

NEWS TERM THREE 2025

HI EVERYONE !

Even though the current economic climate persists, I only need to reflect on the work of TRF and our community of supporters to find heartening news each term.

I was very pleased to hear of the truly outstanding efforts of our friends at PepsiCo and in particular their new GM Lee Kent, Head of HR Tanya McFarlane and their partners at Eden Park.

I understand that the amazing tour they arranged for 40 of our students was even more comprehensive than those that their corporate investors experience! The Eden Park and PepsiCo/Bluebird Foods teams really pulled out the stops for our young people. We are very grateful for the world-class, workplace exposure and apprenticeship opportunities PepsiCo / Bluebird Foods have provided for us once again.

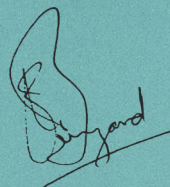
Another impressive opportunity came to us courtesy of our friends at Hawaiian Airways and Sea Cleaners. Hohepa Cope, one of our young leaders from Papakura High School was chosen to fly to Hawaii and join the crew of one of the Sea Cleaners dedicated vessels who worked to clean up some beaches and coastline as a special project. What an eye opening trip for Hohepa!

After some challenges around funding for camps, more than ever we recognise that every chance we get to hold a camp for our students is precious. This term saw our schools combine for a powerful and challenging week on the theme of CHOICE. The more we acknowledge the internal choices we make, the greater our sense of urgency and responsibility we grow into. Camps like this are vital to the work of preparing our students for a healthy adulthood.

Spring seems to be taking its time to settle in, but all the best and many thanks for your interest in our programme.

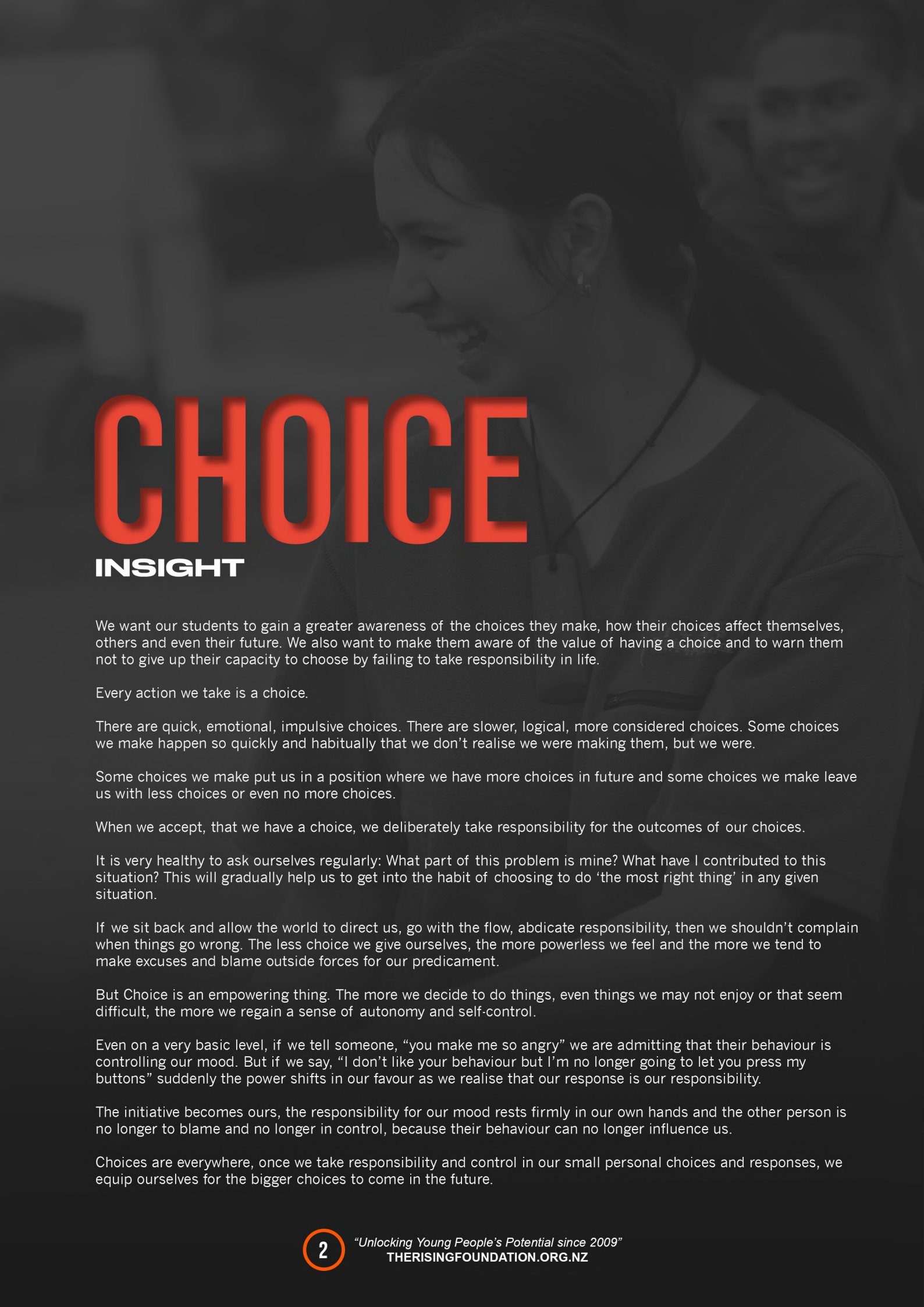
We look forward to a long hot summer and an improving economic situation for New Zealand.

Regards,
John



John Bongard - ONZM CRSNZ
Board Chairman, The Rising Foundation





CHOICE

INSIGHT

We want our students to gain a greater awareness of the choices they make, how their choices affect themselves, others and even their future. We also want to make them aware of the value of having a choice and to warn them not to give up their capacity to choose by failing to take responsibility in life.

Every action we take is a choice.

There are quick, emotional, impulsive choices. There are slower, logical, more considered choices. Some choices we make happen so quickly and habitually that we don't realise we were making them, but we were.

Some choices we make put us in a position where we have more choices in future and some choices we make leave us with less choices or even no more choices.

When we accept, that we have a choice, we deliberately take responsibility for the outcomes of our choices.

It is very healthy to ask ourselves regularly: What part of this problem is mine? What have I contributed to this situation? This will gradually help us to get into the habit of choosing to do 'the most right thing' in any given situation.

If we sit back and allow the world to direct us, go with the flow, abdicate responsibility, then we shouldn't complain when things go wrong. The less choice we give ourselves, the more powerless we feel and the more we tend to make excuses and blame outside forces for our predicament.

But Choice is an empowering thing. The more we decide to do things, even things we may not enjoy or that seem difficult, the more we regain a sense of autonomy and self-control.

Even on a very basic level, if we tell someone, "you make me so angry" we are admitting that their behaviour is controlling our mood. But if we say, "I don't like your behaviour but I'm no longer going to let you press my buttons" suddenly the power shifts in our favour as we realise that our response is our responsibility.

The initiative becomes ours, the responsibility for our mood rests firmly in our own hands and the other person is no longer to blame and no longer in control, because their behaviour can no longer influence us.

Choices are everywhere, once we take responsibility and control in our small personal choices and responses, we equip ourselves for the bigger choices to come in the future.



NEW ZEALAND'S NATIONAL STADIUM

We want to express our gratitude to Lee Kent, Tanya McFarlane and all the staff at PepsiCo / Bluebird Foods for partnering with The Rising Foundation over the past few years. We were so impressed by the thought, time and effort that went into organising an incredible behind-the-scenes tour of Eden Park for 40 of our students.

Our host, Austin Jones (Business Development Executive at Eden Park), welcomed us into one of the corporate boxes, where we met Lee Kent, the new General Manager of Bluebird Foods. Lee spoke about the responsible choices he made as a young man that set him up for success, inspiring our students to reflect on their own decisions and goals.

Students then split into small groups to visit key departments that make "The Fortress" run, from Security and Operations to IT, Facilities and Hospitality. Highlights included stepping onto the hallowed turf with Blair Christiansen, who shared insights from his upcoming FIFA assignment and climbing to the roof with Grant Medcalf from the Experiences team, which definitely pushed a few comfort zones!

We concluded the day with a presentation from Leah McDonald (Communications) and Austin, rounding off a memorable and inspiring experience. Our students gained a rare look into the teamwork and professionalism that bring major events to life each week at Eden Park.

As an added bonus, three of our students were invited back for an event-day apprenticeship, even catching a Monster Truck Rally up close.

A huge thank you to PepsiCo, Bluebird Foods and Eden Park for going above and beyond to give our young people such an unforgettable opportunity.



the RISING FOUNDATION

PEPSICO
FOUNDATION





SERIOUS ABOUT YOUR COMMUNITY

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



PAPAKURA
HIGH SCHOOL



ALL SCHOOLS CHOICE CAMP 2025

Our vision for this camp was to “renew the foundation”, as all cohorts had a lot of new and fresh students attending their first ever TRF Camp. With our theme being ‘Choices’, we had a goal to create an experience for our students to be challenged in their thinking, safe in their sharing and empowered with the right support, skills and tools to make well-informed decisions for their lives.

With the rainy weather throughout the week not allowing us to run some of our scheduled activities like archery, paintball and volleyball, we had to adjust and run some team-building activities, quizzes and karaoke, along with water-based activities provided by the camp like the mudslide, hydroslide and swimming pool, which challenged our students to push themselves physically, mentally and socially.

We also had multiple facilities to house each school during workshops run by our TRF staff and intimate school debriefs that allowed TRF the space to impart wisdom, knowledge and tools for better living. TRF students were given the chance to experience activities and teachings that they would otherwise never be exposed to. For some of our students, this was their first ever camp; other students were able to experience a camp with their sibling(s) and for others, it was their first time participating in activities such as archery and paintball.

This camp helped TRF to relay the importance of an attitude of gratitude when making decisions and taking every opportunity they can get. Our students have come away from this camp with tools and a greater awareness of the choices they make and how these choices affect not only themselves but those around them. These tools are not limited to a one-off experience but have the potential to ripple through TRF students to their families and into the wider community.





SEA CLEANERS



the **PARTING SHOT**

We want to show our gratitude to our recent partners Captain Hayden Smith from Sea Cleaners and Rusty Willis from Hawaiian Airlines for once again supporting our students. Hohepa Cope from our Papakura High School cohort joined them on a beach cleaning expedition in Hawaii. Thank you for this great opportunity.

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"
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