

the RISING FOUNDATION NEWS TERM ONE 2022

“Unlocking the
potential of
our rangatahi
since 2009”

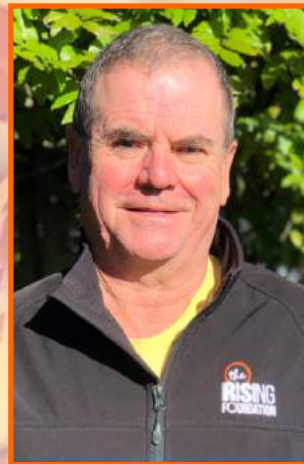
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Many Thanks

Hi everyone,

I hope that this newsletter finds you all in good health and coping with the ongoing challenges of the pandemic and tougher economic times.

The first term of the school year has been a busy and eventful time. Exciting news for TRF is that we have moved our office to the Blue Light Youth Centre at Dominion Road, Papakura. We are extremely grateful for the generosity of Rod Bell and Brendon Crompton from Blue Light inviting us into the Centre, making us welcome and making us feel very much part of their talented and dedicated team. We are now finally able to have our Administration and Transition 2 staff all together in the same office. Our thanks goes to David Comery at the Vodafone Events Centre who hosted our team at Manukau for the past five years. His staff at Vodafone Events Centre made us feel very much part of the team and looked after us very well.



It is also with much excitement that we are able to announce a collaboration with the Auckland Trotting Club who have very generously agreed to host a Rising Foundation Race Night at Alexandra Park on Friday the 7th of October. We will be advising everyone of the details of the night shortly but would ask you all to please note the date in your diaries. This evening promises to be a very enjoyable night with plenty of racing fun as well as live and silent auctions. If anyone has access to suitable prizes for the night please let Donna know at donna@therisingfoundation.co.nz. Your generosity will be much appreciated.

We have had some movement with the make up of our governance team in the last month with the retirement of Lady Sarah Fay from our Trust Board. We had a very special farewell with Sarah and staff at our new premises recently. Sarah's enthusiasm and support will be much missed. Sarah will be replaced on the Trust Board by Jenny Solomon. Jenny joins us with incredible skills and experience around not for profit governance and work in youth related organisations. We are delighted that Jenny has agreed to join the Board and we look forward to her contribution to the Foundation.

I am also delighted to announce a partnership with Doug Easton and John Ziegler from Celestielle Charitable Trust. Doug and John visited our office recently to announce and confirm the sponsorship of four of our students plus Tiare our Employment Pathways Manager on a two week visit to Botswana to visit game parks and engage with similar aged Botswanan youths at local schools and experience the incredible work being done in Botswana to protect our environment and encourage global conservation. The visit will occur in January next year. Celestielle have partnered with Great Plains Conservation in Africa to provide this amazing opportunity to our students from Otara, Manurewa and Papakura. It is hoped that we can host students from Botswana here in New Zealand following this visit to show them our Country and cultures. We welcome Doug and John to our whanau and thank them and their colleagues from Great Plains for their vision and generosity.

It has been awesome to see us get back to some degree of normality with the holding of our Term 1 camps during the school holiday break. To see the photos of the camps and the joy that is evident from our students and staff, reminds us all of the reason for our programme and the positive effect that the programme has on our students lives.

Thank you all for your continuing support and encouragement.

Take care and look after yourselves and your whanau,

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

Motivated Maia

I te taha o tōku papa,
Ko Taumutu te maunga
Ko Wairoa te awa
Ko Takitimu te waka
Ko Ngati Kahungunu te iwi
Ko Ngati Pehenga te hapu
Ko Iwitea te marae

Kia Ora e te whanau! My name is Maia Tipu and I'm a JB Grad from Rosehill College. I joined back in Year 11, graduated in 2019 and have been a part of The Rising Foundation for about five years now.

Over the years, TRF has been a massive influence in my life. I've gained so many valuable life skills, core memories and life long friends from the programme.

I was taught from both the camps and in school meetings with Gideon about things that I wasn't able to learn in regular school classes.

How to reach my full potential, how to face challenges head on and to take up any opportunity that's given to you.

Whenever I can, I like volunteering on camps as a JB Graduate to tautoko the team and watch the next generation grow.

Life after school can be a really daunting environment, but the team have always been behind me and are a massive support system to me even after graduating.

TRF has helped me get my licence, set me up with potential job opportunities and have even got me through some tough life experiences.

I'm grateful for the programme as a whole, but it's really the people and the team who bring it all together!

I'm excited to meet the new generations that are coming through, and I'm so grateful to be a part of it!

Maia



A New Home for TRF



The Blue Light Youth Centre was officially opened by Auckland Mayor Phil Goff on the 20th May 2022

After five years based at the Vector Wero Whitewater Park as part of the Momentum Hub family, our Administration Team and our Transition 2 Team have now moved into the New Blue Light Youth Centre in Papakura.

This excellent facility, formerly run by the High Wire Charitable Trust, is home to the Papakura Cadet Unit (a branch of the New Zealand Cadet Corps) and passed into the hands of Blue Light early this year.

We are very grateful to Blue Light, our long time friends, for their invitation to us and to Youthtown South Auckland, to join them on the property where we have two great office spaces and access to all the other resources on site.

The property includes a large hall, a well equipped gym, classroom, Board room, interview room, staff room, full commercial kitchen, theatre and even a world class climbing wall and high ropes adventure course.

We couldn't imagine a facility that is better suited to our needs. Being surrounded by other agencies with an active involvement in Youth Work, creates a vibrant and dynamic atmosphere on site.

We are really excited and encouraged by this welcome development and we see this move as very much in line with our vision to expand and improve our programme to better serve the South Auckland Region and beyond.



Our new Neighbours at the Blue Light Centre



Nestled in a semi-industrial area of Papakura and opposite a local park - the Blue Light Youth Centre is an ideal location for the large Blue Light team, the Youthtown team, our team and the young people we work with.

It has been a real boost for our team to work alongside this well established and like-minded organisation and we look forward to finding more ways to collaborate and get the most out of this amazing, well equipped and strategically placed facility.



Unlocking Your Potential

TRANSITION 2

TRFDRIVE

Term 1 has definitely started with a bang for **Transition 2**, particularly with **TRFDrive** having to play catch up from the lockdown last year. We are grateful to be back in action, delivering our full programmes and services to all five schools.

Our planning during the last year has provided much enthusiasm heading into the year. With many of our students eligible since lockdown 2021, we have been able to see plenty through learners, restricted and full licence tests.

The Transition 2 team have been able to host workshops to Manurewa High School TRF, Sir Edmund Hillary Collegiate TRF and Papakura High School TRF with mini refresher workshops in between.



The use of the **Transition 2** vehicles has allowed our staff to conduct driving check-in's with students preparing for restricted and full licence tests. With the wrap-around support through **TRF, Class 1 Driving Instructors, Te Ara Haepapa** (Auckland Transport) and our involved families, the students are fully equipped to pass with confidence.

We want to especially highlight the commitment of driving instructor **Deb Jackson**, who has helped many pass their practical tests! Her experience as a retired testing officer has especially prepared students under strict testing conditions giving them the best chances to pass first go. Thank you for your help Deb!

We are so proud of all our young people who have gained a licence this term!

Getting a driver's licence highlights the perseverance, commitment and hard work it takes to achieve a great asset.



Full Licence passes:

Tremayne, Paige, Shyna, Benn, Kelcie, Catherine, Ngawai



Restricted Licence Passes:

Beriti, Tia, Kaati, Tapu, Ngahuia, Waimihi, Rotita, Hine-maia, Lyvetter, Tui, Mya, Theresa, Esther, Koheleti, Zaffron



Learners Licence Passes:

Holomoana, Kendra, Timothy, Bronson, Florina, Ashanti, Nehaa, Mafi, Taylor, Nataliah, Aljoreno, Ruth, VJ, Pauline, Jamie, Daniel, Annaliese



We are excited to be able to start up our campus tours once again and take students to visit various educational pathways which they have expressed interest in. Campus tours have proven to be an excellent way to expose the students to what is available out there and the different institutions which offer studies in specific areas.

Term 1 saw our first onsite trip to the Whitecliffe School of Fashion & Design where we took 12 students to the Manukau campus. Engaging in a costume designing activity and an insightful overview of the courses provided, turned out to be a really good morning for those students who are interested in fashion and the creative industry.



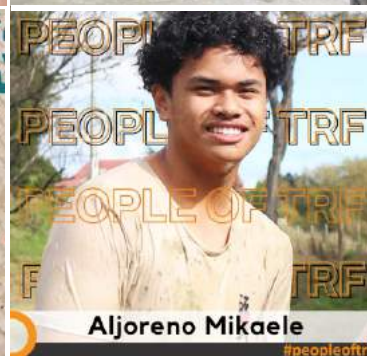
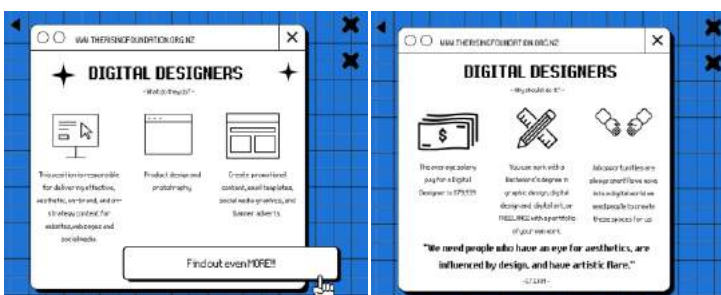
Our second onsite trip was a visit to the ATC military preparation school at the Manukau campus. ATC is an awesome course to pathway students into the NZDF, supporting them with the physical and educational components in the NZDF enrollment process.

We felt very welcomed into the space with Tee Roimata's cheerful spirit. We were given a tour of the campus along with a very detailed breakdown of each course provided at ATC and their rules and expectations for each student.



We conducted our first T2 introduction for the Year 11 students and new students to the programme at Papakura High School. We were able to introduce ourselves individually, explain what services we provide, and the ins and out of **TRFDrive** and **TRFWork**. It's important for the new students to know that T2 services are "the cherry on top" to the core programme, we are a bonus and they only get access to us once they have shown commitment to the core programme.

TRF SOCIAL MEDIA



From Southside to Botswana!

We have some really exciting news for four of our students. We have been approached by a private travel agency who are interested in increasing ecological and cultural awareness in our young people by giving them the opportunity to travel overseas and have new experiences.

We have carefully selected these students (Photo below) to represent The Rising Foundation as our ambassadors. These students will travel to Botswana from the 9-21st of January 2023 with Great Plains Conservation and Celestielle Travel to provide a once in a lifetime experience.

If this first trip goes well, our funders are interested in making this an annual occurrence. The trip is valued at \$30,000 per student but will be provided free of charge. TRF will also be covering the cost of passport renewal and any other travel preparations.

Their itinerary begins at the Duba Explorer Camp then to Selinda Explorer Camp. Students will gain insights into conservation, nature and the environment through safari tours and meetings with local guides.

They will then experience the work at Semowi Nature Camp which is an elephant orphanage, caring for and protecting this iconic species. A cultural exchange will then take place at a local school in Semowi.



The Duba Explorer Camp, Botswana

Our plan is that once relationships are formed, Celestielle Travel will also sponsor students from Botswana to travel next year to New Zealand to meet with our Rising Foundation schools and attend one of our adventure camps.

Participating students will also take part in a 'Pack For A Purpose' project which will involve our students fundraising and networking to bring over important resources to the school we are visiting.



Top row: John Bongard, John Ziegler (Celestielle), Jenny Solomon (Joint Board Member), Douglas Easton (Celestielle) and Tiare Matara. Front row: Arasi (Papakura High), Ashanti (Manurewa High), Mafi (Sir Edmund Hillary Collegiate) and Viliami (Manurewa High).

REST & REFLECTION CAMP



Just what we all needed!

The best way to start off the year! TRF holds an annual Summer R&R Camp where we invite a select number of our core students back into 'TRF space' to reconnect, plan and look forward to the year ahead.

Thanks to our relationships and negotiations with our Partner Schools, students from four of our five schools were allowed to attend this week but it almost didn't happen. The uncertainty of Covid and unpredictable government guidelines caused changes for our schools that we had to adapt to - however, our amazing team rallied to get all our I's dotted and T's crossed!

In the end, this R&R camp took us back to 'old skool' TRF. Throughout the week, our students were able to finally interact with their TRF brothers and sisters from other schools, after so long apart. They spent quality time with their programme coordinators and experienced a few classic TRF style activities to bring out their fun and creative sides.

Many of our activities were stripped away with venues closed. But this served to our advantage, as it gave us all a chance to invite our students into a higher level of leadership and to enlighten their minds and hearts by offering them insight to our vision and giving them the chance to contribute to it as well.

Summer R&R has always been a special space for our team. We look forward to seeing how our students who attended this retreat continue to grow into the vision for each school.

Manuia!

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

5 Camps in 3 weeks!

Starting the year under the shadow of the pandemic has been challenging, our students have had to endure isolation, staggered days at school, limited class numbers, social distancing and cancelled activities.

The one vital commodity for our programme is consistent access to the students in our care and that has been impacted repeatedly and unpredictably by Covid-19 restriction over the first quarter of the year. In response to this, our team were adamant that they would do whatever was necessary to make our Term 1 camp a reality. Our students had missed out on too much time together.

Our schools were supportive but felt uncomfortable at the prospect of their students mingling with students from other schools and the risks that went along with that, so, we decided, for the first time ever to hold five individual school camps to conclude Term 1.

*Very generously, the leadership at Pukekohe High school allowed us to take our students away during the last week of term for **Term 1, Camp 1**, here's the report from Teranui (Ted) Heta, our **Pukekohe** Programme Coordinator:*

We are family! The Term One theme for 2022 was **Emotions**, this was potentially quite a heavy theme for Pukekohe as it can be quite challenging for some of our students to express their emotions in appropriate ways. I knew from the beginning that creating an atmosphere that was safe for our young people to express themselves and have space to understand the meaning of their emotions was going to be extremely important.

We stayed at an amazing venue, **Moirs Point Christian Camp** in Mangawhai. The facility was excellent, perfect for the number of students that attended. The camp staff were very friendly and we really appreciated how they cared for the needs of our students and team.

Our workshops brought the Emotions theme into focus in practical ways and highlighted the damage that 'Bottling Emotions' can cause to us as individuals and to our relationships. 'Getting through Grief' was an eye-opener for most students and planted a seed that we hope will help them get through the kind of dark days that we all have to face.



The **Matakana Ninja Run** was very encouraging and brought out the leadership skills in all our seniors, guiding their teams through the genuinely challenging course. We ended the camp with a Skit Night where the students got to blow off some steam and demonstrate what they had learnt in dramatic ways.

We planned the camp to give plenty of opportunities for the students to build better relationships with each other and also with the Team. This vital interaction had been hard to find and was so necessary as we launched the year together.



I am extremely grateful to the staff and JB graduates that made themselves available as volunteers to provide the guidance, support and love for my students. To my students, thank you for allowing yourself to be vulnerable in the spaces that were created and for believing in the purpose of this camp. You inspire me and I hope I influence you, Thank you and love to you all.



8 Day one activities near Whangarei, Paintball and Giant Scooters!

Term 1, Camp 2: Papakura High School. Here's the report from **Papakura** Programme Coordinator Eddie Lepou:

This camp was so different from all the other camps. The group of students that I selected for this camp were all unique and quite a few of them were relatively new to TRF.

The disruptions of the last year or so meant that Term 3 camp last year had to be cancelled, so for the majority of my group, this was their first ever camp and we heard that some of their families were struggling a little with missing them while we were away.

As always our TRF staff delivered meaningful workshops and presentations and my students were able to capture this content and apply it to their lives. Learning the meaning and purpose of our Emotions is so important for everyone and it encourages me to know that these students are getting the same great head start in life that I got.

My vision for this camp was for my students to have a better understanding of their emotions.

No one teaches the themes that we teach in TRF and I feel that we really equip our students for the big emotional challenges of adult life.

Because they were new to the programme, I really wanted my students to see and experience what The Rising is really about. The number of breakthroughs we saw in the lives of these young ones and the depth of the lessons they learnt at camp was awesome to witness.

Now we're back at school I'm trying to keep up with the buzz from Term 1 camp as other curious students are coming into our Embassy wondering what all the excitement is about. It has been hilarious.

Overall, I feel that Term 1 camp for Papakura High School was a great success. We have really lifted the spirits of our group and hit reset on the year that started pretty rough. None of this would have been possible without the help of our school, our TRF Board, our Sponsor, Trillian Trust, Donna and all our amazing TRF workers. I'm so thankful that I have such a great organisation behind me.



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

Term 1, Camp 3: Sir Edmund Hillary Collegiate, Ōtara. Here's the report from **SEHC** Programme Coordinator Aviata Tanielu:

We come from Ōtara, Home of the Brave, The Promised Land, 274 from the rough, rugged and raw place of pure potential, and we went to **Shakespear Lodge** in Whangaparaoa for our Emotions Camp!

If I could sum up this camp in one word it would be GROWTH. Our selection of Shakespear activities set a good tone for our students to be challenged in their thinking and collaboration as a team. Students learnt how to make life-size catapults exercising listening skills to complete a common goal. The Shakespear Team Challenge revealed how keeping a cool head and communication, of all sorts, contributes massively to completing tasks. Here, our students got to put into practice a quote that I challenged them with - "Communication is not key, comprehension is."

Our students were tasked to not only communicate, but to think deeply about how they choose to communicate so that comprehension, across the entire team, has been achieved.

Mountain Boarding gave our students adventurous activities to quench the energetic, thrill seeking side of each student as they raced down the hillside. Air rifles made our students sharpen their competitiveness aiming for the bullseye to gain the most points against other teams.

Under the theme of Emotions, our workshops created the space for our students to immerse themselves in what it means to be both #TRF4Life and #HillaryHard, giving them the teachings and concepts that I had experienced as a TRF student that have shaped me to be the person I am today.

The week went by so quickly, but the teachings, sharings, fellowship and relationships that have been built from this camp are the gems that I will take away and hone in on as a proud Hillarian Coordinator.



This camp would not have been the success that it was without the invaluable voluntary help of our amazing Hillary 'A-Team', Ms Fane Likio, Mr Europa Lafo'ou Lusa and Miss Asotasi Fa'autaga!

Whenever our students are surrounded by greatness, it's just a given that they glean from it in every conversation and affirmation that was spoken over our awesome kids.

Lastly, to our incredible Year 13 students who served as JB's at this camp. Chyqr (My new Co-Coordinator) and I couldn't have asked for a more on-to-it bunch who know our hearts and emulated that same heart in everything we did.

Overall, this camp will go down in the Sir Edmund Hillary Collegiate TRF books as one of the coolest!





Term 1, Camp 4: Manurewa High School. Here's the report from **Manurewa** Programme Coordinator Zaffron Norris :

Our vision and purpose for this camp was to allow the students in Manurewa TRF to recognise and expand their knowledge of emotions, to be able to identify and master them and express them effectively. We wanted them to learn how to make it safely through the grief process.

We wanted to create a safe and lively space for all year levels to become familiar with each other, as this camp was the first camp for most of our students.

We encouraged the Year 12 students who were present to finally transition into their new role as leaders in TRF Manurewa. Now they can contribute the knowledge and wisdom they have learnt throughout their time with us, to help guide and mentor the younger students on their journey with cooperation from the staff.



Taking the students away to a secluded place, far away from their usual environment, created a space for them to become vulnerable and open to learning the material that they were being taught during the workshops.

Our camp was held at Marsden Bay Christian Camp in Ruakaka, and we were given the best possible space to support our students in their process of conceptualising their idea of emotions after being taught the insight and information needed to fully understand the theme of this camp.

We wanted to take this opportunity to create an atmosphere where all students were comfortable enough to vocalise their opinions and ask their questions so they could really get to grips with our theme.

We were thrilled to see how the students soaked up all the knowledge and wisdom that they were given and we are now encouraging them to pass their new knowledge down to anyone who they believe would gain from it.





Term 1, Camp 5: Rosehill College. Here's the report from **Rosehill** Programme Coordinator Gideon Rihari :

We wanted to make good use of this time set aside for our individual school group at the Raglan-Kopua Holiday Park and really worked on consolidating our cohort in anticipation of the many challenges ahead.

As we had a number of 'newbies' to the programme, the first day's activities were based around teamwork and what better way to kick things off than with a cooking competition?



Day 2 got us into an activity never done by TRF in the past and that was surfing (see photo above). Down at the beautiful Ngarunui Beach reserve we gathered and met up with the awesome team from Greenwave Surf school based in Raglan!

The whole goal was for each student to decide for themselves how deep to go, what wave to catch or how long they ride the waves etc. Ultimately, it's about providing another opportunity for our students to learn to manage risk, identify hazards and find the courage within to overcome that fear.

It was awesome seeing all our students getting out there and amongst it, regardless of their confidence levels everybody gave it a shot and had a really good time doing so.

Day 3, we delved deeper both literally and figuratively. The activity for the day was caving and we geared up for a fun morning exploring the heart of the Karamu Caves. We discovered icy underground streams, ridiculously tight squeezes, pitch black darkness and massive auditoriums lined with thousands of bioluminescent glow worms that mimic the night sky.

In TRF, there's always a deeper meaning behind every activity we do and this was no exception.

Many of our students feel as though their relationships have very little depth and that they feel afraid to look beneath the surface or allow somebody to see what's truly going on in their life. We recognised the need to reflect on the deeper issues, past experiences or mistakes that we hide or suppress which can hinder our movement forward.

Hearing our students korero around this activity was highly encouraging and it shows that they are starting to think on a deeper level about things and how that knowledge can become wisdom once they apply it.

To wrap up the week of constant challenges, pushing them to step outside their comfort zones we saved the biggest test for last, Skit Night! We challenging our students to stand up in front of their peers, face that fear of judgment and overcome it together. We also announce the winning group of the camp.

The students had to perform a chant, skit and a TikTok dance in their groups that related to something about emotions they learned while on camp. The skit night was meke, filled with much laughter, joy and happiness sprinkled with a little bit of fear as they stood to deliver what their group had created.

Overall, camp was a success! We were able to bring together a bunch of students who were reluctant to engage at first but slowly but surely warmed up to each other and built up that sense of whanau. Now we can continue to build upon the momentum and positive vibe we created at camp!



THE PARTING SHOT

We couldn't let the moment pass without acknowledging the huge contribution that Lady Sarah Fay has made to the quality and direction of our programme over the years.

As Sarah steps down from her place on our Board of Trustees we want to wish her all the best in her next steps. We will truly miss her humour and her selfless, hands-on involvement in the life of our young people.



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