

the RISING FOUNDATION NEWS TERM ONE 2019

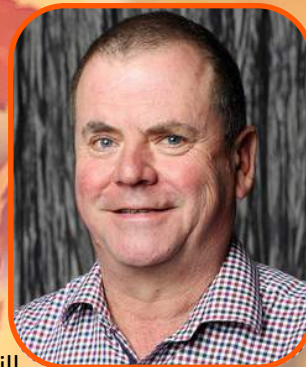
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Many Thanks

Hi everyone,

What a first term! We welcomed our new Year 9 recruits and have started planning our "Post the School Gate" programme.

We are very proud to announce the promotion of Feleti Lotulelei, to the new role of Employment Pathways Manager. Feleti will be responsible for managing the transition of our cohort from school to employment, training or tertiary education. He will also take over our exciting new drivers licensing initiative **TRF Drive**. If any of our supporters are ever in the need of talented and motivated young adults for their businesses or enterprises, please let Feleti know. We are also on the lookout for Volunteer 'Navigators' to help mentor and train our young drivers. If anyone has a couple of hours a week for 10 weeks of the year to spare, please yell out!!



Our annual Race Day at ELLERSLIE was an amazing success. You can read about the day and financial results later in this newsletter, but, I do want to take this opportunity to once again thank our incredible group of sponsors, corporate supporters and individuals that contributed to make our day such a wonderful success. A special thanks to my incredible wife Diane and Donna for the tremendous amount of work that they put in too!

The end of the first term always signals our very important reporting period where we highlight the annual achievements of our students. We need to do this to keep record of the amazing success that our students have achieved over their time with TRF and use this audited data to support various funding applications. Our key performance indicators for the year are as follows;

NCEA pass rates of all TRF students was 88% compared to whole of school average across all of the schools we partner with of 65%

91% of our students have gained CONFIDENCE and SELF REPUTATION through being part of TRF

85% of our students have gained LEADERSHIP SKILLS through being part of TRF

92% of our students have gained SELF RESPECT and SENSE OF IDENTITY through being part of TRF

92% of our students have gained DETERMINATION and ACHIEVEMENT through being part of TRF

91% of our students have gained a SENSE OF PURPOSE and DIRECTION through being part of TRF

Of our 39 graduates from 2018. 6 are at University, 10 are at other Tertiary Institutions, 16 are in full time employment, 3 are in part time employment, 4 are in full time training. Our 2019 senior cohort have again excelled in gaining leadership roles in their various schools. 4 are Head Prefects, 10 are Prefects, 14 are House Leaders, 6 are Cultural Leaders, 1 is a Sports Captain, 2 are Board of Trustee Student Representatives.

We are incredibly proud of all the above achievers. We wish our Grads the very best in their chosen endeavours and we congratulate our next wave of leaders as we move into an exciting 10th year of operation!!

Regards, *John*

John Bongard, Board Chairman, The Rising Foundation

Unlocking Your Potential

Billie's Back!

Tena koutou katoa
I te taha o toku papa
Ko Tainui te waka
Ko Taupiri te maunga
Ko Waikato te awa
Ko Taniwha te marae
Ko Ngati Mahuta te hapu
Ko Hoturoa te tangata

I te taha o toku mama
Ko Te Arawa te waka
Ko Tarawera te maunga
Ko Tarawera te awa
Ko Rangiaohia te marae
Ko Ngati Rangitahi te hapu
Ko Tamatekapua te tangata
Ko Billie Paterson taku ingoa

Kia ora TRF family,

My name is **Billie Paterson** and I am 22 years old. I am a 2014 JB Graduate from Pukekohe High School. I currently have the utmost privilege to be back in the school I graduated from, working alongside Tiare and the Team as a trainee Youth Worker (Cadet) employed by The Rising Foundation.

I am a proud Maori of Tainui, Te Arawa and Mataatua descent. My family and I are originally from a small township called Matata, located in the Eastern Bay of Plenty, but I have had the connection to call Pukekohe our second home for the past 14 years. I attended local schools in this transition including Pukekohe Hill School, Pukekohe Intermediate and Pukekohe High School. I was first introduced to The Rising Foundation in Year 10 (2011) at a meeting led by Whaea Jerilynne, one of our supportive Maori teachers.

At first, I knew very little about the programme, but to be very honest, I was so uplifted by the instant connections I made on the first day of camp with all these new young people whom I had never met before. Everyone in the programme instantly made me feel comfortable and welcome.

In my group at camp, we began to enable ourselves to push through with challenges and group competitions. Everyone had a role and a purpose. It was so inspiring to witness this, and so new to me. Personally, I had never experienced or heard of such a great programme that supports students, working alongside them through secondary school and continuing to assist in their future pathways.

On camps, we connected with our peers, extended our own strengths and capabilities, some of which we were not even aware we had. These positive relationships which I had created, allowed me to really grasp the energy and essence of the programme and adopt the key values and principles.

Attending my first camp gave me a greater understanding of how the programme would run in the school for us as students, and gave an outline of the student commitment needed throughout the year.



To be engaged with a programme as beneficial as The Rising Foundation through my High School years, was certainly a huge privilege and blessing. From the beginning, the programme has helped me to enhance and progress my knowledge, and understanding of life's ongoing situations. These challenges are largely the same for our students and families today.

When it was added to the knowledge we already had, the skill set and tools which we gained through the programme, formed a great foundation for us all as we were transitioning through high school. The Rising Foundation provides students with real skills, confidence and tools to network with others in these crucial years of their lives.

These principles also enable us to sustain better relationships with teachers and staff. I've learned this from the positive feedback and insight passed on by teachers who have volunteered to support the students and team at camps.

I'm so excited to come back as a Trainee Coordinator, I love this work and it is so good to be able to give something back to the school and programme that did so much in my life.

Billie

2

Unlocking Your Potential

SUMMER RETREAT 2019

Kicking off the year in the right way! Selected leaders from across our partner schools headed off on our annual five day 'Summer Retreat'. We were lucky to have our week away split over two locations, the first half was based at Narrows Park in Hamilton; and the second spent at Kopua Holiday Park, situated on the Raglan Harbour Peninsula.

For many, our TRF Retreats are a chance to take a rest from one's usual responsibilities, reflect on the past year, and realign intentions heading into the new year. We encourage students to think collectively towards plans for their respective TRF groups and how we can adapt to best maximise our students' experience with us.

During the days we made use of the great weather and beautiful scenery that New Zealand has on offer. Our convoy visited key areas such as Waihi, the iconic L&P bottle in Paeroa and the Waireinga/Bridal Veil Waterfall. Our nights were spent seated in the relaxed ambience around the campfire, with each school discussing their vision and collective goals for the year.

Although Summer Retreat offers a more relaxed atmosphere than our usual leadership camps, students were still challenged mentally and physically by taking part in a canyoning activity lead by the awesome and experienced guides of **Raglan Rock Adventures**. Over the course of three hours, students journeyed through the freshwater stream of Mt Karioi's ancient lava flow, navigating elevated native bush, jumping into deep pools, rock climbing up and abseiling down cascading waterfalls.

Although it looks like 'all fun', our students unique identity and aspirations are absolutely important to us, so it is crucial we take time to nurture these future pathways; envisioning what personal progress they see for themselves and planning the steps required to motivate this change.



Once you have done it,
you **KNOW** you can do it.
Then you start asking,
"What else might I be
able to do?"



Identity is formed and confidence is built through challenge and achievement.
Identity is achieved and leadership is nurtured through deep, quiet conversation.





SEHC YOUNG MEN'S EXCURSION

On the 22nd-24th March, 11 of our boys from Sir Edmund Hillary Collegiate set out on a weekend excursion in the beautiful Taupo area, at the Blue Light Lodge, Wairakei.

Feleti and I envisaged this experience to be a time and space for establishing stronger relationships with the current and potential male leaders within our school. Those that we had identified as respected and influential within their circles of friends. Our hope is to establish some solid ground on which to build and equip these young men to become agents of change, for their peers and other male students alike, as positive influences and role models.

On this excursion the boys were able to experience a whole new area of New Zealand outside of South Auckland. The scenery on display at the Huka Falls and the world famous Lake Taupo, and even the different types of people and lifestyles we encountered were a real eye opener for most of them. This new experience was a great opportunity for our team to journey together and to get to know each other on a deeper level.

We were fortunate enough to stay within a short driving distance from the AC Baths, hot spring pools and leisure centre, where we unwound before heading to camp for our evening workshops and activities. One of these highlight activities was a harmonising challenge, where each group was given five seconds to come up with a word starting with, for example, the letter 'A' and sing a harmony with that word. Needless to say the staff were the champions, but the boys did well too.

On Saturday we spent the day as 'tourists' as only two of the boys had been to Taupo before. We took a bush walk through to the amazing Huka Falls reserve before visiting a popular site called Otumuheke, a place where a stream from a hot spring meets the lake.

We topped off Saturday with a games night tournament that saw a lot of our boys in their element, showing off their PS4 skills and cheering each other on in support. The retreat finished on a high with a cool fishing trip on the Chris Jolly Charter in the middle of Lake Taupo where our senior student David Tali caught the largest fish!



We would like to thank **Trillian Trust** for their generosity and financial support in making this trip possible. This retreat gave The Rising Foundation the perfect opportunity to reach out to the male students at SEHC. This made it possible for us to begin the work of building these young men, to be of positive influence and essentially unlocking their potential. The foundation has been laid and we look forward to continuing the work started from this retreat with the "**bradahs**".



Programme Coordinators, Feleti Lotulelei and Aviata Tanielu work tirelessly to build our young men up into the leaders and people of influence we need in our future communities. Affirmation, challenge and recognition from these role models makes all the difference in the hearts and minds of our students. These moments shape lives. We take that honour seriously.

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

Download the app and find us on ...



Unlocking Your Potential

TRANSITION²

meaningful work for our rising generation

The Rising Foundation is excited to announce a new initiative that will help benefit our students in practical ways and build the social impact of our unique programme.

With the generous backing of **The Ministry of Social Development**, **The Southern Initiative** (A branch of the Auckland Council) and the support of **The Skills Organisation** and **Blue Light**, we are now contracted to provide two important services under the **Transition 2** umbrella.

TRF*DRIVE* & TRF*WORK*

TRF*Drive* - will ensure that every young person on our programme who wishes to learn to drive can now do so, free of charge! They will go through the four steps of the Drivers training process, Learner's test, Restricted test, Defensive Driving Course and the Full licence drivers test. This process takes two years and costs just under \$1000 per student.

This investment by our Local and National Government departments will lift a considerable financial burden off our TRF Families and it will address two major issues that have been identified as affecting South Auckland Youth. Minor driving offenses are often the start of problems with the justice system. **TRF*Drive*** keeps young drivers legal.

Also the majority of viable employment opportunities require a driving licence and the cost of a licence often stops our students pursuing the kind of jobs they dream of, so they end up with whatever job they can get. **TRF*Drive*** equips them with the skills their future employer will require. We literally get them on the road towards meaningful employment.

The Skills Organisation CEO Garry Fissenden hands over the keys to our first **TRF*Drive*** car to Alex Tarrant TRF General Manager.



TRF*Work* - is a process that starts while our students are still with us in school. We have always encouraged our students to think ahead and plan for their future career directions, but now we have the staff and the funding to walk alongside them after they leave school and through the whole process of getting into their first job.

Many people have told us that they wish they had the support of a group like The Rising Foundation when they were at school. Well how much more could we have benefitted from having a trusted advisor, an advocate, and someone with the ability to pay for some of the training and equipment we needed, with us when we were looking for work?

Our TRF students now have this service at their disposal. At the beginning of their time on the programme, our students need a lot of support during Transition 1, when they leave Intermediate and start High School and they need lots of support again when they face Transition 2, the move from the world of school to the world of work.

One of our own team, who himself has been through our programme and has worked as a School Programme Coordinator for eight years is now stepping up to manage Transition 2. We warmly welcome **Feleti** to his new role.



Feleti Lotulelei

Employment Pathways Manager

A DAY AT THE RACES

The Annual Rising Foundation Ellerslie Race Day 30th of March 2019

This year we were celebrating our 10th Anniversary so our theme was Orange and Black – our corporate colours. How colourful the room looked with some spectacular entries in our Best Dressed Man and Best Fascinator competitions.

We were encouraged by an increase in corporate sponsors to our event and had our faithful race sponsors returning once again for an action-packed day of racing.

Our event was held in the two Guineas Ballrooms with our numbers swelling to 300. Bill, Natalie and their team at the Ellerslie Event Centre once again welcomed all of us into a spectacular room with amazing views of the race course.

Donna, Feleti, Tiare and Jordan together with some of our students (all in their school uniforms), decorated the room and set up our auction tables. Our students also escorted our guests to their tables and sold raffle tickets for the BEKO Fridge/Freezer. We are grateful to all who gave up their Saturday to help us fundraise for our Charity.

Kevin Hickland, our amazing Auctioneer, used all his wiles to top our total from last year. We were fortunate to have, once again, Stephen Stuart as our MC for the day.

Our eight race sponsors enjoyed the opportunity to have a drink in the owners' enclosure, before the race with the owners and trainers and proceeded to view their sponsored race in the Birdcage. They also presented those connected with the winning horse with a dress rug featuring their company logo and race name in the Winner Circle presentation area.

The TRF Board is so grateful for the support from our major sponsors, our corporate sponsors, our live auction sponsors, our silent auction sponsors, prize sponsors and friends and family who support us year in and year out.

Without you all, we could not continue the fantastic work of our team – Alex, Donna, Feleti, Grace, Jordan, Gideon, Tiare and our new employees, Aviata, Billie and Maria.

Thank you ALL for attending. It was a huge success and a wonderful day to celebrate with work colleagues and friends. Please support all of our sponsors where and when you can.

Together the total we raised for The Rising Foundation was:

\$62,600



Our great student volunteers outside the Ellerslie Event Centre



As our guests arrived, the sense of excitement and celebration grew.





Our 300 guests created a colourful spectacle and a lovely atmosphere.



Congratulations to all our silent auction winners.



This was a great opportunity to enjoy a great day out, meet new people and help a worthy cause.



One of our corporate groups watching from the 'birdcage'. The track-side experience was our gift to our generous race sponsors. There's something so special about being up close to the action.





Auckland Racing Club

A Special Thanks to all the Sponsors of

The Annual Rising Foundation Ellerslie Race Day 30th of March 2019

Our Amazing Race Sponsors



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FORREST

Breville
Thought for food

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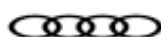
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RELATIONSHIPS CAMP - RAGLAN

We recognise that the first day of camp can be met with trepidation for some of our younger students. They are leaving the comforts of home and family for a week in an unfamiliar place with some unfamiliar people from other schools, so it can seem quite scary.

However, due to the relaxed, gentle nature of our leadership team, our students got over their initial nerves almost instantly. Both groups met up at Pukekohe High school before heading to Lake Waahi in Huntly for lunch and team building activities. This was a great time for groups to get to know each other, play a couple games and share a meal before continuing on, down to Raglan.

What are two key ingredients to a healthy relationship? Reputation and Forgiveness. When we are consistent and reliable, and act with integrity, we create a good reputation with the people closest to us. We even create a good reputation with ourselves!

Maintaining that good reputation with each other through daily doses of respect, kindness and understanding makes all the difference. When we fail, which we will, we need forgiveness. Forgiveness allows us to restore our reputation with each other and carry on in our healthy relationship.

This was a central message of our Raglan Camp which we reinforced with activities, challenges and conversations. We took students from Pukekohe High School and Rosehill College (Papakura) out to the beautiful West Coast resort of Raglan where we stayed at Kopua Holiday Park, right by the beach.

When we arrived some of our senior students were blown away at how 'flash' the camp ground was. In the past some of the TRF camps have been quite basic but the facilities at Raglan were amazing.



After we unpacked the buses and set up the tents we split our JBs up. We sent them to different parts of the beach where groups rotated between them, to ask questions and learn who their youth leaders would be.

The evening was spent reflecting on our theme and getting to know our newest team member, Billie Paterson.

Day two of camp started off in the traditional TRF manner! 6:00am wake-up call and straight into morning exercise to start the day off right. For many students the early mornings are a stark reminder to make sure you're organised and have enough sleep the night before, otherwise it is a slow grind getting out of bed and into the cold. An early morning walk along the beautiful Whāingaroa Harbour was the perfect way to set the mood for an awesome day of activities.

After breakfast students split into their groups and set off on their adventures! The first two groups went Kayaking in the Whāingaroa Harbour, while exploring the ancient coastline first hand and visiting the stunning 'Pancake Rocks', (Layered rock formations Punakaiki) which are thousands of years old. The other two groups went Rock Climbing and Abseiling in a secret and stunning location, that looked like a scene from Lord of the Rings! The Raglan Rock team helped us traverse 15 meter cliff faces. Our students were able to challenge themselves to reach the top with the support of their team members. Height is always a big fear for many students to overcome and we encourage our students to push through and realise they can do whatever they put their mind to.

After lunch our students headed out to take on the TRF Challenge. They needed good communication and team work, as they utilised the unique strengths of the individuals within each group. Our students raced around Raglan completing different tasks like dancing and singing on the street, puzzles and riddles which included lots of interaction with the public to boost their confidence levels.

Teaching sessions in the evening reinforced our theme of Relationships and introduced the students to Dale Williams from The Southern Initiative who is assisting Feleti in preparing them for their future careers with our Transition 2 initiative.

Up again at 6:00am for a classic kiwi game of Bull Rush and a sunrise walk along the beach. Good exercise and a quiet time for our students to reflect upon the learnings and experiences from the day before and prep themselves for the day to come. Some of our relationship conversations were having the desired effect. Kayaking and Rock Climbing groups swapped for another morning of adventure.

After lunch, some students stayed at camp for a presentation from a current Year 13 student from Pukekohe High school and then played a game of ripper rugby while the rest went on a bush walk to the mesmerising Waireinga (Bridal Veil Falls). At the base of the waterfall, down 256 steps we gathered to discuss our theme of relationships.

The native forest with trees of all shapes and sizes growing together in harmony, showed that by maintaining healthy relationships and seeking guidance from our elders, we provide support for the younger generations and we live lives of meaning and purpose. It is through workshops and discussions like these, that we develop our students' understanding and move them to apply what they learn.



The last night of any TRF camp is a time to celebrate the achievements of individuals and groups from the week gone by. At the start of the week our students were tasked with creating a five minute video News Report, that captured different activities, challenges and learnings from the beginning of camp.

The quality of videos which our students created was awesome! The laughs and memories captured will serve as a reminder of the time both Pukekohe High school and Rosehill College spent together at Raglan and the relationships created across schools will only get stronger as time goes by.

Up early to get our bags packed, ready to go. It was good to see the boys collaborating to pack down the tents and

loading the trailer. The time really did fly by. Some of our students wanted to stay longer, so they must have enjoyed themselves. We gathered for a closing discussion to wrap up our week at camp, with all of our students from Pukekohe and Rosehill sharing their last moments with a group photo.

The journey home was definitely much quieter, all the students were exhausted but happy. For the Coordinators and JB Graduates, it was so amazing to see the growth and connection between the schools, a great reflection of the positive relationships that were built.

Ultimately, this was the main purpose for the camp. A huge acknowledgment to the students who made this camp the success it was, by opening up and engaging as one family. Well done especially to Gideon Rihari for organising a great camp!



A beautiful end to a beautiful camp!

RELATIONSHIPS CAMP

LODGE



A mountain of MULCH!

The Rising Foundation was fortunate enough to be hosted by the Blue Light Lodge in Wairakei, Taupo. We took students from Papakura High School, Manurewa High School, and Sir Edmund Hillary Collegiate in Otara.

Taupo provided an amazing environment for us to work with our students on our theme of relationships. We highlighted interpersonal relationships and also our vital relationship with our environment. We shared about 'the door to your heart' and some of the psychology around vulnerability to relationships. We created genograms and eco-maps to help our students identify relationships they wished to work on. They wrote letters to key people in their lives and we even did some community work planting trees where our relationship with the earth was further reinforced, with good old fashioned manual labour. Many thanks to **Shawn Vennell** from **Greening Taupo** for this environmental opportunity!

Our students were exposed to a lot of new experiences, with the majority of them being first timers to the Taupo region.

Our students didn't realise that water so pristine and clear still existed in New Zealand, until they travelled up the river to the Huka Falls. They learned the difference between native bush and pine forest. They discovered what mulch was and they felt really cold for the first time this year with -2° starts each morning. Here is what our students had to say about their experiences:

"Something significant that I learned from camp was to be considerate about how others feel and that everyone is fighting a battle or is facing a 'Goliath; in their life'".

"This camp has helped me to understand my self-worth, and also helped me see what a good relationship should look like".

"This camp helped me grow as a young person, opening up and helping me know what to do when I hit the real world".

One student felt that camp was very different, but said that "we still pulled through with the happy ending. I strongly believe that at this camp the coordinators went above and beyond..."

All our schools have been afforded these activities and opportunities largely because of the generous support of **Trillian Trust** who fund our camps. We especially honour this relationship and are grateful for all the help they give us.

This camp has proven to be a pivotal learning point for both students and staff alike. The task of establishing, building, and maintaining stronger relationships within each respective school group, has become that much easier because of the breakthroughs we saw at this April Holiday camp.

We look forward to seeing the fruits of these deeper, more reflective relationships in the near future.



Every Camp is different and it's not just the activities or the photo opportunities that make the most difference. Our students get what they give. The degree of their contribution sets the degree of their experience.

Our students have learned that relationships are the same.

We get out what we put in. Both sides of the relationship need to give wholeheartedly for the arrangement to work.



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

THE PARTING SHOT

We want to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to the members of the **Papakura Lions Club** who went out of their way to involve us and support us through their **Annual Car Show** this year. Our team were given the opportunity to get involved in fundraising opportunities and to speak up about the work of The Rising Foundation in the local area. We have spoken to some of the Lion's Club members about becoming Volunteer Navigators to support our young learners on their road to gaining their full licence through our TRFDrive initiative. We love to work with our community and we so appreciate this new relationship and all the kind words and encouragement from the Lions Club team.



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 ten years that the programme has been running, we have seen 1579 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