

the RISING FOUNDATION

Unlocking Young People's Potential since 2009

News Term Two.

Hi everyone,

Welcome to our Term 2 Newsletter.

It has been great to be able to express our gratitude in person to a number of our supporters lately. Many thanks to our friends at the Rotary Club of Half Moon Bay for making us their Charity of Choice for the annual Charity Ambrose Golf Day earlier in the year. The team also acknowledged our friends at KiwiHarvest, for their weekly food donations that have been of great benefit to some of our families through this particularly difficult season.

Our theme last term was COMMUNICATION. Our two camps challenged our Junior and Senior students, to become more aware of the way that everything they do communicates. We want our young people to stand up and face the world with confidence and eloquence, identity, character and values they develop while they are with us, can be passed on effectively to their families, communities and workplaces as they transition into adulthood.

As an organisation we wish to acknowledge some important internal changes: warm congratulations to Gideon Rihari as he steps up to take the General Manager role with Alex Tarrant joining our Governance Board as Executive Trustee. Congratulations to Donna Rogers and Leo Molina who both join our Senior Leadership team as Administration Manager and Communications Manager respectively.

Please also note that we are launching an exciting new service for our partners and supporters, offering competitive prices for any design project you may have. TRFCreative offers you the skills of a professional designer, with the added reassurance of knowing your fee is supporting a great charity!

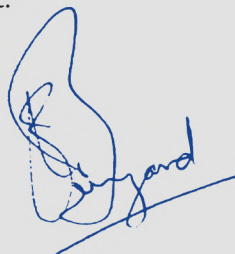
Another group of four lucky students will be travelling internationally, this time to Chile, South America, with the generous assistance of our friends at Celestielle Travel. If you are able to help them support a very worthy charity there, our team would be very grateful.



*John Bongard - ONZM CRSNZ
Board Chairman, The Rising Foundation*

I hope this finds you well, as the winter settles in, and that our stories of the excellent young people we serve will warm your hearts even if the weather doesn't.

Regards,
John Bongard



A photograph of two young men sitting at a white table, intently playing a board game. The man on the left is wearing a white hoodie and is moving a piece. The man on the right is wearing a grey t-shirt and is looking at the game. In the background, other people are blurred, suggesting a school or community setting.

SYNERGY COMMUNICATION

Everything we do and say communicates, whether we like it or not. The more aware we are of how we communicate, the more skilled we will become in communicating appropriately and effectively. There is nothing more powerful than an eloquent person. Someone who is in control of their words and actions and is careful to do and say exactly what they want to. There's nothing more powerful than a person with strong values who can articulate them well.

For our younger students it is important for them to become aware of the non-verbal communication they display every day. Their posture and how this expresses their attitude, in their facial expressions, giving an unplanned impression of themselves that can inadvertently colour other's opinions of them. Increasing their awareness of how their face and posture communicates, is a great inroad to exploring other kinds of language and how the tool of communication can be effectively used to achieve the goal of connection with others.

Our workshops cover the way we can build walls or bridges to connect through the communication choices we make and how we can deliberately make the shift from trivial superficial conversation to deeper more vulnerable topics. We train them in recognising the different styles of communication, and the love languages that different people use to express their care and concern for each other.

We encourage our students to build confidence in the way they organise and articulate their thoughts and to become competent in presenting only what they want to communicate and minimise the 'blind spots' they have in the area of personal presentation.

We have a huge range of students from the quietest, shyest ones, to the wildest and loudest, but every one finds what they need to fill the gaps in their communication. Whether it's just the safety to allow themselves to be heard for the first time, or the recognition that bravado can communicate fragility as much as it does confidence.

We love to see the students grow in this area because however much we sow into them, if they don't communicate, that understanding stops with them.

the
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CHILE TRIP.

In this, the fourth year of our exciting partnership with Celestielle Travel Charitable Trust, we are being introduced to a whole new continent! After three trips to Africa, the four students that our TRF Programme Coordinators have chosen for the privilege this year, will be heading to Chile, South America! As well as visiting two global heritage areas and the country's bustling capital city, we have the honour to support a local charity as we have done on each trip.

For the first time, we invite you, our supporters, to join us in making a donation to this worthy charity. Together, we can make a real difference in the lives of physically and intellectually challenged young people in the remote Northern region of Chile.



Since 2007, the Jurique Rehabilitation Centre has provided opportunities for the community to access a broad range of rehabilitation therapies. The recently established Jurique Foundation has charitable status, which allows the centre to acquire more and better equipment through partnerships with private groups like The Rising Foundation and so providing greater coverage for people with disabilities in the Atacama region of Northern Chile. The Foundation now has a broader vision of care, networking, and capacity for the delivery of greater and better benefits for people with disabilities and their families.

Please help The Rising Foundation to raise as much support as possible, so that our four students will have the best gift we can, to take with us when we visit the Jurique Centre in September.





Executive
Trustee



General
Manager



Administration
Manager



Communications
Manager

Moving Forward.

As a Charity, we are constantly aware of the need to adapt in order to survive in the highly volatile not-for-profit environment. A key part of that is sustainability of staffing and we are delighted to announce that a number of our key workers are stepping up into greater responsibility to enable the next phase of growth in our work.

Well-deserved congratulations to Gideon Rihari, who started out as a promising student in our programme at Papakura High School and graduated in 2012. Gideon volunteered as a JB Graduate at our camps and always worked closely with our leadership as they formed what would become The Rising Foundation.

Following 11 years on staff, first as a Junior Programme Coordinator, then as the first Programme Coordinator at Rosehill College, and stepping up as Operations Manager. Now Gideon is taking over as General Manager, a leader who truly embodies the vision and values that our programme promotes.

This allows Alex Tarrant to join our Governance Board as Executive Trustee. We also welcome Donna Rogers and Leo Molina into the Senior Leadership Team as Administration Manager and Communications Manager respectively.

Our motto has always been '**Unlocking Your Potential**' and this value and passion continues to be worked out in the careers of our staff and the lives of our students.





TRANSITION

meaningful work for our rising generation

Supporting students beyond the classroom continues to be at the heart of what TRF does. We aim to equip our rangatahi with the confidence, knowledge, and skills they need as they transition into adulthood.

One of our key initiatives is TRFDRIVE, which supports students in gaining their learner, restricted, and full driver's licences through workshops, driving lessons, and financial assistance, all at no cost to students or their whānau. To date, the programme has celebrated 616 licence passes, including 317 Learner Licences, 197 Restricted Licences, and 102 Full Licences. Our support doesn't end at graduation either, we continue to assist students on their licencing journey even after they leave high school, helping them reach each milestone along the way.

This support was also reflected in our recent Seniors Camp, where students took part in workshops covering financial literacy, job interview preparation, budgeting, cooking, and basic vehicle maintenance. These sessions provided practical skills to help prepare students for life beyond school, while activities throughout the week encouraged teamwork and confidence.

A special thank you to our community partners who helped make these opportunities possible. Thank you to AT Waka Kotahi, Class1Driving School, Harcourts Foundation, Bluebird, Generate KiwiSaver, AJ Hackett Bungy and Pulman Lodge for their support and dedication in uplifting our students on their life journey.

Looking ahead, we are excited to see these programmes continue to grow and create even more opportunities for our young people. Through the ongoing support of our partners and community, we look forward to empowering even more students with the skills, confidence, and experiences they need to succeed beyond school.



LICENCES IN 2026: 24

LICENCES TO DATE: 617

LEARNERS: 12

RESTRICTED: 4

FULL: 8

LEARNERS: 317

RESTRICTED: 198

FULL: 102



Harcourts
Foundation





A Decade of Partnership with **KIWI HARVEST**.

For almost 10 years, The Rising Foundation has had the privilege of partnering with KiwiHarvest, New Zealand's original food rescue organisation.

By rescuing quality surplus food that would otherwise go to waste and redistributing it to community organisations, KiwiHarvest is making a real difference in communities across New Zealand. Through this partnership, our team is able to provide practical support to students and whānau when they need it most, whether that's helping through a difficult season or simply taking a bit of pressure off the grocery bill.

For us, it's about more than just the food. Every food box creates another opportunity to connect with whānau, strengthen relationships and remind people that they're seen, valued and supported. We're incredibly grateful to the KiwiHarvest team for walking alongside us over the past decade. Their generosity has enabled us to support hundreds of families and it's a partnership we deeply value.

To support KiwiHarvest and the incredible work they do, visit www.kiwiharvest.org.nz. Every donation, volunteer and supporter helps them continue making a difference in communities across New Zealand.



More than **2500** boxes
of food given out.

the **RISING FOUNDATION**





SERIOUS ABOUT YOUR COMMUNITY

A HUGE **THANK YOU** TO
TRILLIAN TRUST FOR
MAKING THIS
CAMP POSSIBLE.



PAPAKURA
HIGH SCHOOL



the RISING FOUNDATION COMMUNICATION JUNIORS CAMP

Last term each of our cohorts learnt about the theme “Communication.” This camp was planned to enhance the understanding and power of our words. Assisting our juniors in knowing how important the ability to articulate themselves eloquently and effectively, is so that the people around them can comprehend their ideas, feelings, and most importantly, who they are.

We wanted every student to leave with greater confidence in expressing themselves in a way that builds stronger relationships and creates positive opportunities. By developing these communication skills, they are better equipped to navigate challenges both inside and outside of camp.

In this generation, our kids need guidance with forms of communication away from their phones. Teachings such as the different levels of conversation, speaking life and death, self-talk, and practical tools of communication were important because of the growing dependency many young people have on AI and social media. Through these teachings, we were able to help them connect their hearts with what they truly believe, creating conversations that reflect the people they are striving to become.

They also learnt that effective communication is not just about speaking well, but about listening with intention, showing empathy, and building genuine connections with others. These lessons encouraged them to communicate with confidence, authenticity, and purpose in their everyday lives.



Finally, like every TRF camp, we were immersed in valuable knowledge and unforgettable experiences. Being in a space where all our TRF students are exposed to the same teachings, has helped us instill the importance of communication and the power of our words.

Throughout the camp, students were able to put these lessons into practice through conversations, activities, and shared experiences that strengthened their understanding.

We are confident that the skills and values our juniors have gained, will continue to influence the way they communicate, lead, and support those around them long after camp has finished.

COMMUNICATION CAMP 26'





SERIOUS ABOUT YOUR COMMUNITY

A HUGE **THANK YOU** TO
TRILLIAN TRUST FOR
MAKING THIS
CAMP POSSIBLE.



TRANSITION

SENIORS CAMP

During the Term 2 holidays, our Years 12-13 senior students came along to our Seniors camp designed to prepare them for life after school. Over the four days, students took part in practical workshops focused on financial literacy, job interview skills, career planning, cooking on a budget, car maintenance, and other life skills that will help them transition into adulthood.

Beyond the workshops, the camp provided students with the chance to step outside their comfort zones, build confidence, strengthen friendships, and develop teamwork and communication skills. Students were encouraged to reflect on their personal goals, and values that will guide them as they move into the next chapter of their lives.

Throughout the camp, the students embraced new experiences, challenged themselves, and developed life skills that will serve them well beyond school. It was heartening to see students actively engaged, asking questions, and taking ownership of their futures. Watching our young people believe in themselves, celebrate each other's successes, and leave camp with stronger bonds, was a reminder of the lasting impact these experiences can have.

A sincere thank you to the team at Pulman Lodge for their amazing hospitality throughout our Seniors Camp. Your warm welcome, and genuine care for our staff and students made everyone feel special from the moment we arrived. We are very grateful for the kindness and dedication your team showed throughout the week.



A special thank you also goes to Bluebird, who generously donated work and job interview attire for our senior students. This support helps our students feel more confident, professional, and prepared as they start applying for jobs.

We also wish to extend our gratitude to Devon Knight and his team from Generate for delivering a financial literacy workshop. Our students gained valuable insights into budgeting, saving, KiwiSaver, and making wise financial decisions for their future.

A huge thank you to AJ Hackett Bungy for providing our students with a fun and exciting bungy jumping experience from the Auckland Harbour Bridge. For many, this was a once in a lifetime opportunity that challenged them to face fears, build confidence, and create memorable moments. Lastly our special thanks to Trillian Trust for their support towards our valuable camps. These outcomes would not be possible without your assistance.

It was inspiring to see students grow in confidence, supporting each other, and seizing every learning opportunity. This camp truly showed how resilient, talented, and knowledgeable our senior students already are, and it is very exciting to see how much more they will achieve as they continue their journeys.

Thank you to all TRF staff, our wonderful JB volunteers, and the community who helped make this camp such a meaningful experience. The positive impact on our students will extend well beyond the camp itself.



TRANSITION²N

WATCH *this* SPACE

Rotary
Half Moon Bay



the RISING FOUNDATION

The Rotary Club of Half Moon Bay recently hosted their fifth TRF Annual Charity Ambrose Golf Tournament at Pakuranga Golf Club, with 26 teams and 104 players taking part. We are incredibly grateful for the amazing \$17,000 raised in support of The Rising Foundation. This generous contribution will help us continue empowering rangatahi in our programme and creating lasting opportunities for their future. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who made this incredible day possible.



RACE NIGHT

ORANGE AT THE RACES

FRIDAY 30th OCTOBER
4:45PM
START

ALEXANDRA PARK, TASMAN ROOM

GUEST BENEFITS:

- Fully catered dinner and complimentary drinks
- Access to outdoor grandstand seating on a non-reserved basis
- Complimentary race book and pen
- Private lounge with full tote and bar facilities
- Air-conditioned venue

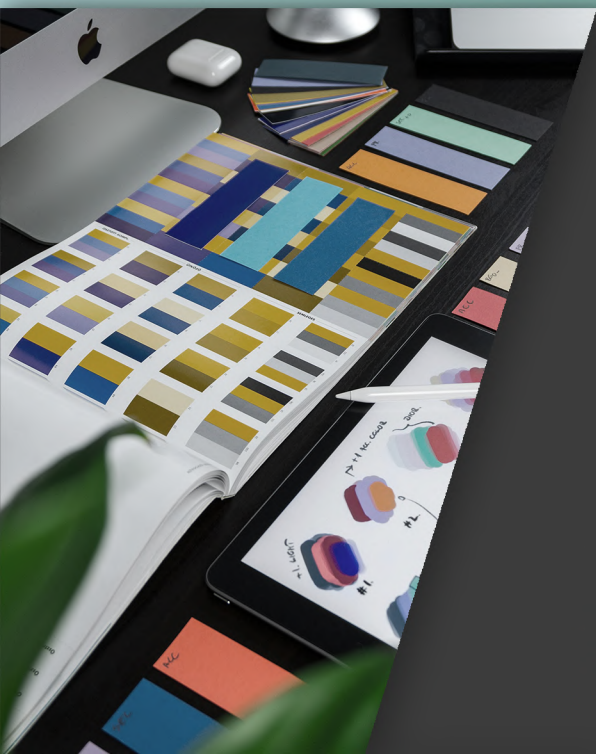
REGISTRATION INFO:

For more information on how to book a table/s please contact Diane Bongard at: diane@therisingfoundation.co.nz



ALEXANDRA
PARK

the RISING FOUNDATION



the RISING FOUNDATION
CREATIVE

TURNING CREATIVITY INTO OPPORTUNITY

TRFCreative is a new initiative within The Rising Foundation designed to help create a sustainable future for our organisation while opening new pathways for our young people.

Through professional creative services including **branding, websites, digital content, and design**, TRFCreative generates income to support our programmes while giving senior students the opportunity to gain real-world experience in the creative industry.

If you're looking for professional graphic design services or would like to discuss your next project, we'd love to hear from you. Contact Leo at leo@therisingfoundation.co.nz or +64 27 300 0166.



the **PARTING SHOT**
 Congratulations to Kay Spencer AM

We are incredibly proud to congratulate Kay Spencer on being awarded the Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in recognition of her outstanding service and dedication to the community. Kay's commitment extends far beyond this remarkable honour, and we are deeply grateful for the wisdom, encouragement, and heart she brings as a valued member of The Rising Foundation Board. Her genuine passion for seeing young people thrive and her unwavering support of our mission continue to make a lasting impact. Congratulations, Kay, on this well-deserved recognition, we are honoured to have you as part of The Rising Foundation family.

A COMMUNITY OF FRIENDS

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 16 years that the programme has been running, we have seen 2289 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 SUPPORTING THE RISING FOUNDATION; WE ALL TRULY APPRECIATE IT.

SPONSORS

Thank You!



"Unlocking Young People's Potential since 2009"
 THERISINGFOUNDATION.ORG.NZ