

TERM ONE NEWSLETTER

Hi everyone

Welcome to our Term 1 newsletter, a term that has set a strong and inspiring tone for the year ahead.

We were proud to attend the opening of our new office space. A significant milestone that strengthens our ability to support our students and the wider community. This achievement would not have been possible without the generous support of Trillian Trust and Blue Light Trust. Their investment in our vision is making a meaningful difference, and we are deeply grateful.

Our staff leadership camp early in the term was another highlight, bringing our team together to align, grow, and set a clear direction for 2026. The energy and commitment coming out of this camp have laid a powerful foundation for the work we do.

Following Easter, we held our Term 1 Vision Camp, an impactful experience focused on helping students develop a clear and personal vision for their future. From career pathways to personal growth and life aspirations. It was inspiring to hear details of our young people engaging with purpose and enthusiasm to the challenges that were set.

The success of this camp reinforces just how important it is to create space for reflection, goal-setting, and belief in what's possible.

We also extend our sincere thanks to the Rotary Club of Half Moon Bay for hosting another outstanding charity golf day. Their continued support plays a vital role in enabling the work we do, and we are incredibly appreciative of their partnership.

As we move further into the year, we carry forward the momentum, gratitude, and vision that term 1 has provided.

Regards
John Bongard



John Bongard - ONZM CRSNZ
Board Chairman, The Rising Foundation



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VISION

CREATIVITY

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.

We 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 an adolescent 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 we commit to helping 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 footing 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?



SUMMER LEADERSHIP CAMP

To start 2026 off right, TRF returned to the scenic Institute of Awesome near Raglan for our Summer Leadership Camp. Welcoming another group of our core students for a week of growth and connection. The camp focused on reflection of 2025, leadership development, vision casting, and giving students the space to review their achievements and set goals for the year ahead both individually and collectively.

Through a mix of activities and workshops, our students were encouraged to reflect and share whakaaro, exploring their personal strengths, values and aspirations. This process helped to strengthen their leadership skills, build deeper relationships with peers and gain confidence to take ownership of their lives and their roles as TRF Leaders. The supportive environment encouraged open discussion, self-discovery and the sharing of ideas, helping students to better understand themselves and the impact they can have within their schools and community.

Stepping away from the routines and distractions of daily life, the serene setting of the Institute of Awesome provided the perfect backdrop for personal growth and reflection. Being immersed in nature and having the students locked in, created lasting memories and forged meaningful connections with each other. The camp was not only an opportunity to pause and set goals for the year ahead, but also a powerful experience in building resilience, confidence and purpose as emerging school leaders.



SERIOUS ABOUT YOUR COMMUNITY

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

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THE ANNUAL CHARITY AMBROSE GOLF DAY

TWENTY 26



26 TEAMS - 104 PLAYERS

The Rotary Club of Half Moon Bay has proudly hosted its Annual Charity Ambrose Golf event at Pakuranga Golf Club for 28 years. This is the fifth consecutive year that we have been named charity of choice. The turnout was nothing short of amazing, with 26 teams and 104 players taking part, alongside the dedicated Rotary Club volunteers, the day was a tremendous success.

It was a perfect day for golf, with players enjoying ideal conditions out on the course. After an enjoyable round, everyone gathered for a delicious meal prepared by the club's wonderful catering team, bringing the event to a fitting close.



We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to our returning hole sponsors and loyal supporters who continue to stand by us year after year. Your ongoing commitment plays a vital role in the success of our Ambrose golf event, and we truly appreciate the trust and enthusiasm you bring each time.

We would also like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all of our players for taking the time to support this event. Your participation, enthusiasm, and generosity are at the heart of what makes the day so special.

Rotary
Half Moon Bay



the **RISING FOUNDATION**



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A very special thank you also goes to the many wonderful companies and wider golf clubs who generously donated items to our silent auctions. Your contributions added incredible value and excitement to the event. In particular, we are extremely grateful to the eight different golf clubs that donated green fees and carts as prizes. This level of support significantly elevated the quality and appeal of our auction offerings, helping to create a memorable experience for all involved.

Finally, a huge thank you goes out to the incredible Rotary Club members who dedicate their time and effort year after year to make this event possible. Their hard work and commitment are instrumental in ensuring that The Rising Foundation can continue supporting our rangatahi in the community, encouraging them to unlock their full potential and build a brighter future.

Thank you all for your generosity and continued support-it truly makes a difference.



THE BASE.

It is a real pleasure to be officially settled into our new base. The building was formally opened on the 17 th March 2026 and this marks another very necessary milestone on the 17 year journey of The Rising Foundation.

As always our focus has been firmly fixed on the needs of our students and our school based staff. Our administrative team have willingly come last when it came to location.

OFFICIAL OPENING
17-03-2026





Initially we worked out of the Library at Papakura High School, then we were able to share the offices at Teale Metal Products until a couple of containers at the excellent Momentum Hub facility became available, finally our friends at Blue Light offered us space at their Youth Centre in Papakura.

Due to the expansion of the Blue Light team, it recently became necessary for us to source a dedicated space and with the help of our long-term supporters at Trillian Trust and the generosity of Blue Light we were able to open our independent Base at the Papakura Centre.



We still have access to all the facilities and spaces that the centre offers, but with a little more freedom and autonomy to operate and accommodate everything that our innovative and flexible team needs to keep operating smoothly.

It was a great day and it's great to have a place to call our own – please feel free to visit us whenever you are in the area.



TERM ONE VISION CAMP

Our theme for last term was Vision. Our camp was designed to bring awareness of and encourage exploring what each child's vision is in life. Helping students understand and explore their families' vision, where it began, and guiding them into reflecting on and deciding the vision they want to carry into the future.

Teaching the purpose and importance of having a vision, the consequences of not having a vision, and everything in between. We believe that Vision is directly related to purpose and identity. Having decided to touch on purpose and identity along with this theme, it presented the strongest and highest level of content that our students are deserving of.

This camp allowed us the opportunity to provide a focussed space, for all of our TRF students to learn about the importance of having a Vision and everything that comes with it.

Retreating away to a different environment often helps in getting our students to think deeply and critically about the teaching content. Marsden Point Christian Camp gave us the best possible time to support our students in their bid to think critically about the future they want to have and the legacy they want to leave.



All students attended presentations and workshops exploring what it means to have a vision, what life looks like without one, and how it impacts others, while also enjoying the campsite activities.



Overall Term 1 Vision Camp was a success and we are looking forward to continuing the momentum with our tamariki for Term 2.





the PARTING SHOT

It's a real pleasure to now be officially settled into our new Base, which was formally opened on 17 March 2026, marking an important milestone in the 17-year journey of The Rising Foundation. Throughout this journey, our focus has always remained on supporting our students and school-based staff, with our admin team happily adapting along the way. From starting out in the Papakura High School Library, to sharing space at Teale Metal Products, moving into containers at The Momentum Hub and later being hosted by Blue Light's Youth Centre, we've been grateful for every step.

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!



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