

the RISING FOUNDATION NEWS TERM TWO 2021

T2 Special!

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Many Thanks

Hi everyone

The highlight for Term 2 is always our Employment Pathways (Transition 2) Camp.

It was a pleasure for Diane and I to host a team of around 50 students and staff at our home the week before our camp. To be able to help set the scene for the week to follow was a real privilege for us both.



We both told our stories of our journey through life to date. To see the interest of the students in our journey was both respectful and genuine.

It reminded both of us of the importance of the employment pathways service that The Rising Foundation runs and the importance that TRF places on introducing our students to potential employment and avenues for tertiary education, that they may not have previously been aware of.

My thanks also to Andrew Bayly our local MP for Port Waikato who gave up his time to explain to our students the role of MPs and Government generally. The feedback from students was overwhelmingly positive.

There is extensive coverage of the Employment Pathways Camp in the body of this newsletter.

I would like to extend a very big thank you to Tiare, Wendy and Maria for all the hard work they have put in to make the camp such a huge success

Stay safe everyone.

Regards, *John*

John Bongard ONZM, CRSNZ
Board Chairman, The Rising Foundation

A Special edition

One lesson that we all have learned through the massive global events of the past year is to use the time we have at our disposal as effectively as possible. Winter has traditionally been a time of consolidation but this year our innovative Transition 2 Team (T2), led by our Employment Pathways Manager, Tiare Matara, decided to pull all the stops out for our students to give them the very best shot at success as they walk into their adult lives.

Our sharp and bright Seniors

As you will see, the majority of the activities TRF has organised this winter, have been aimed at responding to the needs and aspirations of our senior students. We have seen the difference it is making to their sense of confidence and the courage with which they are facing the future.



Unlocking Your Potential

Nick's a natural!

Kō Taupuri te maunga
Kō Waikato te awa
Kō Tainui te iwi
Kō Ngāti Mahuta te hapū
Kō taniwha te marae
Kō Nicholas Gregory ahau.

Hey, I'm Nick! I graduated from TRF in 2019 from Rosehill College. I stumbled across The Rising in Year 10 and have now been involved for six years.

I was born in Harpenden, a small town just outside of London, England. However Mum relocated to Manurewa, New Zealand due to terror attacks when I was one. I've lived there ever since.

During my time at Rosehill, I studied predominantly science and outdoor education classes. I'm interested in potential future innovation through these subjects, but I'm still deciding what I want to study and for the time being, I'm working as a butchers assistant.

My first memory of The Rising came in Year 10; walking past one of the meetings when one of my mates rushed inside, curious I asked "What's this?" They quickly answered "I got a Rising meeting, come if you want!" I wasn't too sure at first, then I saw the food! Since then, I've been to over 15 camps/excursions, met some of my closest mates, been given greater leadership opportunities and learned so much about myself.

The Rising taught me how to deal with obstacles and challenges as they came, through the use of critical thinking, insight and many other strategies. These key lessons during our lunchtime meetings became far more useful than I initially thought. The Rising prepared me for life outside of high school and now as a JB Grad, attending camps and seeing a new generation of future leaders growing together, the impact of the programme is even clearer.

If it wasn't for the encouragement and guidance of Gideon and the team, I wouldn't be in the position I am today. I have learned how to clearly communicate personal ideas, problems and solutions and identify personal weaknesses and flaws, to better myself. But more importantly, how to enjoy the moment; being present when surrounded by those you cherish making the most of each other's time, some of my strongest memories of high school were with The Rising, spending time with friends just making real connections.

The Rising has taught me to see people for their true selves, not at face value and appreciate them for who they can be. Now I'm so grateful that TRF brought out the best of me, seeing something within me I struggled to see myself.

Nick



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Unlocking Your Potential

The value of Social Enterprise

TRF Pukekohe

Outcomes:

Teamwork, goal setting, planning, organising - Synergy, Integrity, Creativity.

Our students at Pukekohe have been busy planning, organising and actioning their own social enterprise activities throughout Term 2. Students were given the opportunity to hold group fund-raisers and decide what they would like to use the proceeds for as a collective. Their profits will be used as an end of year celebration of their groups' efforts.

Our students thoroughly enjoyed the action of working as a team, creating strong connections and synergy between and within their groups. Our social enterprise experiences are important for our students, as they are engaging for them and keep them motivated to give.

Through their trial's and errors, our students have made some massive improvements as individuals and together as teams. Having the ability to reflect on their processes and learn new knowledge from each other, has been invaluable. Our social enterprise process teaches many of the basic skills needed for running a small business and is a great way to gently introduce our students to the real life challenges of turning a profit.

TRF Manurewa

We were excited to have the opportunity to raffle three brand new essential home Breville appliances. With these



appliances, the challenge was given to the Year 12 cohort to create a plan for a fundraiser. The students came up with the idea to raffle all the appliances for \$5.00 a ticket.

To promote this, the group made a 'hype promo video' of the appliances and also had an information sheet with all the features that people would need to know when they bought a ticket. This made it easier for all of the juniors who were selling tickets to the public. The Year 12 cohort created a spreadsheet to keep track of each ticket that was taken, sold, and presented this spreadsheet and the progress that was made weekly at every corporate meeting. The winner was announced on Instagram live with over 30 viewers anxiously waiting for their number to be pulled out of the bowl.

This fundraiser was a great learning curve for TRF MHS, as we do not usually get the opportunity to fundraise as much as the other TRF schools due to school rules. I am proud of the Year 12's and the massive effort they put into this fundraiser and also for the rest of the MHS TRF group for supporting the vision that the Year 12's had for this project.



Before the hangi is laid down, the TRF Pukekohe team put a lot of time into preparing the feast. Quality ingredients, quality product.



Two of our Year 12 students at Manurewa High School displaying the information sheets that made their sales more effective.

Steps on the Property Ladder



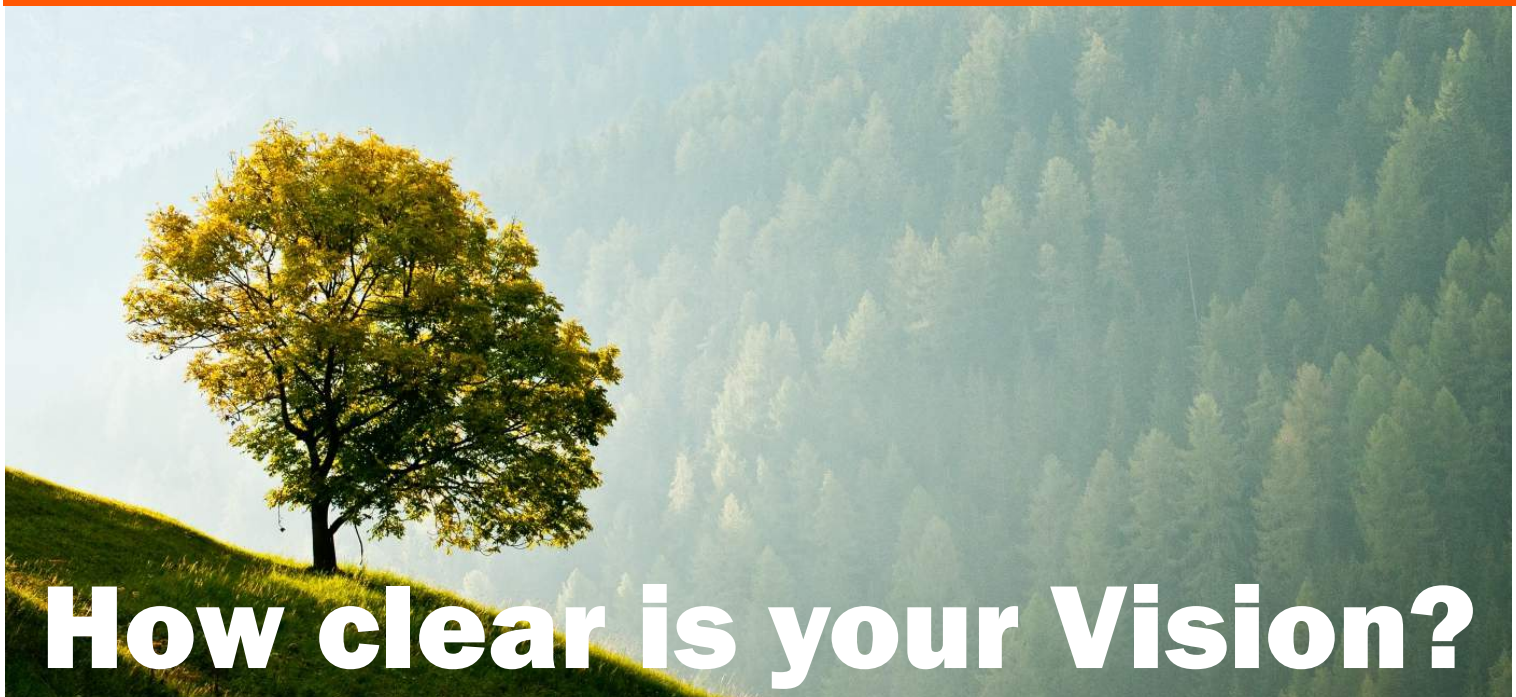
Our friends at Harcourts Papakura kindly hosted an enthusiastic group of our staff, students and programme alumni for an exclusive home ownership seminar which gave us practical advice and the motivation to thrive in the property market. It is a credit to the encouragement of TRF that we now see home ownership as a possibility.

The evening included conversations with key people involved in the process of buying a house. We met representatives from Papakura Budgeting Service, Mortgage Express, Rice Craig law firm and real estate experts. We are so grateful that these professionals were willing to take the time to inspire, encourage, educate and entertain us. We even had fun with a taste of auction bidding with Craig Stewart the Auctioneer!

While the housing market is booming and at times the dream of owning a home may seem out of reach, we were all encouraged to think ahead and become more focussed on the goal of saving for a deposit and finding ways to reduce the time we will be paying once we are on the ladder.

A special mention to Glenis and Corinne and their friendly team from Harcourts Papakura and Karaka for hosting a wonderful night filled with thought provoking insights and practical tips to motivate us. We really see the value in having these sessions and look forward to seminars for more of our TRF whanau in future.





How clear is your Vision?

Don't worry, this isn't an advert for an optometrist. This is a whole different kind of vision, the kind that gives us a future and guides us in life. Every time a trapper gets turned around in the bush it's wise to find a point of reference, some landmark in the distance, an outcrop of rocks, a lone tree on the ridge line. Having that reference point helps us keep on track, reassures us in those moments when we doubt our own sense of direction or when the terrain at our feet forces us off course.

The Rising Foundation chose Vision as one of our central themes for that very reason. When we have no vision for ourselves that just leaves us wandering in the woods, at the mercy of the terrain around us, squandering our time, resources and energy, trudging on blindly, walking in circles, losing hope.

P.K. Bernard said: "A man without a vision is a man without a future" and we encourage our students to cultivate a clear idea of the 'future self' that they want to grow into, not just their career goals or financial ambitions but their vision of the person they want to be, one they will need to be their best selves to accomplish.

When we start to see ourselves as we 'could' be and not as we are, we take our eyes off our feet and look up, into the distance to place ourselves in a future we are yet to build.

A vision is like a grappling hook that we throw out into the future and then, holding on to that rope of commitment to our vision, we haul ourselves in.

You might ask, how a 19 year old can possibly have a vision of his or her future? And it's true, when we are young we are still unclear about all we might become, we can't see our full potential.

But at The Rising Foundation, we help our students discover who they are now, what they are good at, what they are gifted in and we help them recognise and feel grounded in, where they come from and who they represent. From that solid ground they can set a realistic vision, a point of reference on their ridge line and once they get there, they will have all they learned and achieved on the way to equip them for their next goal. Do you have a vision? Or are you still stuck in the habit of walking in those same old circles?



TRANSITION 2

meaningful work for our rising generation

One important function of our **Transition 2 Service** is to organise trips to events that show our students the range of opportunities that await them following school. We want to highlight two recent trips which we feel were of particularly high value to our young people who attended.

The Careers Expo, held at the ASB Show Grounds, was a day filled with opportunities. We asked our young people to prepare questions to ask the different providers which added value to the day. The NZ Navy and Defence Forces, AJ Hackett Bungy, Geeves Scaffolding, New Zealand School of Tourism, Cut Above Hairdressing and the Make-up Academy were all popular exhibitors. Also various Universities had stalls there and those students who were interested in studying, were able to ask about their specific degree pathways.

Many students came away from the Expo having networked with various potential employers and gained a better understanding of the different careers and opportunities that are available to them. For Transition 2, observing and discussing events like this Expo with our young people, often gives us a first inkling of what their career pathway might be and where their interests and aspirations lay.

We also really enjoyed taking 40 of our students down to the **University of Waikato Open Day**, to get a sense of the campus environment and see some of the different degree, certificate and diploma opportunities on offer there. We split into groups and each was given the chance to choose different mini lectures to gain an overview of that degree. Students attended Business, Psychology and Criminology lectures.

There were also stalls promoting Early Childhood Education, Physical Education, Engineering and Technology. Each degree has a range of study options and specialties and there was real value in the conversations our students had with the exhibitors. It was a jam-packed day in Hamilton, but an awesome opportunity for our young people. Some can already see themselves studying at this great University in the near future. We recognise that studying in Hamilton suits some better than Auckland.



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

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Unlocking Your Potential

CAREERS CAMP 2021

To set the tone for our **Transition 2 Camp 2021** we took 50 of our senior students on a trip to the central Auckland home of our Founder and Board Chairman, John Bongard. We don't want our students to be afraid to aim high and we felt that it was important for them to see and hear the 'started at the bottom' stories and the got to the top experiences that help us all to see the possibilities in life. Thank you to John and Diane, and special guest MP for the Hunua/Port Waikato Electorate Andrew Bayly FRGS MP for sharing your words of wisdom.

Rather than explain how well the day went, we thought we would share the student's feedback of the afternoon:

"No matter the background, you can make it"

"Hard work pays off."

"You can always change your pathway in life but make sure it is something you like doing"

"Nothing is going to happen without you applying yourself outside your comfort zone."

"You're not given things, you work your way up no matter what"

To best prepare all our students for adulthood, we hosted a life skills day in areas we know are important and necessary. We felt that it was important that all our seniors left camp with a tangible document to help them get into 'stepping stone' jobs. They left with a certificate of completion and an up to date CV or Cover Letter.

Wendy hosted our Job Readiness workshop, this included a 'how to finesse a job interview' experience where students had the opportunity to partake in mock interviews. Micro skills like researching companies, job interview attire, importance of body language and the ability to think quickly on your feet while answering questions were other key teachings ensuring our young people were better prepared for a Job Interview and the workplace environment.

For our more 'hands on' learners our Automotive Workshop, hosted by **Gideon** and **Ted** broke up the day nicely and got our seniors outside and active as they focussed on car maintenance skills like changing a tyre, WOF and registration requirements and checking water/oil.



Some of our students enjoying the view from the balcony at John Bongard's house



Wendy Savieti presenting her CV and Interview Preparation Workshop

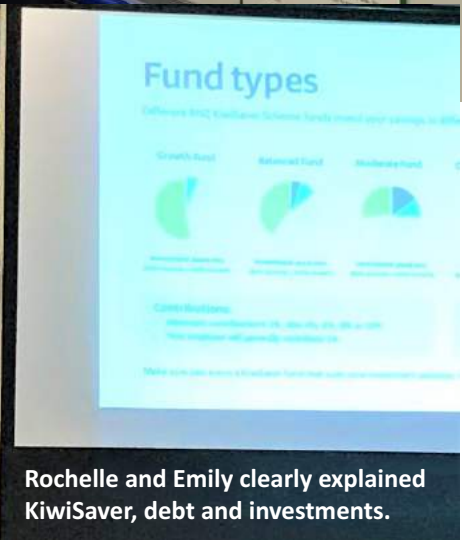
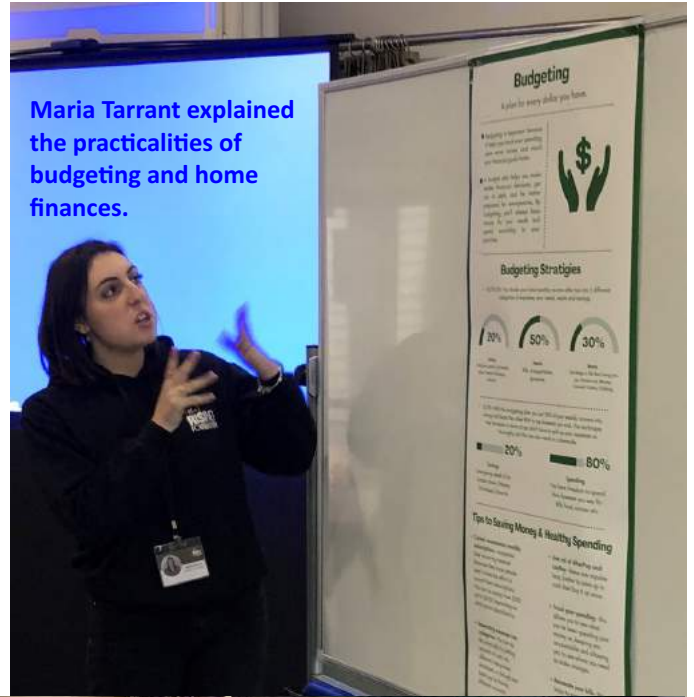


Gideon Rihari and Ted Heta tested our students' automotive knowledge in their outdoor workshop.

In collaboration with BNZ, **Maria's** Financial Literacy Workshop that gave a thorough overview of debt, the harm it can cause, how to get out of it and the importance of saving and budgeting with different budgeting schemes and tips on how to use your bank accounts more effectively. Understanding the decisions one can make around their personal finances is so important for our young people, as they transition into adulthood and this workshop really opened up the conversations about how they can be confident and mindful moving forward.

A massive thank you to Rochelle and Emily from BNZ for bringing their banking expertise. In particular their overview of KiwiSaver, why it's important and the different types of funds, was of great value to the students as most of them expressed this was the first they had ever been taught about KiwiSaver.

All the workshops were dynamic with some games, activities and quizzes so as to not overload the students with too much information.



Rochelle and Emily clearly explained KiwiSaver, debt and investments.

Thank you to **Saia** and **Julia** from **PeopleForPeople** for hosting our second 'Vaka Experience' Showcasing Technology in Construction for Pasifika and Maori students. We want to acknowledge: RCP, AsBuilt, Warren and Mahoney, Mott McDonald and the Keystone Trust for opening their doors to us.

Students were invited to listen in on presentations and office tours in construction and project management, architecture, digital visualisation, engineering consultancy and much more. Check out our Instagram feed for more about this trip.

The word "exposure" was a key theme for the Vaka trip, as these professions were all new to our students. A Pukekohe High School student was so inspired by our beautiful Samoan sister from Keystone Trust that she now wants to work in construction management. We also have three more students seriously looking into architecture because our Samoan brothers from Warren and Mahoney shared about using their professional skills and the resources they generate, to design and build their parents' a house of their own back home in the Islands. This is a dream for so many of our students.



We ended our day with **Bailey** and **Amina** from **Odyssey** with their honest and informative talk on harm reduction in the realm of alcohol and drugs.

This led to a very genuine and impacting question time about this important subject that impacts the lives and families of many young people in Aotearoa.

Our AUT South Campus Tour to begin our day with our very own graduate **Ben Abela** spearheading the visit. Next stop was the Pacific Media Network office in Manukau checking out the 531.pi studio, the Niufm studio and finishing off with some heartfelt, encouraging words from each of the team in the network was a beautiful experience.

Here are a few words recapping the day from our students:

“It was great seeing our Polynesian people set the path for others who want to become architects”

“Learning about how Keystone Trust actually care and support the mental health of the young people they sponsor to be architects and engineers.”

The next morning began early with outdoor fitness as required by NZ Police, then back for a workshop hosted by Sgt Wayne Paxton and his unit along with some inspiring conversations followed by a VR experience.

Here’s how our students responded to the Police workshop:

“It was great hearing them talk so passionately about their job and what they love about helping us.”

“This was such an eye opener and I really learned a lot from it. I learned that what is shown in the media is only half of the full story, yet Officers will always suffer the consequences of what others say. Even though they may look intimidating, they are people too.”

“I misunderstood them a lot by comparing them to the US Police”.

“I liked how they gave us a new perspective on what they do.”

“My favourite workshop of the week was the Police talk: The female officer showed me the difference between what people think of them and what they actually are.”

We then had **Vadim** and his team from **Geeves Scaffolding** with a great presentation, perfect for our 'hands-on' students who got to test the tools, climb on the scaffold and use the safety equipment.



Bailey and Amina helped our young people think clearly about their choices regarding alcohol and substances

Substance addiction awareness training has come a long way from the ‘Just say no!’ days. Odyssey recognises that some young people or their family members are facing these challenges and aim to help them minimise the harm that substances do to their lives and their futures.



What a privilege we had to enjoy a behind the scenes tour of the Pacific Media Network in Manukau. What a wonderful service they give to Pasifika communities around the world.



Sgt Wayne Paxton and his team gave us a genuine insight into what life as a Police Officer is and were very open to the questions from our young people.

Here's what our rangatahi had to say about the PMN trip:

“Never use your situation as an excuse or where you come from.”

“Find a job where you don't feel like you're working.”

“If you choose hope, anything is possible.”

“To not use South Auckland, the place where you come from, as an excuse to not succeed in life.”

“Find a job you are passionate about, a job where it feels like home.”

“I AM ENOUGH”

“Don't let coming from South Auckland be an excuse!”

“I learned to always remember your 'why' and that hard work conquers all. You can't sit around and expect your life to fall together.”

“My favourite visit was the radio station because I love music and I enjoyed meeting and learning about the radio. I learned that it does not matter about skin colour. I learnt to not let anyone tell me differently and to focus on myself”

The Grand Finale was our very first **Student Symposium**. To end off a spectacular week, students were tasked with preparing and presenting a speech articulating their vision for themselves with confidence and conviction.

Public speaking and in fact, effective communication skills in general, are vital. Learning to think clearly makes you act effectively in the world. Thinking enables you win the 'battles' you undertake in life, these can be battles for GOOD things. If you can think, speak and write effectively, you can be absolutely 'deadly' as you fight life's battles. You beat your competition, you can even beat your own bad habits and nothing can get in your way.

Our congratulations to every single student who stood up on stage and spoke from the heart, cried without embarrassment and spoke proudly in their mother tongue.

We applaud you all!! That wraps up our Transition 2 Careers Camp coverage from the week. Thank you for all the support from our sponsors, providers, organisations and companies who welcomed us in. You gave our students a week they will never forget and one that has equipped them for their journey ahead.



Our Seniors group in the amazing 'wav. room' at the Pacific Media Network

Something for the Juniors

Word gets around in the TRF whanau and with the success of a Senior Adulthood/Careers camp the Junior students wouldn't let us get away without arranging something for them too! So the Junior excursion week was an added bonus to the Term 2 school holiday break. It allowed us, as Programme Coordinators, to engage with our juniors and devote some time and attention just for them. They loved it!

Our 1st day was filled with joy and exercise as we participated in an Amazing Race around the Auckland CBD facilitated by Billie Paterson. This was such a cool day because many of the students were challenged to do activities that they wouldn't usually do - like human pyramids in public, interviewing members of the public about our Four Pillars and even singing a song with passers by. It was very pleasing to see the students and staff get involved and enjoy their time together as a big family.

We spent Day 2 at our Embassies and involved the students in tidying and shifting furniture around in these rooms that they see as their own spaces. This was awesome because it built a sense of ownership in our Juniors and allowed them to interact with us with no Seniors around. Manurewa High School and Sir Edmund Hillary students also enjoyed spending the day at the Pukekohe Embassy. I was impressed to see so many of our students willing to take time out during their school holidays to be with us and do some hard work. That's loyalty!

Day 3 was our final excursion a chance to really get away from everything and completely relax. Life for our young ones carries a lot of stress and tension with it and we deliberately break that cycle from time to time. We spent this day at Parakai Springs and this day was one of my highlights.

The fun started early being stuck in Auckland traffic with music playing, surprisingly set the tone for the rest of the day. The van was filled with laughter and high spirits from our young students and we even saw some positive attitudes from the people in the vehicles around because they could see the joy in our students.

We arrived at the pools and it was great to see the coordinators with their students just having those meaningful conversations and being in an environment away from the busyness and pressure of their lives. I believe these excursions gave us the motivation to finish the year on the best note with our Juniors.



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 SHOT

A special mention to Don Mann our dynamic trustee and CEO of the Pacific Media Network who challenged our young people to know where they are from and use their identity as a foundation for their future and stand up with pride and courage to embrace the opportunities in life.

Many of our students found the day at PMN the most inspiring and affirming part of the whole Transition 2 Camp and we wish to honour the integrity and passion of Don and his amazing 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 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.

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Unlocking Your Potential