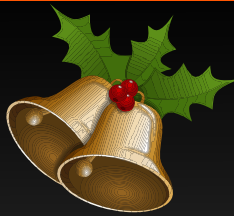


the
**RISING
FOUNDATION
NEWS**
TERM FOUR 2021



“Unlocking the potential of our rangatahi since 2009”

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Many Thanks

“Hi everyone

Welcome to our last newsletter for 2021.

Many of us will be pleased to see the end of this disruptive year as we head for what we all hope will be a more settled 2022.

The COVID-19 lockdown period in AUCKLAND this year has made progress for many of our students very difficult as they handle screen fatigue and being locked down for so long. Lack of contact with friends and family has taken a toll resulting in mental fatigue and a feeling of general uncertainty.

Having said the above, I have been amazed at the resilience and determination to succeed shown by our staff and students as they have adapted to these changed and strange times to come through 2021 strongly and ready to challenge, positively, the coming years.

We will devote most of this letter to our Graduation ceremony that unfortunately, due to Government restrictions, whanau of our graduates were not able to attend personally. It was a real shame that this couldn't happen but the team worked hard to provide a live stream and a video of the ceremony that we will post on our website for all to enjoy.

Congratulations to all our graduates, you are indeed fantastic ambassadors for The Rising Foundation and we wish you all the very best for your ongoing education and employment plans.

Unfortunately our very important fundraiser, our TRF Race Day at ELLERSLIE Racecourse was also a casualty of Auckland's lockdown and we have had to cancel that event. We are trying to organise a replacement function for later in 2022 so watch out for that news to come.

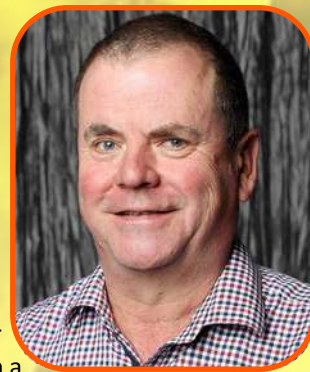
I am very pleased to advise that once again the Half Moon Bay Rotary Club will host a charity golf tournament on the 28th March next year at the Pakuranga Golf Club with The Rising Foundation being the charity of choice. If any of our supporters would be keen for a game or have access to prizes or raffle ideas for the day please let us know!

I want to extend my thanks to our sponsors, supporters, donors, staff, Trust Board, students, supporting Schools/staff and whanau for your tireless work and support over 2021.

Diane and I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a wonderful Xmas and New Year with your whanau and friends. Take a break and come back refreshed for what we all hope will be a more “normal” 2022.

Regards,
John

John Bongard ONZM, CRSNZ
Board Chairman, The Rising Foundation



Feeling the SQUEEZE

This newsletter is reporting on another time where our organisation is feeling the impact of the Covid-19 restrictions. Having to squeeze a ten week term into three weeks was never going to be easy and we, as a team, and of course all of our amazingly flexible and resilient students, have definitely felt the pressure. This wasn't the end of year we were hoping for but we have put our whole heart into finishing well and we close our doors on 2021 with a sense of satisfaction.

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

Diligent Donna

Hello, my name is Donna Rogers and I've been with The Rising Foundation Trust since May 2012.

I've lived in South Auckland most of my life, apart from the good ole 'Kiwi OE' for three years, which I absolutely loved and would recommend to any young person if the opportunity arises.

I attended our local schools being; Kelvin Road Primary, Papakura Intermediate and Papakura High.

I started my career pathway as an 18 year old fresh from High School, working full-time at the ANZ Bank in Hunters Corner, Papatoetoe for seven years, I also contracted to BNZ after leaving ANZ and had two jobs at one point to save for my travels. I wanted to experience the other side of the world and as a rite of passage for most Kiwis my journey travelling the globe started soon after leaving the bank.

My greatest achievement is my family, it's not until you've become a parent that you truly appreciate unconditional love. Our two wonderful teenagers are my world and as a parent, hearing the news that a baby is on the way, immediately changes your life for the better, knowing that you are bringing someone new into the world. From the first day they are born, you have so much love for someone who you have never met.

My natural instinct is to nurture babies, children and students. So being asked to work as the Programme Administrator for The Rising Foundation, which started in my home-town, was perfect for me.

I've seen students start on this programme as a fresh, shy, vulnerable Year 8 or Year 9 student and have been privileged to see them become strong, confident, happy TRF graduates leaving our programme to start their journey into the world and having them create memories to last a life time.

My role as a Programme Administrator involves completing all administration duties that need to be carried out for our not-for-profit organisation.

This work is varied and covers a wide range of responsibilities from; Trustee Board Secretary, a member of the fundraising committee, payroll, accounts receivable and payable, assisting Programme Coordinators with organising camps, camp mother and nurse, meeting new sponsors, creating new funding applications, seeking new sponsors, processing and completing internal accountability reports, liaising with external auditors and accountants for our year end financials, performance report and much more. This role is a crucial part of our charity, which I enjoy.

Having been in this position for 9 ½ years, I have witnessed first-hand that every single student that passes through TRF has their own unique and creative way of expressing themselves. As a member of the TRF team, it is heart-warming to see them strive for the best of their abilities and to "unlock their true potential".



We always talk about what lies beyond the walls of South Auckland and I hope that one day each student will get to see this for themselves even if it's for a short while. Life is too short to dwell in the past; but you need strength, courage and support to make that step into the unknown.

Be brave because living for your future is more important than looking back or behind you.

Giving our students a hand up, rather than a hand out is a really important message and plays an essential part of our programme.

My parting word is for our students....."*Don't try to lessen yourself for the world; let the world catch up to you*" - **Beyoncé**

Happy Holidays to you all.

Donna

TRANSITION 2

meaningful work for our rising generation

As with all of our activities this term, the work of the Transition 2 Team has been inevitably affected by 107 days of lockdown. We've done loads of our work on line, which we've gotten really good at and in just these last weeks we've been able to squeeze in some important activities that we couldn't do from home, especially some driving tests that had been postponed (see the next page).

TRF Drive

During lockdown we ran two Restricted Licence workshops and two Full Licence workshops online. These were run by Te Ara Haepapa (Auckland Transport) and our friends at the Class 1 Driving School

Our team also ran one online Learner's Licence workshop and a Road Code refresher workshop just to make sure the students whose tests had to be postponed weren't forgetting anything important.

TRF Work

Our career conversations this term included:

Camille who learned a lot about starting and owning her own business by talking with Mya from Pacific Dreams.

Waimihi who gained lots of insight into the work of a Tattoo artist from her conversation with Kristin Pie from the Figure Nine Studio in Cambridge.

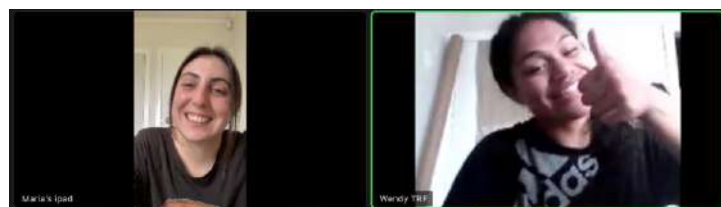
Lia and Lily from Great South Rd Vets, who gave our students a clear picture of the Vet Nursing role.

And various Undergraduates from the University of Auckland who gave Mya a great insight into their Commerce Degree course.

Social media

With the support of the Ministry of Pacific Peoples we have begun to roll out a S.T.E.A.M. campaign, encouraging our rangatahi to consider careers in the realms of Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics.

We are extending our online 'Digital Embassy' that we have been creating in response to the most recent lockdown.



The Transition 2 Team go out of their way to find industry professionals who are willing to go into detail and be very honest about what it takes to thrive in their careers. Being able to ask all their questions makes such a difference and relieves a lot of anxiety as our rangatahi anticipate their future.

Sometimes students get the confirmation and reassurance they need that this is the direction they want to take. Other times, when they realise what's involved, they change their mind. These are both excellent outcomes and vital steps on their journey.



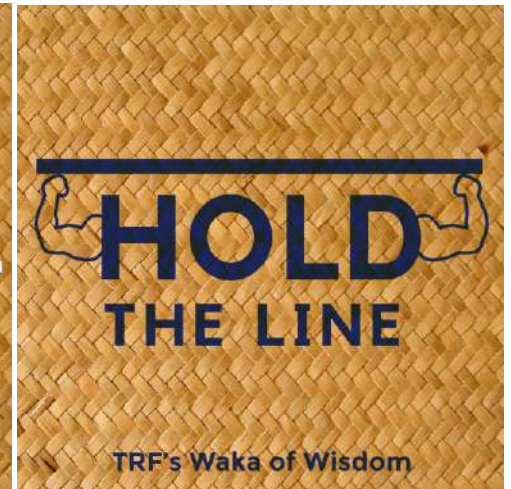
We want to give special honour to Wendy who pushed hard to get our bookings rescheduled in an understandable very full roster as VTNZ scrambled to fit all the postponed tests from lockdown into the weeks before the Christmas closedown.

This isn't just a piece of paper for these young people, it's a rite of passage, a tangible step towards adulthood and greater responsibility and autonomy.

Can you remember the first time you drove by yourself and the sense of achievement it gave you?

Passing the New Zealand Restricted Licence is a real challenge and knowing that you have faced it and succeeded at something everyone faces, sends a deep message of confidence, reassurance and positive self-reputation.

(continued from page 3) It is a place where we can express our culture, our values and themes that are important to us. For example, our 'Waka of Wisdom' posts interweave the old school TRF teachings with our more recent quotes together for our students to grow from. Big ups to Maria for bringing our words to life.



Some of the very best future careers will be found in the S.T.E.A.M. industries but so many of the young people we work with miss out on these opportunities because they don't realise that these kind of jobs can be for them. We plan to fix that!

TRF Graduation 2021

More than ever this year's graduation was a true representation of our programme. Due to the lockdown we had to cancel our original extravaganza in November and it was touch and go whether we would get to meet at all. But thanks to the recent easing of restrictions and the generosity of our friends at Papakura High School, we were able to gather and make the most of a somewhat limited occasion. Like any good family, when things don't go to plan we make something work and we have fun anyway. That was the spirit of our 2021 Graduation. Sadly we were unable to host all the parents, families and supporters who we normally invite so the afternoon was just for our students and our team.

The whole afternoon was a celebration of the resilience and courage of these truly great young people and a chance to express the genuine respect and affection that has grown between us all over the years. Each one of our Graduates is an excellent ambassador for The Rising Foundation Programme and living proof of the power of good insights reinforced by good experiences, good mentors and good friends. The right words, spoken at the right time by trusted people, in the right environment, enabled them to find their identities and prepare for adulthood. We are confident that they will make wise choices, form good relationships and will navigate their future with courage, compassion and integrity.



Top: All our graduates (except for a few who had to work). We are so proud of every one!
Bottom: The Top Advisors from each of our Partner Schools - Keaghan Rihari (Rosehill College), Jaleah Magele (Papakura High School), Saiatua Tai (Pukekohe High School), Samara Alefaio (Sir Edmund Hillary Collegiate) and Re-Annin Taylor (Manurewa High School)

Our Graduates in their School Groups



Our Graduates from Manurewa High School, from top left: Beriti Nanai, Niua Foliaki, Jordan Tanielu (Programme Coordinator) Mya Pua, Meleana Hafoka, Joeli Tali, Huntah Funaki, Re-Annin Taylor, Zaffron Norris, Reneeah Ngawaka and Raaman Tonganibeia. (Tuimalae Witeti and Opeti Halalilo couldn't make it, but we are just as proud to call them JB Graduates)



Our Graduates from Pukekohe High School, from left: Billie Paterson (Programme Coordinator), Davanny Leo Lauite, Beverley Tytherleigh, Saiatua Tai, Mono Taumoefolau and TeRanui Heta (Programme Coordinator).

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Unlocking Your Potential



Our Papakura High School Graduates from top left: Eddie Lepou (Programme Coordinator), Tatiana O’Keeffe-Pauu, Liveti Mafile’o, Tazmyn Fuapau-Haletama, Emma Grant, Logan Lepua, Jaleah Magele, Elijah Olano.

It was particularly fitting that Papakura High School would be the ones to open their doors to make this event possible because this is where The Rising all began. Our Board Chairman John Bongard and his wife Diane both went to school at Papakura High and John discovered the original group of students meeting under the name Te Roopu Kakano (TRK) at this school too!

Now the majority of our team are still original TRK members who went from school and then into the workforce or study before returning to follow their calling and give back some of what they received through this unique community.

We believe that this is the only way to maintain the unbroken chain of values and culture and pass it on from generation to generation. The Pillars, Themes and Mottos promoted in The Rising Foundation are transcripts of that original oral tradition and form the system at the heart of our resilient and flexible programme. This is our proud history and our bright future.

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

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www.chivecharities.nz/charity/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



Our Graduates from Sir Edmund Hillary Collegiate from top left: Mr Europa Lusa (Teacher), Miss Asotasi Fa'autaga (Teacher), Alisi Fetu'u, Lasini Tali, Aviata Tanielu (Programme Coordinator), Tyliah Ugapo, Samara Alefaio, Lia Ah Kiong, Former Coordinator Feleti Lotulelei, Dr. Fane Likio (Teacher), Vaine Tinirau-Schwenke and Monika Fakaosilea.



Our Graduates from Rosehill College, Gideon Rihari (Programme Coordinator), Keaghan Rihari, Shani Apelu (Programme Coordinator) and Micah McMillan with Shani and Gideon again (Micah had to work but still popped in before the ceremony!)



Our Programme Coordinators don't always say it but Graduation is a bitter-sweet time for all of them. The sweetness comes from seeing their 'babies' grow up and step into adulthood and healthy and confident young people. These are the living resumé and performance report of TRF. Their character and choices bear testimony to the good things they have learned and experienced in our care. Its a true delight to see how much they have grown and how far they have come.

The bitterness comes from losing the day to day company of this core group of mature and responsible supporters in the work. We never underestimate the power of a positive peer group and our Seniors develop a powerful influence for good in the lives of our Juniors, some of the newbies are a bit 'rough round the edges' when they join us. Initially they may struggle to listen to and obey an adult, we don't mind that. We don't get offended by disrespect because we are motivated by compassion, not ego, in this work and we know their attitude comes from their previous examples and their immaturity. They will grow out of it, and in the mean time they will listen to our seniors and follow their example. We will miss that eager support when its gone!



Our Board Chairman John Bongard, Tiare Matara (Employment Pathways Manager), Gideon Rihari (Senior Programme Coordinator) and General Manager Alex Tarrant all shared their thoughts. It is a real privilege to work alongside such committed, passionate, visionary and compassionate people. The future of our programme is in good hands and we look forward to the years ahead.



It wouldn't be a TRF event without lots of food and after the ordeal we have all been through in 2021. I'm sure you will agree that we deserve some South Auckland style comfort food for once! Logan and Elijah definitely agree.



A special award was given to JB Graduate Ben Abela this year to honour him for the selfless work he does behind the scenes as videographer & volunteer at many of our camps and events.

We wish to acknowledge all the great work of our Programme Coordinator Aviata Tanielu who was the driving force behind this year's Graduation Ceremony. He is a humble man but we want to give him the credit he is due this year.

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.



SYNERGY

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



INTEGRITY

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



CREATIVITY

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



THE PARTING SHOUT

A final shout out to the amazing and good looking team from The Rising Foundation. We made it to the end of another tough year. A little bit battered but absolutely determined to get back up and walk alongside our inspiring rangatahi next year. We all need to recharge our batteries, but you can bet that the wholehearted enthusiasm and courageous vulnerability that sets these guys apart, will be back in action in 2022!



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.

MAJOR SPONSORS



Unlocking Your Potential