

the
RISING
FOUNDATION
NEWS
TERM 3 & 4 2020

SUMMER SUMMARY

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Many Thanks

Hi everyone,

Wow what a year!

At the beginning of 2020 who would have thought that the world would be shaken by a pandemic that significantly changed the way we go about our everyday lives?

The year threw out challenges to us all, that we would never have contemplated going into the new decade.

My highlight by far for the year, has been to observe and support our amazing staff as they adjusted their routines and norms to cater with a COVID-19 world. I am continually amazed at the agility and resilience of our staff and students and their capability to change behaviours and pivot practices, to accommodate huge changes in forced community behaviours. The two Auckland lockdowns certainly tested this resilience, but our team and students came through that challenge in good heart and indeed stronger!

My thanks and admiration go to all!

Another highlight for me was, of course, our Graduation Ceremony where we celebrated the success of our students leaving the in-school portion of our programme.

28 graduates this year with 18 going to University or other Tertiary Institutions. This is a reflection of the hard work and dedication of each student that "got there" in spite of the disruption of lockdowns and school closures.

Our annual Race Day was again, a huge success! After having to cancel our original March Race Day, we finally got to hold the event at Ellerslie Race Course on December 5th. We were delighted to have raised a record breaking \$70,000 on the day.

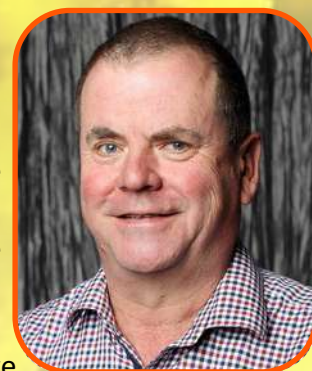
My thanks go to all of our amazing Race Day sponsors, corporate table supporters and family and friends for their support on the day. I also need to acknowledge the incredible work that my wife Diane puts into the organising of the day and the help she gets from Donna, our staff and students on the day.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a fantastic Christmas time with your whanau and let's hope 2021 brings a more settled and stable new year!

Have a great holiday break.

Regards,
John

John Bongard ONZM, CRSNZ
Board Chairman, The Rising Foundation



BIG TED

Tuhia ki te rangi
Tuhia ki te whenua
Tuhia ki te ngakau o nga tangata
Ko te mea nui
Ko te aroha
Tihei (wa) Mauri Ora!

Ko Te Ranui Heta toku ingoa
Ko Tokatoka toku maunga
Ko Kaipara toku moana
Ko Arapaoa toku awa
Ko Mahuhu Ki Te Rangi toku waka
Ko Waihaua toku marae
Ko Kirihipi toku Whare
Ko Te Uri O Hau toku hapu
Ko Ngati Whatua toku iwi
Ko Haumoewhairangi te Rangatira o te rohe
Tenei pepeha I te taha toku whaea



Kia Ora,

My name is Te Ranui Heta most commonly known as Ted. I am a 2012 J.B. Graduate from Papakura High School. I am of Maori descent hailing from the 'naughty' North Ngati Whatua no Nga Puhi. I was born in the greatest era of all time "THE 90s", Wednesday 17th August 1994 at 02:36am to be exact!!! I was born in the Greenlane National Women Hospital Creche and grew up in Papakura, Otara and Mount Wellington. I joined The Rising Foundation in 2011 during the re-branding period from Te Roopu Kākano to The Rising Foundation.

At first, I only joined the programme because my friends were there and food was available (The struggle was ultra-real back then) and because they went on camps that were crazy cool! Then I attended a camp at the Nga Hau E Wha Marae in Pukekohe.

This was probably the least exciting camp for everyone else who attended it, but for me this camp was a revelation because it made me realise what an important example I was for my niece who also attended the camp. Suddenly my attitude toward The Rising Foundation changed and it wasn't just friends and food anymore. I realised that this group was a place I could learn quality and key principles for me to apply and unlock my full potential and be a positive influence on my family, friends and the community around me.

I'm so grateful for two things The Rising Foundation has equipped me with:

1. The ability to communicate clearly! I am grateful for this because with the ability to communicate I am capable of building quality relationships that I can gain value from and also instil value through them into others.
2. The opportunity to experience what life looks like outside of the reality of Auckland. The Rising Foundation exposed me to the bigger picture of what life could really be about once I began being the best I could be.

If I can leave an encouragement for our families and students, that are on the journey of being a valued part of The Rising Foundation, it would be along the same lines as something Sir Edmund Hillary Collegiate Programme Coordinator Jarrahmal Tanielu said once at camp: "Knowledge without action is meaningless and action without knowledge is foolishness"

Bless you all!!!!!!!

Te Ranui (Ted)

2

Unlocking Your Potential

Papakura Embassy Opening

One of the real joys of working with The Rising Foundation is being embraced by the communities we serve. Our Coordinators and many of our board members were born and raised in the communities we work in, there is a deep connection with each of our partner schools. None more so than Papakura High School which is where our Founder, John Bongard went to school and where our programme first took root in 2009.

This year the leadership of Papakura High School decided to demonstrate the depth of our relationship, and the importance of our programme to the school, by granting us exclusive use of a building on the school property.

To commemorate this important milestone in the history of our programme we asked Auckland Mayor, Phil Goff to unveil the plaque, naming the Room The Rising Foundation Papakura Embassy, and Matua Alan Kukutai to bless the building in keeping with the Tikanga and on behalf of our local Iwi.

We are so grateful for all our friends, sponsors and students who turned up on a rainy morning to begin this new chapter with us at Papakura High.



Matua Alan Kukutai blessing our building



Mayor Phil Goff unveiling the plaque



Sarah Lady Fay, Principal John Rohs, Matua Alan Kukutai, John Bongard, Auckland Mayor Phil Goff, Diane Bongard, Don Mann, John Wardrop



Auckland Mayor Phil Goff with some of The Rising Foundation students from Papakura High School

IDENTITY CAMP 2020

"If we don't know who we are, we can't know where we are going!"

Once every year we get together with students from all of our schools for our Term 3 Adventure Camp. Finding a venue big enough for us all is becoming a struggle, but its a great problem to have and thankfully our old friends at Tui Ridge near Rotorua opened their doors to us once again.

After a year like 2020 it was a huge joy and relief to get out of Auckland, blow the Covid-19 cobwebs away and enjoy an active and exciting week in wonderful, natural surroundings. Hidden away on the massive Tui Ridge property, we could focus on our brilliant students and almost forget all the craziness of the year.

Our theme this year was IDENTITY - a vital set of understandings that our team went all out to present clearly, to our students. We try to cater to all learning styles and we gear our workshops and presentations to an adolescent attention span and intersperse our teaching with lots of fun and challenging activities. This camp was a lively celebration of who we are as individuals, and a clear recognition of the pivotal place of culture and family influence in all of our lives. Our identity is the launchpad for our adult life.



It's vital for the development of every young person, to have the opportunity to find and express who they are as individuals.

Who are you? Who will you become?

Inspired by the groundbreaking work of renowned German-American Psychologist Erik Erikson and his Life Stages, we introduced our students to the important concept of Identity Acquisition. Erikson explained that if a person is unable to discover their identity and their role in life during their adolescent years, this has a detrimental affect on them heading into adulthood.

We only need to look around to see the effects of a few generations of directionless young adults - trying to make big decisions regarding their careers, their values and their long term relationship from a place of personal confusion.

Our work is centered on preventing many of the emotional and behavioural disasters that young people wander into. By ensuring our students have all they need to acquire healthy identities, we help them avoid so much future pain and regret. We use this precious five year 'window' productively, to equip our students to enter adult life in a happy and confident frame of mind, where they make good choices and unlock the huge potential they have.

In our current society, so much energy and resource is focussed on fixing our young people after life has broken them. Our passion is to help them grow to be resilient and capable, so that they never get broken in the first place. Guiding them to know who they are and be sure about where they are going, is a huge part of our work.



Take the time to really look closer and you will see all the greatness in us.



Unlocking Your Potential

TRANSITION²

meaningful work for our rising generation

Despite the Covid-19 restrictions limiting the scope of what we could achieve this year, we still have a lot to celebrate now and look forward to in 2021. We want to congratulate our Pukekohe High and Rosehill College Year 11 students who have gained their Learner's Licences. Each student has attended a workshop with the team and studied for the test using their workbooks and official test quiz vouchers.



It may be hard to understand the difference having a Driver's Licence makes to the young people we work with, but it opens doors to a wider range of career options and it gives them something tangible to aim at and achieve in the final years of their schooling. Even the simple experience of going for a test surrounded by your friends, makes all the difference in the confidence and attitude of our students as they face the challenge of passing tests.



This is a real 'rite of passage' moment for them, and a solid boost to their self-reputation. A huge thank you to **The Foundation North – Pacific Future Makers Fund**, the **Working Together Group**, **Harcourts Foundation** and **Aalayya Waja** for generously supporting our Driver's Licencing Initiative.



In collaboration with **Get Ahead Financial Services**, we hosted our Financial Literacy Workshop for our Year 12 and 13 students. Our students learned many new and applicable skills. Key concepts of the day included: budgeting, debt management, avoiding loan sharks, understanding interest rates and asset depreciation. Thanks to Russell, our facilitator, our students are now well equipped to make informed financial decisions. Its exciting to see our young people undergoing real-world, practical preparation for their transition into the world of work.



TRANSITION 2

Our ongoing relationship with the lovely team at ICE, means that we can prioritise our student's specific needs and expose them to the careers that interest them.

Tatiana Tonumaivao has aspirations to study for a Bachelor's Degree in Global Studies with the University of Auckland next year. She has completed a two week placement with the Fred Hollows Foundation who help to "put an end to avoidable blindness in the Pacific", a great way to gain real world context for her studies.

Sooi Esau has completed a week-long placement with Auckland City Hotel. As Sooi has enrolled for Tourism College next year, this is a good opportunity to experience hotel management, one of the many branches of the tourism industry.

Some TRF Work success stories

Sonny Maeva was part of our group at Papakura High School. We have journeyed with him and he has now completed a Level 4 Certificate in Sport and Recreation at the Manukau Institute of Technology. We supported him to produce a quality CV and apply for jobs in this field.

Sonny had a successful interview with Gymcity Papatoetoe and is currently volunteering with their Term 3 holiday programme, which will lead to a paid role there working with young children. He aspires to be a personal trainer, so this is the perfect opportunity to get a start in the community fitness sector. Well done Sonny, we are proud of you!

Sela Pohiva is a JB Graduate from Papakura High School. Her career aspirations are to study for a Bachelor of Psychology and help our Pasifika communities to access better mental health services. We have supported Sela with job interview preparation support, University applications, studylink support and pastoral care. As Sela awaits next year's AUT openings, she is employed with Pharmacy Wholesalers Limited in Wiri. Sela says: "Thanks for everything T2! Honestly don't know where I'd be without you guys!"



The **Transition 2** team is flexible and multi-talented. We definitely punch above our weight with the numbers of students and graduates we serve and the lengths we are prepared to go to, to make sure they find work or further education that truly suits them and pays them well. We have also developed a pretty good body of online resources to support our taura. Search for **The Rising Foundation** on Facebook or Instagram and you will find the constant stream of relevant and straightforward advice and encouragement our young people benefit from. Below are a few examples of our recent posts.

Education is the FOUNDATION

Upon which we build our FUTURES

“SINCE HIGH SCHOOL, I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO BECOME A POLICE OFFICER. BEING WITH TRF MADE ME SEE THINGS ARE THAT BEYOND OUR CONTROL. I KNEW THAT IF I BECAME ONE, I COULD HELP BEYOND THE SCHOOL GATES. THIS IS HELPING MY COMMUNITY IN A DIFFERENT WAY.”

Constable Grace Rangi

“THE BEST PART OF MY JOB, IS THE KIDS AYE. THE BEST KINDS OF KIDS ARE THE ROUGH ONES, THAT SORT OF FALL THROUGH THE CRACKS. THEY ARE MY FAVOURITE BECAUSE THEY AREN'T REALLY GIVEN THE TIME OF DAY. I THINK THAT'S ALL THEY NEED. IF YOU CAN BE THAT PERSON FOR THEM, THAT'S A SUCCESS FOR ME.”

Asotasi Faataga

TRANSITION CAMPS - New Seeds!

During November we took two groups of Year 8's from Pukekohe Intermediate and Pukekohe North, Conifer Grove School and Opaheke School, as well as some of our current Students from Pukekohe High School and Rosehill College, to Raglan for our annual transition camp. The activities ranged from rock climbing to kayaking, beach activities and student led workshops.

Each year we see our young High School leaders flourish in response to the challenge of leading the Year 8's. This year has been no exception. Our senior leaders were able to connect strongly with our Year 8's, to the extent that they were nicknamed "Aunties" and "Uncles". We are very proud of the level of maturity our seniors demonstrated to the Year 8's and the depth in their observations within their groups and the level of discussion between them, as they worked out how to solve any dilemmas they encountered. Our Year 8's are always charismatic, enthusiastic and open to the experience. As the days went by, they grew closer through the activities and downtime conversations. Our camps are organised and structured, but it is the students who always breathe life into the week. We are very proud of the change we have seen in all of them during these camps and look forward to the future.

We'd like to say a heartfelt thank you to Gideon Rihari, our Programme Coordinator (PC) from Rosehill College, who has been a massive help to us: guiding our students through his cool workshops with a booklet he designed to help leaders prepare for their roles as leaders. Also to Aviata Tanielu PC from Sir Edmund Hillary Collegiate, who came down with his friend Ted to totoko us after a late night at his own school's prize giving. Thanks to Jordan Tanielu, our PC from Manurewa High School who joined us for the Rosehill Transition Camp. Finally, thank you to our amazing JB Graduate volunteers, just their presence heightens the experience as they get to know our Year 8's. We are extremely thankful for them.

These two, four-day camps were filled with high vibes, meaningful growth and lifelong memories. We look forward to seeing our new babies arrive in TRF at Pukekohe and Rosehill next year! Welcome to the Whanau !!



A huge THANK YOU to
ANZ Staff Foundation
For sponsoring these camps.

THE YEAR IN SMILES

Some images to convey the life, joy, hope and resilience of the TRF community



Unlocking Your Potential

TRF Graduation 2020

This year's graduation ceremony was as much a celebration of endurance and tenacity, as it was an acknowledgement of the service our Graduates have given to The Rising Foundation over the years. These are all excellent young people and we were able to mark the end of their involvement in our High School programme with great joy and pride at their achievements.

This year we had the added excitement of being able to offer them the services of our Transition 2 team, who are ready and waiting to support and guide our graduates as they make their first steps towards their adult lives and meaningful careers.

Holding the title of JB Graduate is a privilege that only a few earn each year, and identifies those who have wholeheartedly embraced the values and principles of TRF.

These are responsible, capable and very employable young people and they are also well equipped to help our team as volunteers on our camps, excursions and events.

We were especially encouraged to see a large number of family members, our faithful funders, supporters and school representatives who came to celebrate with our Graduates and wish them well. It was particularly heartwarming to see a big group of our Juniors who turned up to cheer for their 'big brothers and sisters'.



Our Founder and Board Chairman, John Bongard ONZM, CRSNZ



Above: Our MC for the evening Ted Heta. Below: Great food and a great venue.



Above: Some of our committed junior students who turned out to support the Graduates. Below: Some of our faithful supporters representing our families and partner schools.



WE SALUTE OUR 2020 TRF GRADUATES



From the top: Our Graduates from Pukekohe High School, with Coordinators Billie and Shani. Manurewa High School with their Coordinator, Jordan, making a big entrance! Papakura High School with Eddie their Coordinator and Sir Edmund Hillary Collegiate supported by Current Coordinator Aviata, Former Coordinator Feleti and beloved members of the SEHC Teaching Faculty. We are so excited to see what the future holds for all of you!





What a day at the races!

The Rising Foundation's annual Ellerslie Race Day has grown to be a favourite event, with more guests arriving to enjoy this fabulous day out each year.

The Cuveé Lawn at Ellerslie was a hit with our 300+ guests and despite all the challenges of 2020 we were delighted to see so many of you join us to make this our biggest and best Race Day ever!

There are always so many people to thank in putting together our major fundraiser for the year:

To Bill Heap at the Auckland Racing Club – you are the one that makes this happen for us with your wholehearted support. TRF would also like to acknowledge Alex Biggs and your wonderful catering staff who served us with a smile throughout the day.

Our wonderful sponsors, who we have highlighted on the following page, added huge value to an already wonderful celebration.

Stephen Stuart, once again, did an awesome job as our MC and a huge thank you to our auctioneer, Kevin Hickland, who has an amazing knack of extracting every last dollar of value for our prizes.

Also, a big thank you to Alex, Donna and our TRF staff and students for helping out on the day, decorating the venue, distributing wristbands and selling raffle tickets.

And last, but by no means least, grateful thanks to our lovely friends and family who support us year upon year. You are all a huge encouragement to John and I.

Merry Christmas from the TRF Board: John and Diane Bongard, Richard Jeffery, Lady Sarah Fay, Don Mann, Sam Bongard, Kay Spencer, and John Wardrop. And our Team: Alex, Donna, Tiare, Gideon, Aviata, Jordan, Wendy, Billie, Eddie, Maria & Shani and our 250+ wonderful students.





A Special Thanks to all the Sponsors of

Auckland Racing Club

The Annual Rising Foundation Ellerslie Race Day 5th of December 2020

Our Amazing Race Sponsors



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Events Centre

Vector **Wero**
Whitewater Park



Westinghouse



Chartered Accountants



Electrolux

Our Wonderful Corporate Sponsors



skills.
Grow by growing others

KITCHEN THINGS
THE SPECIALIST IN PREMIUM EUROPEAN COOKING APPLIANCES



Our Generous Prize Sponsors and our Live and Silent Auction Sponsors



Fisher & Paykel



Breville

intersea



FORREST

SCOTTIES



Our Raffle Sponsor

KITCHEN THINGS
THE SPECIALIST IN PREMIUM EUROPEAN COOKING APPLIANCES

We very much look forward to your support again next year.

With Your help we raised:

\$70,000!

THE PARTING SHOT



Keeping it Local!

We just wanted to take a moment to acknowledge the generous support of a local business who decided to get behind **The Rising Foundation** in their neighbourhood.

The **Harcourts Papakura Karaka** team chose to support our students and the Programme at **Papakura High School** and **Rosehill College** (pictured here) just because they saw the good work we are doing and wanted to be part of helping our community.



Corinne, Glenis and their team from Harcourts with some of the TRF Rosehill College group. Your support is much appreciated!



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 over 1,600 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