

# the RISING FOUNDATION NEWS TERM ONE 2017

## INSIDE

- 1 Chairman's Report  
Just Jordan
- 2 Rising Poem
- 3 Funfest
- 4 Funfest continued
- 5 Respite Camp
- 6 Respite pictures
- 7 Downer NRL Auckland Nines
- 8 A New Home for TRF!
- 9 The Farm Camp - Page 1
- 10 The Farm Camp - Page 2
- 11 The Farm Camp - Page 3
- 12 The Parting Shot  
Many Thanks

"Hi Everyone

The first term is behind us and we have completed a very successful Term 1 camp in the Far North. Our thanks go to staff, family, JB Grads and students for helping make this a great camp for all.

I want to share with you a story of giving by one of our long term supporters Graham Zuill from Focus Digital. Graham has a business relationship with Michael Hulme the National Loss Prevention Manager from New Zealand retail icon Farmers. At Christmas 2016 Focus Digital donated a security camera system to Sir Edmund Hillary Primary School in Papakura and he was invited to a "Friends of the School" function to recognise this earlier this year.

In discussions with the Principal it became obvious that any help with clothing items would be very well received and appreciated by the students. Graham contacted Michael and between them they arranged for a very generous donation of 2500 pairs of socks for the School to distribute ( this will last a good number of years for sure !).

Graham and Michael needed to donate the socks through an existing charity that operates in the Papakura area with "youth with potential" , so they contacted us and we immediately agreed to be the conduit for this very kind gesture.

This is a prime example of how people working cooperatively together can achieve so much more than if we work in isolation. Our sincere thanks to Graham , Michael and their respective Companies Focus Digital and Farmers.

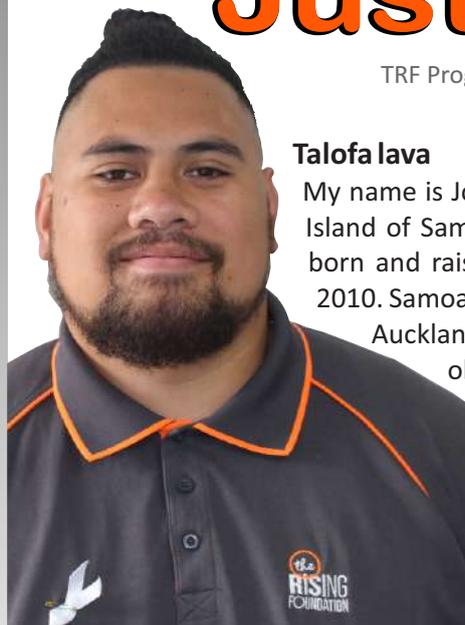
Let's work towards a happy, positive and successful balance of the year.

Regards, *John*

John Bongard, Board Chairman, The Rising Foundation

## Just Jordan

TRF Programme Coordinator, Manurewa High School



### Talofa lava

My name is Jordan Tanielu and I'm from the beautiful Island of Samoa, from the village of Satapuala. I was born and raised in Papakura and moved to Otara in 2010. Samoa will always be where I'm from, but South Auckland will always be home for me. I'm 21 years old and currently working as a Programme Co-ordinator for The Rising Foundation, at Manurewa High School.

My journey with The Rising Foundation began in 2010 when I got called into the Deputy Principal's office for being a part of a brawl in school.



I was referred to the TRF Social Worker at the time. So you see I haven't always been a 'good boy'.

I'm really grateful for it now, because my time as a student with TRF was extremely helpful for me, not only academically, but socially and spiritually as well. The Social Workers at TRF made it really easy to approach them about anything and everything, always making me feel comfortable. They made it really clear that I, or any other student in TRF, would not be judged for their mistakes.

TRF helped me to do a full 180 turn with my behaviour and attitude towards everything I do. Ultimately they gave me tools to help me find out who I am. TRF has also helped me open my eyes to see that the world is a much bigger place than South Auckland, as they took not only us students but also invited our families along to places like Taupo and the Coromandel which really brought our families closer together.

Fast forward to 2017 I am currently in my first year of studying at Te Wananga O Aotearoa working towards a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work.

I have also moved from being a floater for TRF to now being based in Manurewa High School alongside my fellow colleagues Les Richard and trainee Tyrian Holland. I'm looking forward to working with the students and hopefully give them the same, if not a better experience than I had when I was a student in TRF. Teaching and giving them tools that they will need throughout their high school life and also life after school.

I'm so very glad to be a part of something great like The Rising Foundation, working alongside people who share the same vision and passion to make a change for the better in each of our communities, not only for the present, but also the future. Thank you TRF for giving me a platform to do this important work.

In conclusion, The Rising Foundation has helped me to build my characteristics as an individual and has also equipped me with the appropriate tools and knowledge to collaborate with my passion to encourage and teach our future leaders, that they can choose to do and be anything they desire to be with the right attitude.

**JORDAN**



These young shadows  
Sitting on the edges  
Wedges holding them closed not open  
Hoping that no one will see them  
Free them from the back of the class.

Eyes avoiding or flaring, glaring  
Not sharing the pain that grows, overflows  
Not daring to speak out  
Just freak out  
And chase the faces away.

Bring them in. Accept them,  
Let them find a place  
To belong in, finally strong in  
A circle of hearts that started  
Where they were - once grey  
Now bright! Shining!

It takes time  
Listening, laughing, relating  
Finding their fate  
has changed, rearranged.  
Minds open, find hope in these mates.  
Learning to stand and land  
Firm on their feet.

A change in their eyes  
Rising beyond their dreams  
Breaking the seams of generations  
A nation lifting their heads - now  
Who said they couldn't be great?

Inspired by the 'slam poetry' of Te Kahu Rolleston

# 2017 FunFest

Funfest is a week-long free event held in January each year. Part carnival, part talent show, part community forum, attracting more than 40,000 visitors from all over South Auckland and held this year, for the first time, at the excellent Vodafone Events Centre.

For The Rising Foundation, Funfest is a new experience, we were asked to provide a free face painting service and in return we would receive a charity donation from the event organisers.

Sounded great on paper! And it was great in real life, but we could never have prepared for the sheer number of eager children who would line up waiting to be transformed into a butterfly, pirate or tiger. 3,000 to 5,000 people a day meant queues 100 metres long, 16 painters working non-stop from 10am to 4pm. Organised chaos and the perfect opportunity for our wonderful students to step up, rise to the occasion and shine as the truly admirable young people they are!

What a delight to see some of our big boys, tenderly holding the faces of the tiniest of tots and sending them away happy and well decorated – real artistic talent came to the fore, as did stoic determination, true servant hearts and impressive organisational skills. Our support team kept the painters supplied with paint, brushes, sponges, water, baby wipes and paper towels. The painters gave their time, talent and energy tirelessly day after day.

The first day was by invitation only. Children with a wide range of physical and intellectual challenges plus their whanau/caregivers were entertained and given the opportunity to enjoy the festival and to show their talents and personalities without fear of judgement or prejudice.

Funfest is truly an inspiring event and I know we all came away exhausted but honoured to have been a part of the joyous and generous experience.



**An endless stream of expectant little faces! Real life on the TRF face painting production line. We were so impressed with attitude and perseverance of our team!**



**Our hard working team of painters and satisfied customers.**



# The hard working Funfest team!



It really was 'all hands on deck' for the busy period from 10am to 3pm. What a rush! Overall this was a great bonding experience under pressure for the team. They all did us proud. Roll on Funfest 2018!



# 'RESPITE' CAMP 2017

Haiti-tai-marangai Marae  
Whatuwhiwhi

Respite 2017 took place over the course of a week, which was Monday 16th – Friday 20th January. This respite camp we decided to head to the far North again, but this time past Kerikeri to a little place on the Karikari peninsula called Whatuwhiwhi. We really had a great run of weather while there and I must say, we made the most of it!

We went from beach to beach taking in the vast views and the beautiful landscapes that New Zealand has on offer.

The students are now able to say that they have been to the very tip top of New Zealand and looked out to the horizon to where the Tasman Sea and Pacific Ocean meet. This was a surprisingly arduous journey from Whatuwhiwhi to the Cape as it was a two hour drive which turned out to be a tad longer due to numerous stops along the way, but in the end it was all worth the wait.

We also spent the day with the Bongard's! This, for many of the students was a highlight of the trip as they were able to kayak around the lagoon and swim to a nearby pontoon while others were getting towed around by John and his boat on a banana float! It was quite a day that the students will always remember.



For many this was the first time at the cape, a great day out and just a 'short hop' from our base on the Karikari Peninsula.

The Beautiful Haiti-tai-marangai Marae was the perfect place for us to find the peace and quiet we were looking for.



Some of our favourite people in the world - the future of New Zealand - how great to share this wonderful place with them.

One of the students summed up the week, *"I enjoyed the freedom of camp"* (Year 11 Boy). This means that respite camp in its very relaxing form allowed the kids to open up and just unwind.

This is exactly the kind of environment we try to create, as we take students away from the big smoke at the start of the year and take them in to the wilderness to recharge and recuperate.

We don't always realise the stresses and pressures that our students cope with and it's good that they can get a break from all that and see how lovely life can be sometimes.

There were many lessons to be learnt from a peaceful week in a beautiful place, and one is that we must all take time regularly to pause and reflect on where we have been and where we are going, because we are the only people that can change ourselves.



Good food, good friends, good talks, good weather and good experiences. What else do you need?



As this was a less structured camp we were all able to spend more time just interacting with the students. These are the times that unite The Rising Foundation family.





# Sun, Fans and Fundraising!

Here we go again... staff and students ready for another fantastic weekend of Downer NRL Auckland Nines. 16 NRL Clubs coming together over the Waitangi weekend 4 -5 February 2017. This two day knock out tournament is a must see for any league fan or those who wish to experience the great hospitality of Aucklanders. The weekend has 31 action packed games, NZ \$2.6 million dollars+ in prize money and features 288+ star players.

The Rising Foundation was again privileged to be the charity recipient with the backing of our big sponsor Duco, receiving money from programme sales and auctions held in the corporate lounges. Our students from across all our schools – Papakura High, Rosehill College, Manurewa High, Pukekohe High and Sir Edmund Hillary Collegiate School in Otara volunteered both days by selling programmes at each of the main gates.

They also got creative for their bucket collections, singing, dancing and dare's to help with our total amount raised over the weekend. We also had selected students who were very fortunate to be "match ball kids". They had the responsibility of running the ball onto the field at the beginning of each game, an experience they'll never forget.

Special thanks to Duco for allowing us this amazing opportunity, to raise vital funds to continue delivering our mentor/leadership programme in our schools. Thanks to ATEED for the extra tickets, thus allowing more of our sponsors and students to attend, Rob McPate at Beko for the brilliant uniforms all our staff, students and match ball kids got to show-off (such a great keep sake item from the weekend), Puma for the sponsorship of boots and socks for our match ball kids.

Without everyone's support and generosity we would not have raised \$30,194.00 for our TRF programme.

Lastly congratulations to Sydney Roosters for an outstanding final and well done to the Australian Jillaroos for their excellent 3-0 result.



**Our Team split into four groups, one on each of the gates at Eden Park and met the tide of fans flooding in with the chance to buy a tournament programme. Every dollar counts and the programme sales, bucket donations and corporate auctions all helped to further our cause with South Auckland youth.**

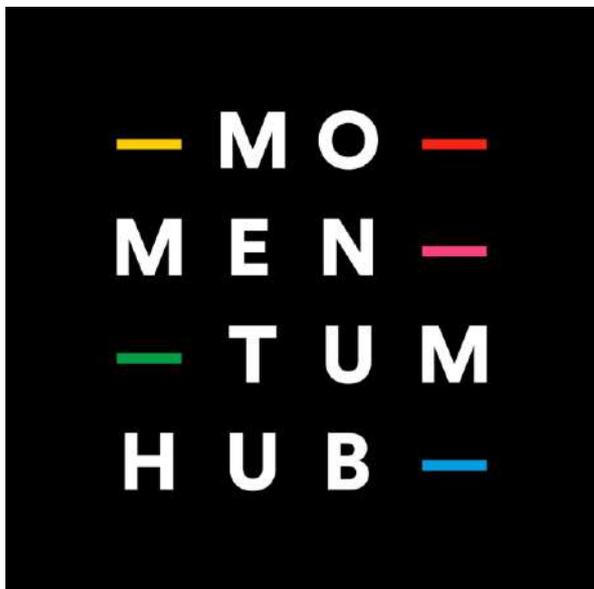


# A New Home for The Rising Foundation

February 9th was a landmark day in the life of The Rising Foundation as it marked the official opening of our new office and the complex of charity offices known as the Momentum Hub. Being part of this important community initiative for the Manukau region gives us a platform from which to build our work and reputation in a more public forum.

It was encouraging to see our new Prime Minister sharing his heart for youth in New Zealand and his desire to see young people keeping on a healthy pathway in life. Reflecting on the speeches of the day I was struck by the synergy between the vision of the many speakers. The desire to do something to help others, the unwillingness to pass by and leave another in trouble, altruistic, compassionate sentiments and the simple sense of personal responsibility for the welfare of others.

Richard Jeffery CEO of Second Nature Charitable Trust commented that some of that 'social capital' had been lost for a variety of societal reasons, but needed simply to be reasserted. Creative initiatives like the Momentum Hub and the sense of heartfelt collaboration it inspires, are just what we need to remind each other that we are all part of New Zealand and we all need to do our part to keep the sense of a safe and healthy community alive.



Top Left: Six Charities share this 'container village'. Above: Our team and Board members with Prime Minister Bill English.

# Fun on



Returning back to The Farm - Whangaruru after a few years, was a refreshing and long awaited experience. The Farm offered the perfect location on the East Coast harbour, providing a sense of solitude away from the hustle and bustle of Auckland as well as a vast landscape to get into some challenging activities.

During the Term 1 holidays, 120 students attended the camp with Rosehill College and Sir Edmund Hillary Collegiate in the first week and Pukekohe, Papakura and Manurewa High Schools in the second week.

Over the course of five days, students participated in many first time experiences. Such as learning horsemanship, bush survival skills, raft building and navigating themselves through muddy waters and not only learning how to ride a motorbike, but also looking at its engine and how it mechanically functions.

A definite highlight of the second week was the morning of ANZAC Day. Not wanting to miss out on such a special occasion, TRF held our very own ANZAC Memorial service on top of the hill, just before dawn. As the sun rose in the distance 'The Ode' was shared, finishing with a trumpet performance of 'The Last Post' by Tremayne from Pukekohe High School. (Continued on Page 10)



From Top - Embracing the fire making challenge. Learning that mud is good for you! And below - the week one crew, ready to head home after a 'full on' week.



Reinforcing the theme of 'Attitude', workshops were delivered each night highlighting how attitude is reflected and received through different ways. Such as body language, one's mind set and one's perspective towards certain situations. Students learnt that, instead of blaming others or making excuses it ultimately comes down to oneself to have control over the kind of attitude we want to take into our daily routine. We all decided that maintaining a positive attitude will prove beneficial and help us find success in our futures.

**From Top - Gaining a new respect for our equine friends. Learning new skills on the pool table. Letting off some steam at paint ball. Riding the ranges on motorbikes. A refreshing dip on the water slide and enjoying the rural 'taxi service'. Excellent and unforgettable times at The Farm.**



## What the students thought:

The Farm camp was probably my favourite TRF camp. I loved everything that we did on camp, from waking up and running up the hill to riding horses. I especially enjoyed the Haka workshops at night, because it felt like the boys were bonding in a way only possible through learning The Rising Haka together. This camp felt like it backed up a lot of the stuff we learned throughout the term, more so than normal camps. **(Year 13 Boy, Rosehill College)**

My experience at The Farm, was amazing. Going back there with TRF, brought back good memories. This time I was a CEO trying to lead a group. It was memorable! I loved encouraging & supporting the ones who were afraid and didn't want to do some of the activities. I felt proud. I learnt to always get to know everyone. Just because someone acts a certain way, you can't judge them. There's always a story behind it. Our theme was 'Attitude' but in my group, no one got along to begin with, everyone wanted to do their own thing and some didn't want to participate at first. At those times it was hard, but they changed. I loved the last day, seeing everyone smiling and happy, sharing ideas for our skit & chant, all getting involved and hyped up, made me feel like I accomplished my goal 'Family'. We didn't win, but I felt like we did. **(Year 12 Girl, Papakura High School)**

Camp was really cool, at first I wasn't really looking forward to it because I wanted to stay at home (in my comfort zone). I'm not a really social person so going to a camp with a bunch of people who I didn't know was a really big step for me.



**Raft building was a genuine challenge - the team working together and then seeing if their ideas would float. Literally!**

I quickly realised that no one was going to judge me and everyone was welcoming, especially my group who voted me to be leader and because of them I had a great week and I was able to open up to everyone else at camp. The Sir Ed students put all their trust in me and at the time we barely knew each other. But the fact that they gave me the privilege to be our group leader, encouraged me to set a better example and to do better in activities, chores etc. for everyone else. **(Year 11 Boy, Rosehill College)**



## 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

# THE PARTING SHOT

We try to take every opportunity to collaborate with national agencies and tap into their resources to benefit our wonderful students. We have partnered with Outward Bound for the past five years and we really



appreciate the impact that these intense adventures have on our students. This term Shani Apelu (top left) and Teia Herewini (beside Shani) from Pukekohe High School took the challenge! Thanks again Outward Bound!

## 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 2000 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