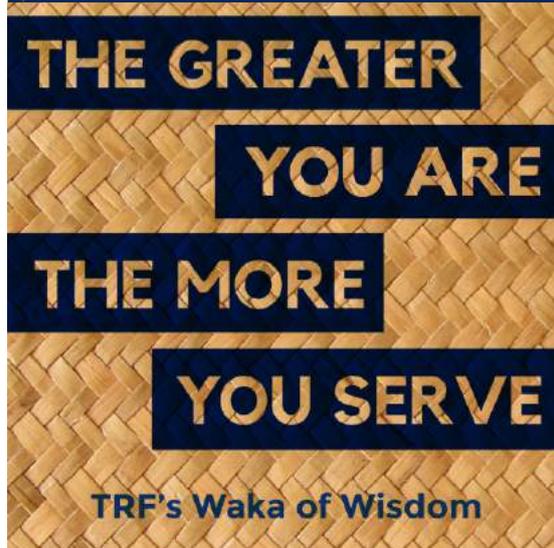
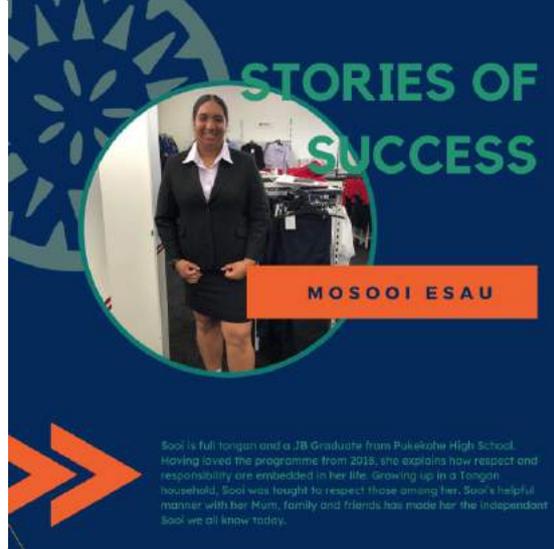
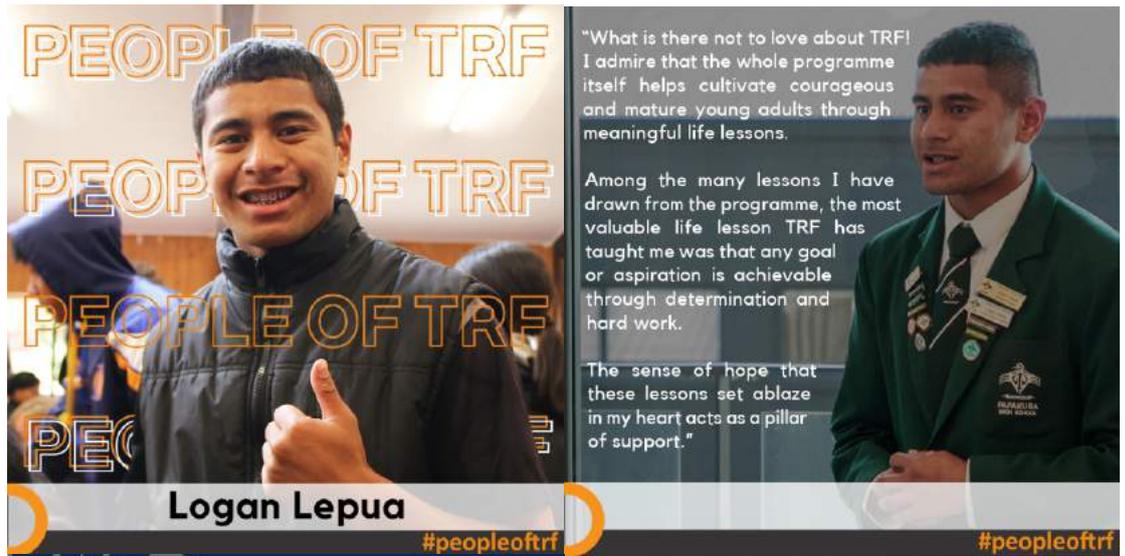
With our **People of TRF** campaign still going strong we have added "**Stories of Success**" where we highlight our graduates and alumni sharing their achievements in their career pathway.

"**Seedling Spotlight**" is to showcase and introduce our junior students, to share their aspirations and their experiences with the TRF Junior specific activities, such as Transition Camps and the Gems Storytelling Journey.

TRF's "**Waka of Wisdom**" is a segment where we share quotes specific to TRF, one's which have been shared with the students at workshops and camps as well as the "mic-drop" quotes our Programme Coordinators use with their cohorts to teach them core values and lessons.

We have also reinvented the way in which we present our "**T2 Tuesdays**" which is a segment created to highlight different career pathways and jobs.

In the past this has been presented in video format of an interview, we have changed this to a post with stand out quotes.



Our experience in the world of social media has mirrored the journey of The Rising Foundation as a charity and as a force for change in our community. We show perseverance and determination, consistently model integrity and quality. Gradually people begin to take notice and get behind you. In an increasingly 'online' world, with a million other voices to compete with, it can feel overwhelming to try and get your message across. But thanks to our amazing team, we are beginning to be heard and recognised as a community of caring people who are making a genuine difference for our rangatahi.

Living On Purpose

PURPOSE is our theme for this term. A sense of purpose in life is one of those complex and intangible things that is often pushed to the back of our minds, as the general grind and our daily struggles take precedence. Discovering why we are here takes time, reflection and clear thinking.

For many of us, a sense of purpose grows from an understanding of who we are, what we like and what we can do well. Purpose grows from our identity, gifts, talents and priorities. This often is linked to the places we are from and the people we belong to.

Many find their purpose in faith, some even find it through tragedy or trauma. But the important thing isn't *how* we discover our purpose but *that* we do. Because once we do, everything changes.

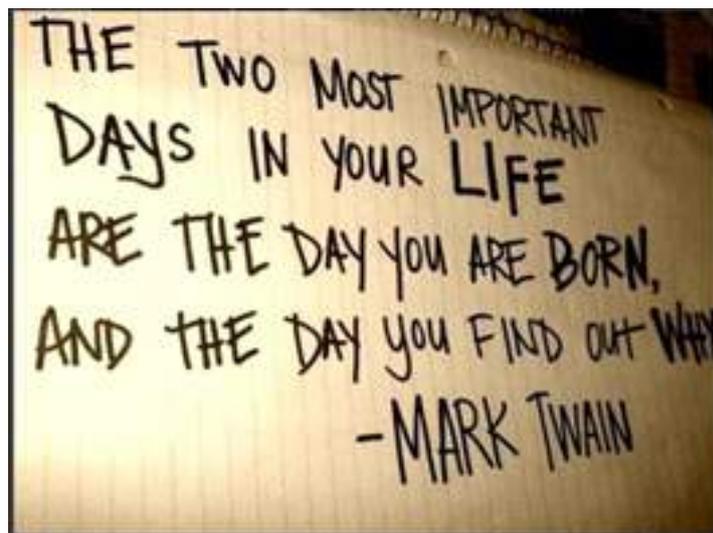
The adolescent years are the best possible time to get our 'ducks in a row' in regard to our purpose. The more we can understand our identity and purpose in our teenage years, the better equipped we will be to make the big decisions of life, career and long-term relationships that are required of us once we enter the adult world.

We see a growing number of young people falling into an aimless vacuum of unemployment, dead-end jobs or crime after school and we believe that this can often be linked to the failure to cultivate a sense of purpose.

Once we have worked out who we are and why we are here, what we do becomes less of an issue. Because we are not defined by what we do, we become more resourceful and flexible, this leads to resilience, agility and confidence in life.

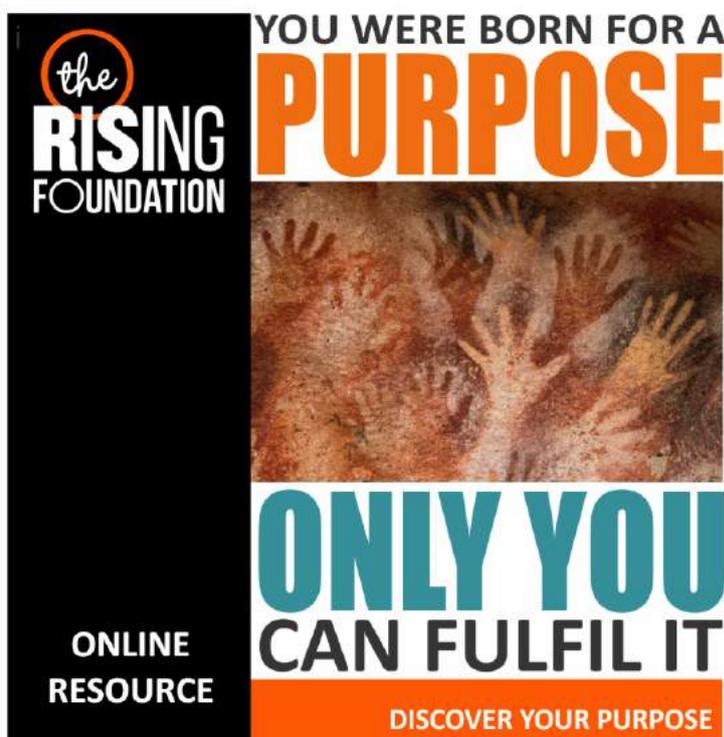
Our students quickly grasp the importance of finding their purpose and this in turn helps to influence subject choices at school and career pathway preferences further on. With these big questions answered they have more 'brain space' available for study and exams when the crunch time comes in Year 12 and 13.

If you are feeling like Covid has hijacked your life - perhaps it's time to remember why you are here, and live on Purpose?



Over the years our 12 Pillar Themes have helped to keep us on track and inspire us to create and innovate a broad range of powerful and relevant learning experiences for our students.

Our themes encompass the whole variety of values and principles that, once grasped, equip us with a resilient, enthusiastic and friendly mind and lay the foundation for a healthy adult life.



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

Go where the students are

Part of being an adolescent is working out who you are and what you want. That can make life interesting for the people around you. Because sometimes doing what you want doesn't fit with what your parents want or what your teachers want or what society wants. Rules and expectations get in the way, conflict happens.

This predictable but challenging process doesn't stop, just because of lock-down. Even with all these restrictions young people still find ways to do exactly what they want to do.

We learned early on in the 2020 outbreak that if we still want a role and an influence, if we still want to maintain the momentum we have gained in the lives of our rangatahi then we have to do what we always do.

We create spaces where they can feel accepted and respected and we let them have fun with each other and in the quiet moments between the fun we speak life, challenge, encouragement and hope into their lives.

Our programme doesn't change but our methods have to because in order to maintain these vital connections during lock-down, we have to use all the tools available and we have to go where the students are: Online.



Our weekly team meetings plus meetings with sponsors and our Board of Trustees have all moved onto Zoom or Teams. Like everyone else, our homes have become our offices and our dress codes and hairstyles have 'adapted' accordingly!



Of course the communication hasn't only been one way. Our students have been quick to update us on any changes in their own lives, causes for sadness or celebration, blockages or breakthroughs. A big part of TRF is just 'doing life' together with these precious loved ones.

Life in Tamaki MaCovid hasn't always been easy for the team. Many of us are active and 'outdoorsy' people who relate best to our students through their restless energy and their need to get out and do something.

These are the ones who get the students up doing press-ups on the grass at six in the morning at camps and who lead the way on the bush walks and morning runs. These lions and lionesses aren't meant to live in cages and distilling all that energy down to text messages and zoom calls for 11 weeks has tested their patience to the max.

Even simple things like the human responses of our audience when we are speaking has been robbed from us, as our students learn to mute their microphone while others are talking so as not to interrupt. It's hard to speak to the silence!



Games like Among us, Fortnite and even RoBlox have become favourite places to meet because you can chat together while competing - its a social experience. Quiz platforms like Kahoot and the usual activities on Instagram and meetings on Zoom give our team a variety of options when engaging with students who are 'over' lock-down and needing more than just their usual overstimulated and sugar fueled mental diet.

THE PARTING SHOT

A day in the snow might not be an amazing experience for some of our readers. But remember the first time you saw snow and how you felt.

This was the experience of some of our rangatahi on, what turned out to be, our last organised camp before the current Delta restrictions landed on Auckland. Just getting out and really experiencing nature is a true delight for these young people.

Thank you for continuing to enable life changing moments like these.



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 eleven years that the programme has been running, we have seen 1,861 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.

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Unlocking Your Potential