

the RISING FOUNDATION NEWS TERM FOUR 2017

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Many Thanks

Hi everyone

What a fantastic finish to the school year! The Rising Foundation celebrated our Graduation for 2017 where 17 of our wonderful students received their certificates, yearbooks and jackets for completing our programme.



A great night was had with family, friends, teachers, invited guests and TRF staff in attendance. There was also a great turnout from our amazing group of JB Grads who are always there to help and support our students through camps and other events.

Reflecting on another great year (our 8th year in operation!) I always come back to the amazing group of supporters that we have, that make our programme the very special programme it is.

I want to thank again all of those people that contribute to making our programme work. Our students and their whanau, sponsors and supporters of all kinds from individuals through to Trusts and Companies. Thanks to all the staff from our host schools, our JB Grad team of volunteers, and our own staff who all work tirelessly throughout the year to keep our programme operating at peak levels (Alex, Donna, Feleti, Jordan, Grace, Gideon and Tiare. All outstanding !!)

A special thanks also to The Rising Foundation Board and Treasurer without who's support we would not be as effective as we are. (John, Sarah, Kay, Peter, Richard, Sam, Jenna and Diane)

I wish everyone, and your families, the most peaceful and happy Christmas and a very prosperous New Year.

Regards, *John*

John Bongard, Board Chairman, The Rising Foundation

Jenna joined us.

TRF Trustee

Hi all, my name is **Jenna Broadhurst** and I have the privilege of recently joining The Rising Foundation Family as a co-op Trustee.

I am originally from sunny Marlborough in the South Island where I grew up on a farm that my parents still live and work on.

Auckland has been my home now for the past five years, but I admit I'm still a one eyed South Islander when the Crusaders play the Blues!!



What I love most about living in Auckland is the variety of activities that are right on our doorstep and being close to the ocean, my happy place.

I have worked for BNZ for the past 10 years in various roles and now hold a Leadership role for South Auckland based in Highbrook.

It's through BNZ that I became aware of The Rising Foundation and the value it adds to a huge variety of talented young adults, that otherwise might not have had the opportunity to reach their potential. That's a profound cause that I couldn't wait to be part of.

Through my work with BNZ and my involvement with

another NPO Organisation, I have developed a passion for equal opportunity. Whether it is gender diversity, cultural diversity or young people living with disabilities.

I am passionate about raising awareness in the Commerce environment, about the responsibility we all have to contribute to the continuous improvement required here in New Zealand.

The work that The Rising Foundation has committed to and the results that it delivers, I believe, are world class and I am excited to play a small part in its bright future.

Jenna



The Great Auckland Duck Race is an annual Charity event held to raise funds for the Life Education Trust, our good neighbours at the Momentum Hub. How great that our own little duck 'Daphne' was first among 60 competitors in the business race!



Momentum Hub Update

We wanted to take this opportunity to mention some events that we have recently been involved in with some of our fellow charities. It is a real privilege for The Rising Foundation to be part of the excellent family of charities that make up **The Momentum Hub**. By the shore of the **Vector Wero Whitewater Park** we have a great group of like minded neighbours and an exciting view from our offices!

The **Second Nature Charitable Trust** recently held their Board Celebration, we are truly grateful for their support and hospitality and we wanted to mention the great work they are doing for our community in South Auckland.

Life Education Trust do a great work in our schools, thanks guys for introducing us to Daphne, who would have known her sporting potential?

The **Sir John Walker Find Your Field Of Dreams** Foundation Celebrated their millionth free swim lesson and young **Kiyana Kani-Ahokava** seemed to take it all in her stride, as she was presented her certificate by some of our top Olympic Medalists in front of a room full of celebrities and dignitaries.



9 year old **Kiyana Kani-Ahokava** from Yendarra School with three New Zealand Olympic gold medallists, **Danyon Loader**, **Sir John Walker** and **Ian Ferguson**, at Vector Wero Whitewater Park.

Pukekohe Transition Camp

By **Tiare Matara**, TRF Pukekohe Programme Coordinator.

With the success of last year's amazing Transition Camp in Pauanui, we had to return! Our term theme of 'Gratitude' was a great inspiration for our TRF Pukekohe young leaders who helped me run workshops based on our Four Pillars.

They shared their accounts of events, experiences and journeys they had on the whole programme. This caused interest and excitement for the new Year 8 students who are now eager to explore more of what it means to be a part of The Rising Foundation family.

We split everyone into two groups who named themselves 'Rangatira whanau' and 'Grateful Chiefs' the fun and rivalry this caused, provided unique character building experiences to enhance leadership skills in students who attended.

This time round we had a lot of Year 8 students who had family members in TRF in the past. Some were the third sibling in a row to become TRF members! We must be doing something right because they keep coming back!

Pauanui is a relatively wealthy community and being in these surroundings exposes our Franklin kids to places outside their community and experience.

This encourages perseverance, vision and gave us the opportunity to reinforce our "hand up, not a hand out" concept. Seeing what can be achieved, shows students possibilities to aim at and motivates them to strive for better in their own lives as young leaders.

The 'journey talks' by TRF Pukekohe senior students gave our new recruits a chance to get to know the positive role models who will be with them and will help them adapt to high school environments with ease.

As Programme Coordinator my highlight is definitely witnessing the growth of our leaders whom attended transition camp. They are now facilitating and running the workshops and doing an excellent job!

It is a pleasure to see the likes of Year 9 students standing up in front of an audience and producing quality content for their presentations that was relevant to their chosen pillar.

Special mentions to Pukekohe Intermediate Deputy Principal Heather Garrett, Pukekohe Intermediate 'Rock and Water' Coordinator Whaea Leoni Robinson and Pukekohe North Year 7 and 8 Teacher Whaea Sally for your tremendous effort towards making this camp happen.



Top: The view from Paku over Pauanui

Above: Enjoying the Kiwi Summer

Left: Paintball was a great place to practice teamwork and let off some steam too!



Thank you to Pukekohe Intermediate and Pukekohe Hill School for referring such a lovely group of students to us this year!

Why Transition Camp?

Every camp that TRF runs through the five years we have with our students, has a purpose and contributes to the learning and development of the excellent young leaders entrusted to our care.

It had always been our ambition to involve the Intermediate schools. They know their students well and can make informed choices as to the young leaders they feel will benefit most from our programme.

The first step in The Rising journey is Transition and this camp is designed to be an introduction to our programme. This environment is designed to help our students feel prepared and confident as they face the big move over from Intermediate to High School.

International studies show that starting High School can be a very traumatic experience for many adolescents. Coming, as it does, at the point in their lives where they are already experiencing drastic physical and emotional changes.

We recognise the challenges our students are facing and we

do all we can to equip them with the life skills they need to feel ready to enter High School. They are also reassured by the fact that they have a safe group of encouraging friends waiting for them there, in their Rising Foundation family.

For teenagers, no one has a greater influence over their thinking, their feelings and the quality of their life experience than their peer group, their friends.

There's an old saying, "Show me your friends and I will show you your future." In The Rising Foundation we build a friendship group where our students can thrive.

We train them with all the principles and values they need, to successfully navigate the stormy waters that lay between the end of their childhood and the beginning of their adult lives.

But the older students are the ones who show them the way. Their example of kindness, honesty, responsibility, perseverance and eventually success is so very powerful.

That's why we run Transition Camps.

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

**Download the app
and find us on ...**



Rosehill Transition Camp

By **Gideon Rihari** TRF Rosehill Programme Coordinator.

On the 10th-12th of November, TRF Rosehill College had its first Transition Camp held at the Pauanui Glade Holiday Park.

The camp was for the group of Year 8's referred to us from Conifer Grove School, Opaheke School and Rosehill Intermediate.

The transition camp is our way of introducing Year 8's to some current members of TRF. This eases their transition from Intermediate to High School.

During the camp the Year 8 students got to learn a little history of TRF. They heard about the types of principles and values we strive to operate by through the stories and experiences of the senior students. They also gained an idea of what challenges await them in Year 9 and ways to deal with them.

At the start of the camp the Year 8 students stayed in their school/friend groups, just wanting to be in their comfort zones. The moment they hopped on the bus they had to find a senior buddy who will be their 'partner in crime' for the remainder of the camp. Having them in pairs is one way of challenging them to step out their comfort zones and positively encourages interaction.

There were a couple of juniors who had struggled with self confidence in the past and yet by the time we had finished our first activity, paintball, everyone was chatting and laughing together which caused the vibe of the camp to be very relaxed and positive.

Throughout the camp the students got to do a number of activities that challenged them further as individuals and in their groups. From early morning fitness and mountain climbing, to TRFs own Amazing Race challenge. The students got involved and worked together to support and encourage one another which was awesome to see.

Overall Rosehill's first ever transition camp for Year 8's went well and it was awesome to witness the growth of all the students who attended. I am looking forward to the New Year and working with these new 'seedlings' and challenging them to grow even more!



Enjoying the Kiwi experience and waiting for a good lunch.



Programme Coordinator Gideon Rihari and three of his new Year 8 recruits.



Building strong bonds of friendship and trust across the age range forms the core of our programme. The juniors follow the seniors.



A good programme to learn from and good people to look up to, makes all the difference in young peoples' lives.



Quotes from the students:

"At the start of camp I was scared of all the 'big as' senior students, but after talking to them and having a game of Paintball it made us more comfortable.

One of the best times was singing on the bus on the way to camp! The skit night was cool too, although I was scared to perform but in the end we were all laughing and having a good time!

Year 8 student

"Over the three days spent at Pauanui Glade Holiday Park with the Year 8's I saw some real change in them.

During camp the student leaders were given the task to present powerpoint topics that would give the students "gold nuggets" of information to help them through their High School lives. I saw the Year 8's starting to think more positively about High School.

As the camp went on, I also saw a change in the Year 8's attitude. At the start their attitude towards meeting new people was poor, but by the end of the camp everyone had formed strong bonds with each other".

Lastly, I saw a real change in their approach to challenges. To start with, the Year 8's were challenged to talk with us bigger students. We were told to buddy up and they didn't know us so it was a bit awkward. But towards the end of camp both leaders and new students were confident with each other.

Year 11 student

PRATEEP'S POWHIRI

Through our relationship with Narta, we had the great privilege and genuine pleasure to meet **Khun Prateep Ungsongtham Hata**. A true hero and activist in the realm of the rights of underprivileged children. As she was visiting New Zealand for the first time we wanted to take the opportunity to welcome her and honour her for all she has done, in the best way we could.



Prateep received **The World's Children's Prize** for her 40-year-long struggle for the rights of Thailand's most vulnerable children. Since she was 16, Prateep has spent all her time fighting to give tens of thousands of poor children in slums and rural areas a better life and the chance to go to school.

Prateep's foundation (<http://dpf.or.th>) offers children financial support; runs 15 pre-schools, a school for children with hearing impairments, and homes for vulnerable children; builds school libraries; lends money via "The Bank of the Poor", and runs "The Poor People's Radio Station", where children can make their voices heard.

Prateep has also been elected as a Senator in the Thai Parliament and is recognised internationally for the courage and perseverance she has shown on behalf of her people.

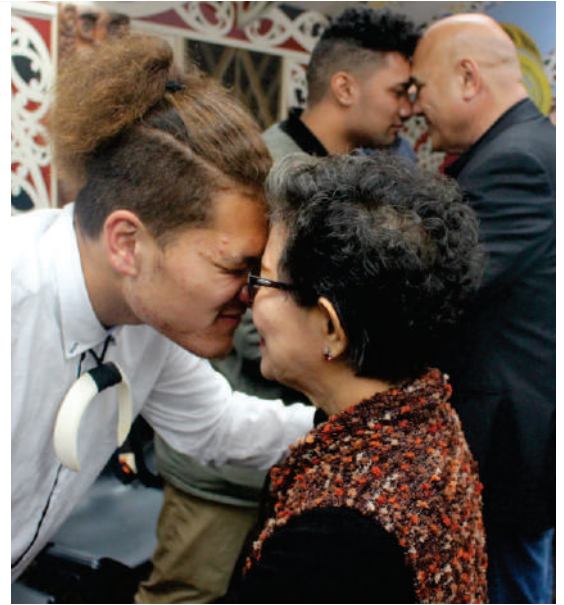
It was so exciting to see Prateep and three of the young Thai women who have benefitted from her programme. What a privilege for The Rising Foundation students to gather at the Papakura High School Marae and give her a proper welcome to our land.

We also wish to acknowledge Kay Spencer, Andrew and Sue Blair, Mike Goadby and Frankie Stevens and Matua Herbert Rihari for their part in this warm and touching recognition of Prateep and her legacy.



Above: Prateep and her fellow manuhiri experience the wero, karanga and korero of the traditional powhiri in the peaceful setting of Te Kahurangi Marae on the grounds of Papakura High School. This place holds special significance as the birthplace of The Rising Foundation Programme.

More images from Prateep's special day.



The beautifully decorated interior of Te Kahurangi Marae was the perfect place to honour Prateep. To greet her group with hongi - waiata - taonga and a rousing haka that the Thai children initially found to be a bit intimidating until they realised it was a tribute in their honour! This was a proud day for The Rising Foundation.

TRF 2017 Graduation

Our annual Graduation Ceremony on Thursday the 30th November was a night to celebrate and sadly also a time to farewell our TRF Graduates for 2017.

The night was filled with laughter, tears, fancy clothes, honoured guests and of course great food.

We shared in memories and highlights of our Graduates time on our programme. We also acknowledged the many years of service, dedication and growth that each of them have achieved during their years in The Rising Foundation.

As they leave behind the familiar comforts of secondary schooling they start a new chapter as young adults. We make sure they are not unprepared, but are ready and well equipped emotionally and practically for what lies ahead. Whether it be work, study or another pathway of their choice.

The evening was also a shining example of the growing professionalism and sophistication of our team and it was truly inspiring to hear the affection and admiration that each of the Graduates expressed to their coordinators.

The confidence and maturity that came through in the comments and actions of these young leaders left the parents, teachers, supporters, trustees and funders who heard them, full of hope for their future and for the society that their generation will influence.

The evening was marked by genuine warmth, by lots of attitude, humour and gratitude. Some cultural performances kept things interesting and some wonderful singing reminded us of the immense talent we have in The Rising family.

It was also great to see the interest and involvement of our faithful Trustees who have 'adopted' a school each and who took the stage to present the graduation certificates and pass on words of wisdom as did members of the school community that The Rising Foundation serves.



Good young men, our 2017 'ambassadors' - William Tapa'atoutai (Papakura High School), Alfred Paea and David Sula (Sir Edmund Hillary Collegiate), Junior Malata and Wayne Fa'afua Le'apai (Papakura High School). It is our wish that this day will live on in our graduates' memory, as the day they took on the task of living out The Rising Foundation values in their everyday lives. Taking our message into their workplace and future families.



Escence Kingi-Williams, Teia Herewini, TRF Pukekohe Programme Coordinator Tiare Matara, Khali Minhinnick and Shani Apelu. These girls have been Tiare's 'right hand' and each one ably expresses what it means to be part of The Rising Foundation. Escence will study Sociology at AU, Teia is joining the Hospitality Industry via NZMA, Khali is applying for a place in the NZ Navy or NZ Police and Shani has been chosen to travel as a World Vision Ambassador.



Some of our Rosehill group including Programme Coordinator Gideon Rihari (Back row centre) Pania Pique (Back row second from left), Vulangi Oloson (Yellow shirt) and Top Advisor Ielu Peti (Front row centre). A proud day for all involved. Vulangi and Ielu have been great role models to our new crop of senior boys who now need to step up and fill the gap that they are leaving.

A big thank you to Rosehill College Principal Sue Blakely, Deputy Principal Heather Garrett and Leoni Robinson from Pukekohe Intermediate, Deputy Principal Paul van Etten and Matua Abe Warren from Papakura High and Asotasi Fa'utaga and Mi'i Harris from Sir Edmund Hillary Collegiate.

We also owe a huge debt of gratitude to our funders and supporters who took the time to join in our celebration. Thank you to Merv & Queita Ah Chee and Lizzie & Malcom Leuchars from SkyCity, Richard Stevens from Brand World, Jatin Patel from Patel Pike and Associates and Samit Desai from NetWall.

And as always sincere thanks from the team to John, Diane and Sam Bongard, John & Annabell Wardrop, Peter Goldsmith and Lady Sarah Fay, your phenomenal support and genuine love for our students shows itself in all you do and was very evident on the night.

Finally to our Graduates we say: The world is yours now, go and take it! Don't be afraid of failing, be more afraid of missing out because you didn't try. Take the heart and the spirit of The Rising Foundation with you and make a difference wherever you go.

And just remember - a JB Grad is a lifetime title. You are leaving the Programme but you never leave the family.



Each Graduate received a Year book, a TRF jacket and certificate. Above: Inoke Paea, Aso Fa'utaga, Mi'i Harris and Sam Bongard gave awards to the Sir Edmund Hillary Graduates.



Staff and Students joined in a rousing haka tautoko in honour of the efforts our graduates have made over the years to get them to this place. The passion and heart of our haka perfectly expresses our pride and our good wishes. These fine young men and women are embarking on a new, exciting stage of their journey in life. They take our love and blessing with them.



Above: Tara Tinirau (Sir Edmund Hillary Collegiate) With Coordinator Feleti Lotulelei. Below: Elizabeth Harris and David Sula (Sir Edmund Hillary Collegiate) Bottom: Great food!



Graduation Glimpses



Island flowers. This is our one night of the year to dress up and show off and we love to see our students expressing who they are through what they wear. What a change from school uniform or the hoodies and pyjamas at camp! Well done girls!

Many thanks to JB Grads Eddie and Aviata and Sir Edmund Hillary teacher Aso for some truly angelic 'a cappella' singing.

Mark from Sir Edmund Hillary and Matua Abe from Papakura High School got us laughing with their version of a traditional dance.

Not to be outdone some of our boys went 'fashion forward' for the night too. These two have brains, character, good looks and cool threads! The whole package.



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.

KNOW
IT

SYNERGY

(Collaboration)

The ability to function well within an established group while maintaining the identity and purpose of each individual.

SHARE
IT

INTEGRITY

(Accurate Representation)

The ability to put values and principles into practice consistently and wholeheartedly in our daily life.

LIVE
IT

CREATIVITY

(Innovation)

The ability to continually develop new ways to express our values and principles for the benefit of ourselves and our community.

SPREAD
IT

Where are they now?

Talofa Lava, My name is **Eddie Lepou** also known as Ehlee.

I have been apart of TRF since 2010. I graduated from Papakura High School in 2012. I studied at Tourism College and was then offered a job with Jetconnect Qantas Airways starting from February 2014. Today, I am employed by Qantas Airways working as a Business Class flight attendant and also qualified to operate as a Manager when needed by the company.

The Rising has done so much to help me get to where I am today. Their constant support has kept my hope alive. The leadership skills, and confidence the programme brought out in me is amazing. TRF gave me the ability to see life in a different way. I still use our core values and Pillar's to really look past the surface of things and understand 'the thing behind the thing'.

The Rising Foundation Team have supported me over many years. They never gave up on me and always believed in me.

Their good work has made me want to keep coming back every now and then to serve and help where I can. I want to help students who are coming through the programme now, to experience what I experienced and be well prepared for the real world.

Sincere thanks to John and Diane Bongard, Alex, Donna and the rest of the team; Grace, Tiare, Feleti, Gideon and Jordan. Keep up the awesome work you do for those kids.

Fa'afetai Lava. Eddie



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. So far 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.

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