

the RISING FOUNDATION NEWS TERM TWO 2017

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Many Thanks

Hi everyone

It is that time of year again as we compile our statistics to measure the effectiveness of The Rising Foundation programme.

We measure the academic performance, attendance, attitude and discipline of our students versus whole of school achievement and also track the progress of our last years graduates as they moved from Secondary School to the big wide world beyond.

We are very proud of our students and the continuing positive results that they achieved. Our 25 graduates from the programme last year have all found employment or study this year. 8 have full time jobs, 1 has a part time job, 5 are studying at University, 10 are studying at other Tertiary Institutions and 1 is serving as a Missionary overseas. Awesome !!

NCEA Results from TRF students across five secondary schools showed an achievement of 87% pass rate for TRF students versus school average across all of our schools at 70%. Attendance levels across all schools showed an improvement by TRF students in overall attendance rate versus whole of school by 1% to 19%. Behavioural stats show very low to non existent levels of stand downs for TRF students versus whole of school. This is great progress from all students in the TRF group and we are justifiably very proud of these achievements.

The important focus of readying our cohort for employment and future training and studying continues with a strong effort to expose our students to the endless employment and opportunities out there for them.

We concluded a very successful jobs expo at Vodafone Events Centre in Manukau two weeks ago. Thanks so much to all of the organisations that participated and of course thanks to our own team led by Donna that organised the day for our student group. Winter is almost over !!

Regards *John*

John Bongard, Board Chairman, The Rising Foundation



Alex aboard

TRF General Manager

Hi, my name is Alex Tarrant and I'm the General Manager of The Rising Foundation. In the 18 months since I took on this role I have met two Prime Ministers, sat in numerous board rooms, spoke with influential people, travelled a lot, cooked a bit, painted faces, told stories and dug dirt for our local communities.

I have also grown to love and respect the excellent team of people I work with, the students we serve and the programme we deliver. Lots of people talk about social change, this team rolls up their sleeves and gets on with affecting social change in student's lives every day.

This inspires me and warms my heart. TRF is the genuine article.

Having come from a statutory Social Work background I was eager to explore the area of preventative community work. Erasmus said 'prevention is better than cure' and this holds true in physical and mental health and also in the path of a young person's life.

This programme we deliver at The Rising Foundation gives the students who are referred to us the opportunity to choose the best path for themselves. They learn who they are and they learn how to manage themselves.

They learn to be honest with themselves and to take action for personal improvement, rather than make excuses. They learn their strengths and limitations, they learn how to side with their 'best selves' against the influence of their 'worst selves'. They learn how to work hard and they learn how to live a healthy and fulfilling life.

During this process they end up avoiding many of the emotional and social pitfalls that keep the police force

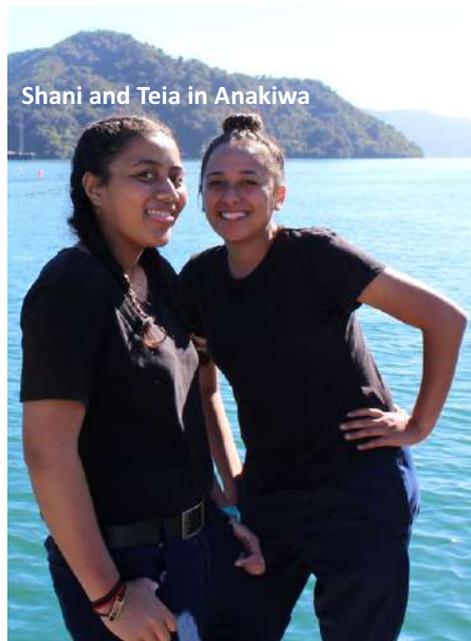
and the crisis teams so busy. I can't help wondering what would happen if more people focussed their energy and resources on helping more of these excellent and talented young people thrive and avoid crisis in their lives rather than trying to clean up after the crisis has occurred?

I have a great team. I'm proud of every one of them. They are doing invaluable work, and I'm so grateful to our board for their support and direction and to our funders who share our vision and enable us to keep going.

It is a privilege for me to watch young men and women choosing to be responsible, honest, caring, diligent, generous and enthusiastic.

It's exciting for me to know that we are successfully administering a programme that is transforming and redirecting lives. Helping young people know themselves and gain a greater vision of who they could grow up to be. Literally unlocking their potential.

Alex



Shani and Teia in Anakiwa

Teia and Shani's Excellent Adventure

In our last edition we mentioned that two of our Rising Foundation Students had been sponsored to take part in the annual Outward Bound Young Female Future Leaders Course. Shani Apelu and Teia Herewini are part of our group from Pukekohe High School and we are so proud of the growth and development they have demonstrated in their time with us.

We want to pass on our sincere gratitude to Outward Bound, the Joyce Fisher Trust and the Pukekohe Rotary Club for making this once in a lifetime experience available to these admirable young women. See page 3 for the girls' own thoughts on their experience.



Teia and friend tramping above Marlborough Sounds.

Shani Apelu - Year 13 Pukekohe High School



How do I even begin to describe my experience at Outward Bound? I do not really remember much of the activities that I did, not as much as I remember the emotions I felt; and there were a lot! I swear it almost felt like going through puberty again because every second it was a different feeling. I have taken away so much through my experiences. I have a deeper knowledge of myself, deep gratitude for all I have in and a hunger to do more in my life.

It's one of those indescribable things that you have to experience yourself in order to understand. I'm extremely grateful to Tiare at The Rising Foundation for giving me this opportunity to actually go to Outward Bound.

To future Outward Bound people I say this: At times it seems impossibly hard, but every second is worth it.

Ps: The food was 'bomb' and they feed you so much that you gain more weight than you lose, but that's probably just me.

Teia Herewini - Year 12 - Pukekohe High

Being on our Solo Scheme was definitely the most challenging aspect for me mentally. Thinking about being out in the bush alone for 2 nights was all very daunting.

I learnt that when leaving familiar ground and stepping off into a new place there will be a little nagging of dread that comes along with all the feelings of curiosity and excitement. It is the ancient fear of the unknown. This was my first bond with the wilderness I was going into, but what I was doing was exploring.

I learnt that I was not experiencing the place but myself in that place. 'It was an experience of our essential loneliness; no one is able to discover the world for anyone else. It is only after we have discovered it ourselves that it becomes common ground and a common bond and there in that moment, we cease to be alone'. (Berry 1971)

I discovered so much about myself and the amount of enjoyment that can be achieved from something as simple as being out in nature and the elements. I also learnt about internal drive and that there's not always going to be someone to hold my hand in everything I do. That's when self-motivation and pushing myself had to kick in.



Rowing on the Grove Arm of Queen Charlotte Sound.

With the help of my watch mates and instructors I could reflect back on all the times I persevered no matter how much I really wanted to give up at times. The feeling of knowing how much I had accomplished was great. I achieved things I thought I would never be able to.

Fast forward to the end of my course, I have come to appreciate this way of life and just enjoy being present and living in the moment. I felt this was summed up in the moment when I was sailing through the Marlborough Sounds in a 10 metre cutter, in the days and nights in the bush on my 'solo' and also in crossing that finish line on the second to last day.

I do not wish to give away too many Outward Bound secrets but the course was, hands down, the most enriching, challenging and amazing experience of my life. If I could, I would do it all over again.



Outward Bound Future Leaders Course Number 628.

Training with the



What a privilege to have Jimmy Tupou, Augustine Pulu and Stephen Perofeta share their time and journey with us!

As part of our desire to give our students a vision for their individual futures, twenty lucky students from across our TRF schools who are interested in the world of Rugby (boys and girls alike) gathered at Papakura High School to take part in a very special event on the 30th of June.

Hosted by the Auckland Blues, students had the opportunity to engage with Star players **Jimmy Tupou**, **Stephen Perofeta** and **Augustine Pulu**. With their aim to “make a positive difference in our neighbourhood”.

The players facilitated a high energy and interactive training session, teaching skills that students can now easily transfer into their own style of play.

Making the experience that much more intimate, the event was wrapped up with a question and answer time, where the players shared their personal journeys, their passions and also the challenges involved with pursuing a career as a professional athlete.



(Above) Augustine in the thick of it. (Below) Stephen dodges a tackle and our group of happy and inspired students.

The players reflected that they have come from similar backgrounds to the students and that playing Rugby at this level and gaining the capacity to compete professionally is not something that you obtain overnight, it requires a lot of hard work. The players also agreed that surrounding yourself with those that support you and understand what drives you is vital.

I think that having professional sportsmen being willing to relate to the students on this level was inspiring and encouraged all our participants to see their future aspirations as achievable and well within reach.



Whanaungatanga Day and Life Skills Day

With the success of last years "Expo Week" we decided to make this first week of the school holidays a week-long event to explore future pathways for our students.

Monday was a **Whakawhanaungatanga Day** hosted at Pukekohe High School. We reinforced our term theme of Honesty. Te kaupapa o te ra was to gain a sense of belonging within each respective group through cohesive group engagement.

We had physical and intellectual challenges throughout the day which helped the teams to bond while overcoming a variety of challenges.

To uphold the positive representation and integrity of TRF, our Rosehill Programme Coordinator, Gideon Rihari facilitated a TRF haka workshop. Our Haka represents who we are as a 'people' and it unites each generation of students who pass through our programme.

Reflecting on last year's expo feedback we saw that there was a need to build life skills that tend to be absent in the lives of the majority of the students we work with.

On Tuesday Papakura High School hosted the TRF collective as we welcomed a range of local organisations to our **Life Skills Day**. Thank you to Cody and the team from ANZ, Melissa from Peak for Life and Justine and Penni from Vector who all conducted excellent workshops on banking, nutrition and CV preparation. Our own team member Les taught automotive skills. Each of these workshops allowed students to learn tangible skills that align with our programme vision and purpose. Thank you to our supporters on the day- it would not be possible without your knowledge, passion and patience.

We will show you more about the **Career EXPO**, our day at the **Vector Wero Whitewater park** and our Term 2 Talent Showcase later in this newsletter.

But we felt that it is important to recognise that the exposure our TRF young leaders gain from the experiences they had during the whole Expo week reinforced the message of "making your dreams become a reality" and "Unlocking Your Potential" that we try to convey to the students who engage with our programme.



THE RISING FOUNDATION CAREER EXPO

This is the second year that we have hosted this event where representatives from Industry training organisations, tertiary institutions and companies seeking to employ young people directly, come to engage and interact with our TRF students.

At the beginning of the event, the exhibitors were given the challenge to impart a vision into our students - to let them see what it would be like for them if they chose the career path the each exhibitor was offering.

It was encouraging to see all the exhibitors making a genuine effort to be approachable and interesting to the students and also to see our students taking the time to talk and understand all the information that each stall holder had to offer.

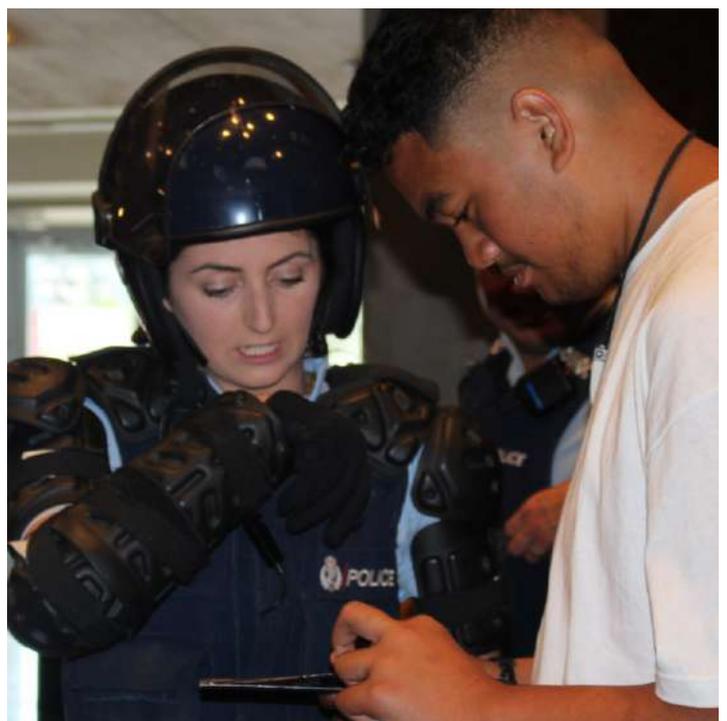
We have had some excellent feedback from all our exhibitors. A huge thank you to **Trillian Trust** and **Youthtown** for supporting this great annual event.



Above: Two shots of the exhibition arena, we were pleased to see the effort that many of the exhibitors made to make their stands attractive and to be as approachable as possible.



Above: The team from St. John were excellent and had lots of interactive elements to their exhibit, as did NZ Police including the officer in riot gear. (Right)





As well as those pictured we want to thank: Academy NZ, ACG Tertiary, Allied Workforce, Elite Beauty School, Farmers, Flex Physio, G & H Training, Madison Recruitment, MIT, NZ Defence Force, NZ Security, NZ Welding School and Work Choice.



Above: The Cut Above Academy provided free hair cuts and make up sessions which were very popular with the students.

Below: One of the Waitemata and Auckland DHB team sharing a moment with Hina and Larissa from TRF.



This column from Top: Waikato University and Best Pacific Institute. The team from Farmers. Fun and games with The Karaka Learning Centre. To round off the day, TRF Students joined in a rousing Haka to honour all the friendly and enthusiastic exhibitors who gave their time and energy to support our Careers EXPO.



Making a SPLASH at Vector Wero

Pictures speak louder than words. So proud of all our students took up the challenge. A huge thank you to the team at the *Vector Wero Whitewater Park* for their flexibility and guidance.

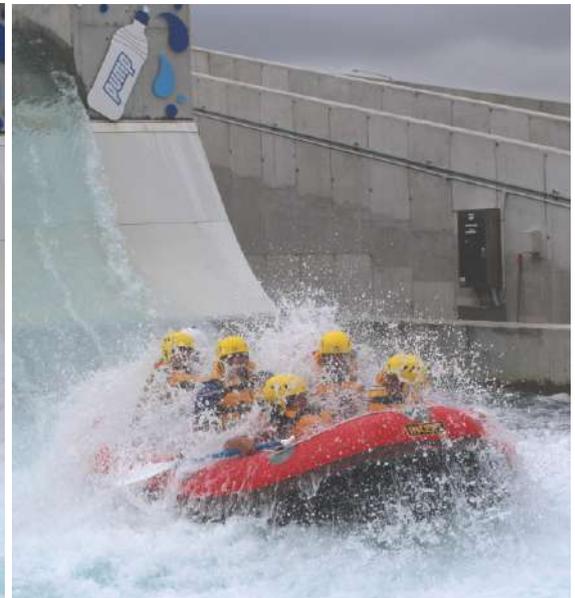


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Unlocking Your Potential



It wasn't all plain sailing. For many this challenge was the biggest, coldest and wettest of their lives. But they all made it and came out stronger and more confident as a result! Thanks Vector Wero!



Unlocking Your Potential

TALENT SHOWCASE



So much of what makes The Rising Foundation great is the sense of energy and enthusiasm that fills our young people as they grow in confidence and learn how to trust each other and work together creatively. There is no better example of the spontaneous and joyful attitude that flows through our programme than our Term 2 Talent Showcase.

It's a talent night and a competition. This year the group called 'The Truth' won the competition and 'set us free' to laugh and applaud at their acting, singing and dance moves!

The showcase is a public event held at the Vodafone Events Centre and we were pleased to see family and friends turning out to support the groups as they performed skits, chants and cultural items.

As is our tradition the losing teams honoured the winners with a Haka. Well done to all our teams for their effort and creativity!



Community Impact Week

We emphasise the value of hard work and determination and our Community Impact week this year really ‘tested the mettle’ of the students who braved the rain and mud and gave up their school holidays to pitch in. A big thank you to the staff at Homai School, Manurewa Intermediate, Manukau Beautification Charitable Trust (MBCT) and Clendon Pride for your organisation and equipment.

Barbara Carney from MBCT said: *“The young people were absolutely amazing, their stamina, joviality, persistence and willingness to serve the community was absolutely outstanding. These young people will make great leaders”.* We wholeheartedly agree!



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.



WHILE PARTING SHOT

There is greatness in every individual, sometimes we don't see it until that person is faced with experiences that push them beyond what they know they are capable of. In that moment they get a vision of what they *could* be.

Look around you, in your family, in your school, in your community. Start to see others as they *could* be and then do all you can to help them see the same things in themselves.

Big ups to the team of conquering heroes from Community Impact at Homai School in Manurewa!



A special thanks to Whaea Rosina and Matua Shane for your kindness.

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. We have seen over 1300 students and their families and friends benefit from our work across the wider Auckland area. Without your generous support and collaboration we couldn't do the work we do.

Thank you for choosing to support The Rising Foundation; we all truly appreciate it.

MAJOR SPONSORS



Unlocking Your Potential