

the  
**RISING  
FOUNDATION  
NEWS**  
TERM TWO 2020

**10<sup>+</sup>  
YEARS**  
SERVING NEW ZEALAND YOUTH

## INSIDE

- 1 Chairman's Report
- 2 Marvelous Maria
- 3 Our Embassy in Papakura
- 4 Enterprise, Kiwi Harvest
- 5 Shore Junction, Due Drop
- 6 Achievement, TRF Online
- 7 Transition 2 Update
- 9 Rebuilding Connections
- 10 Duke of Edinburgh Awards
- 12 The Parting Shot - Feleti Many Thanks

Since writing my message for our last newsletter, much has happened as we transitioned out of lockdown to our new "normal".

I have been just amazed at how our staff and students have very quickly got back into the swing of things as 'in person' schooling recommenced. My admiration goes out to all teaching staff as well, as they get back into teaching and especially helping our students catch up on NCEA studies.



On reflecting about lockdown, I find myself just so proud to be a Kiwi. Every single person gave up plenty to drive COVID-19 out of our communities. Let's hope we continue to achieve these results going forward!

During the term we were saddened to hear that Feleti Lotulelei our Employment Pathways Manager, had decided to resign from TRF and move on to work for Oranga Tamariki as a Social Worker.

Needless to say we will sorely miss Feleti's enthusiasm, creativity, loyalty, work ethic and personality. Feleti's contribution to TRF has been enormous! From his years at Papakura High School as a student in TRF, to becoming a staff member as a Programme Coordinator, to his promotion to our Employment Pathways Manager, Feleti has always been a key member of our Foundation. His presence within our organisation will be missed, but like all of our TRF family you never really leave us. I am sure we will see Feleti at many upcoming events from Camps to Graduation to other TRF whanau events. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, Staff and students of TRF I would like to thank Feleti from the bottom of my heart for his amazing work and service.

On a positive note, I am very pleased to announce that Tiare Matara has agreed to take over the role of Employment Pathways Manager. Congratulations to Tiare on this very well deserved promotion!

Tiare has just returned from maternity leave and I am sure that her very special set of skills and knowledge of TRF, will help her achieve great things in her new role. Tiare, along with the support of Wendy and Maria, will continue to drive the very important work being done with employment / training placements and drivers licencing programmes. We wish Tiare all the best in this new role and I know everyone will be supportive of her in this new and exciting position.

The other piece of great news is that AUCKLAND Racing Club have very kindly confirmed a new date for our delayed TRF Race Day which will now be held on Saturday 5th December. Diane will be in touch with details, but we will be celebrating a Christmas theme for the day. A great opportunity for Corporates and supporters to join us with customers, staff or friends to celebrate our collective post pandemic "normality" and at the same time support our charity!

Regards, *John*

John Bongard ONZM, CRSNZ  
Board Chairman, The Rising Foundation

Unlocking Your Potential

# Marvelous Maria

Hi I'm Maria and I'm 22 years old and I'm a Coordinator with the T2 Team.



I was raised, and have lived, in Papakura since I was about a year old. My parents are British and Chilean and I love being immersed in a variety of cultures and languages. I have always loved Papakura and it's where I feel most at home. I currently live in Avondale as I recently got married, and it has made me realise how much I truly miss and love South Auckland.

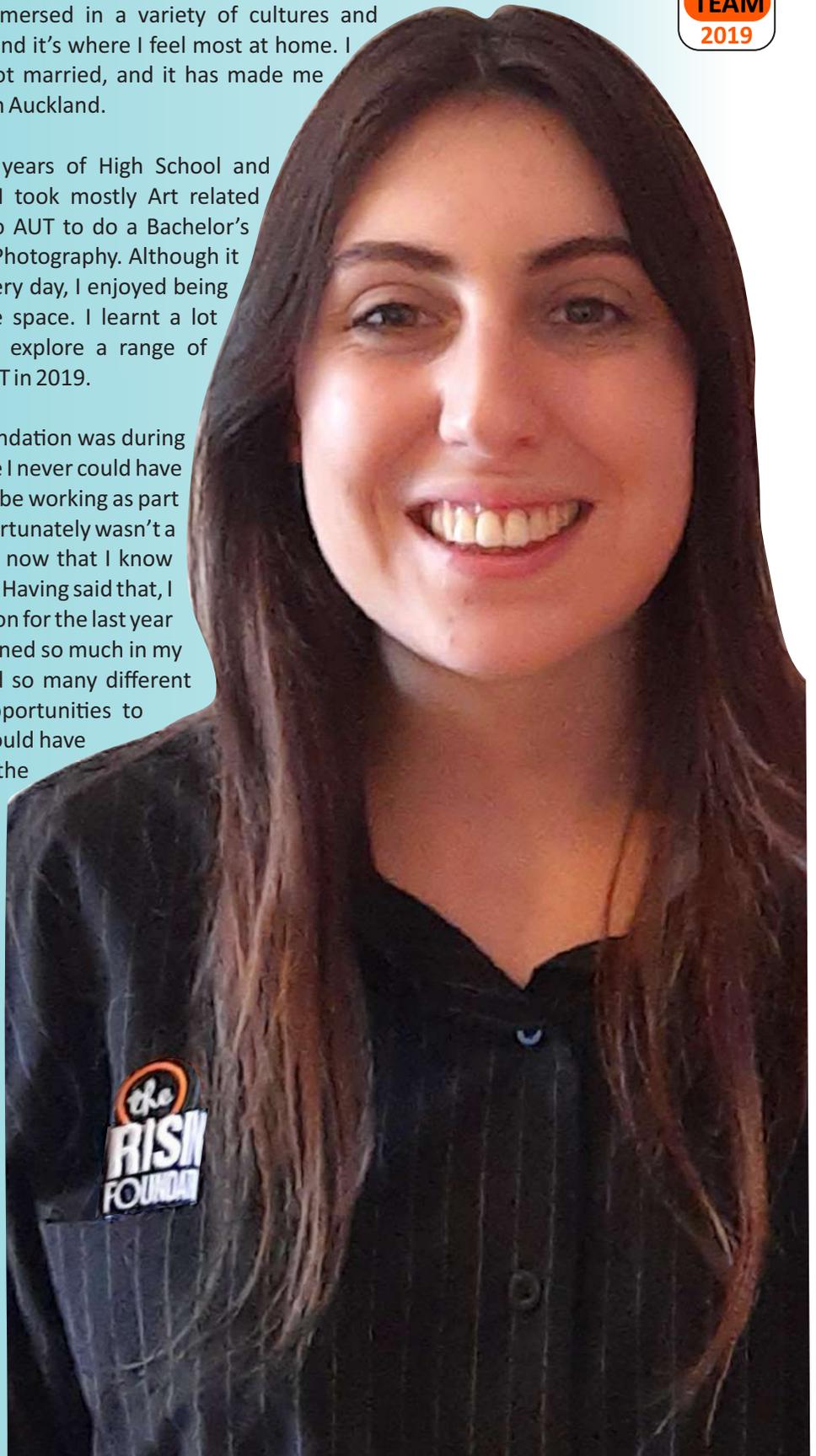
I attended Rosehill College for my five years of High School and graduated in 2015. During High School I took mostly Art related subjects and that resulted in me going to AUT to do a Bachelor's Degree in Visual Arts, where I majored in Photography. Although it was a lot to take the train into the city every day, I enjoyed being around creative people and in a creative space. I learnt a lot through University where I was able to explore a range of different art mediums. I graduated from AUT in 2019.

The first time I heard about The Rising Foundation was during my last year of High School, and at that time I never could have imagined that I would, in a couple of years, be working as part of the team. Unlike most of the team, I unfortunately wasn't a part of TRF during my time at school and now that I know everything that TRF does, I wish I had been! Having said that, I have loved working for The Rising Foundation for the last year as part of the Transition 2 team. I have learned so much in my role as a T2 Coordinator and have gained so many different skills along the way. I have also had opportunities to interact with people and organisations I would have never seen myself doing. Such as going to the City Rail Link, having the opportunity to see behind the scenes at a BNZ office and at Sky City.

Some of my favourite moments, working with the young people on our programme, have been seeing them make it through their Learners drivers licencing process, from taking the workshops to passing their test. I have felt so proud of each of them and I have loved being part of that important milestone in their lives.

I feel blessed to be part of The Rising Foundation and I am grateful for the opportunity to be part of such an amazing team and programme, who help the lives of so many young people in practical ways and positively impact the wider community. Thank you!

*Maria*



2

Unlocking Your Potential

# Social Enterprise Rosehill Style!



We give our students a hand up, not a handout - they learn the value of hard work and they learn how to plan and promote sales. They also learn about saving up for a reward and working towards a target. With the support of our Transition 2 team our Rosehill College group have planned and delivered a range of lunches, shakes and snacks, thanks to the kind donation of a candyfloss machine. They now have an ongoing business and source of income which they use to invest into future initiatives and to get themselves team clothing which is a TRF tradition. We want our young people to be confident in business and to know what it takes to succeed and Social Enterprise is a great proving ground for these important skills.

## GARY - AN UNSUNG HERO



We've all been forced to re-evaluate and to recognise that some of the things we used to think of as important really aren't and some of the things we used to take for granted are actually the important things.

During lockdown a source of good free food became a vital lifeline for many of our families and our usual deliveries of rescued food from KiwiHarvest took on a whole new significance.

Gary, our KiwiHarvest driver, saw a need for drivers and put his hand up during a particularly hectic and complex period, as many charities were working out how to respond to the needs in the community while keeping everyone safe and virus free.

Meeting Gary in deserted car parks because our normal meeting place was closed, felt a bit clandestine especially as we were all masked and gloved to meet requirements.

Gary immediately struck us as a gentle and humble man, who worked hard and arrived on time and made all the difference to our families in their time of need.

Thank you Gary and thank you KiwiHarvest.



Our team sorting food packages just after lockdown ended.

# A True Team Effort - Papakura Embassy

Getting a room of our own at Papakura High School has been a journey. This school was 'ground zero' for TRF, where our first meetings began in 2009, so it holds a special place in our history and culture as a programme. When Principal John Rohs and the School Board of Trustees decided to allow us to take over a room to use as our Embassy, we felt like we were coming home and all our years of hard work were validated. The way in which the restoration has been supported, has been a real example of our community, with paint, furniture and volunteer hours gifted to the cause. We will have our official opening soon, but we wanted to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has been with us during the transformation, because behind every photo opportunity and news story there are hours of hard work that deserves to be acknowledged.



Above: Our new TRF 'Embassy' building at Papakura High School. Below: Members of our student group at Papakura, working hard and our Programme Coordinator, Eddie Lepou enjoying his new dedicated space to work in.



We want to extend a special thank you to Jules, Lewis and the Watson family, and Lenore Donaldson, who together donated furniture and a whole range of household items and clothing for us to distribute to the TRF community of families. Also to Ken Williams and Noelene Service for their donated items. We want to thank Colin Campbell Painting Contractors for donating the paint for the make-over and to our Trustee John Wardrop for the hours he put in preparing and painting the wall assisted by our great team of Papakura High School students. Finally a big thank you to long time support Graham Zuill, and those who donated via Givealittle, for the gift of finance we will use to furnish the new Embassy once it is ready.

You have all played a big part in establishing an important and significant landmark in the history of our programme. Your support warms our hearts and is much appreciated. The Rising Foundation has a proud history and a bright future through the support of people like you!

4

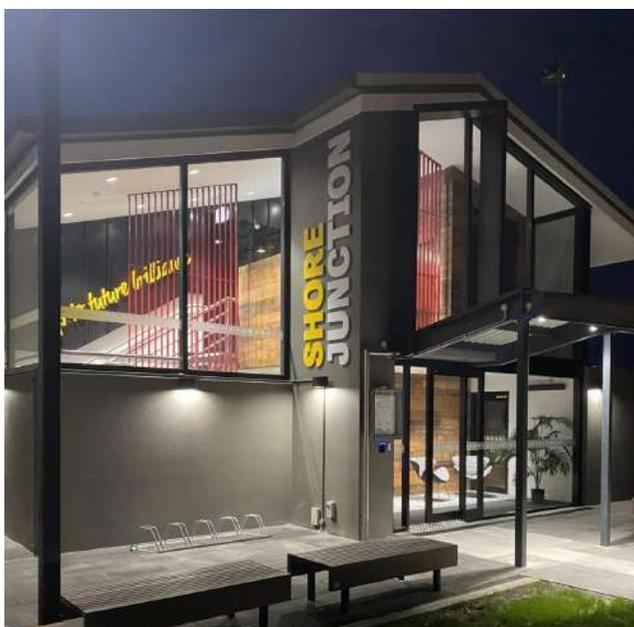
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# INSPIRED BY SHORE JUNCTION

Shore Junction is a youth innovation hub in Takapuna designed to provide a safe space for young people to connect, belong, collaborate, learn and innovate. It will provide opportunities for young people to connect socially outside of school, and to access a range of facilities, programmes and events that are designed to support their well being and build their potential.

Shore Junction will support young people to prepare for their future pathways by supporting them to develop key skills and by connecting them to business and enterprise. The Shore Junction building offers "two floors of amazing" - flexible, shared spaces for young people to meet and collaborate. The use of the space can be continuously refined in response to the needs and ideas of young people.

It was great to spend some time with Sonia Thursby (Chambers) and her team, and to dream big dreams for a space like this for our students and Graduates in South Auckland. We loved the Hi Tech look and friendly feel of the building and we could easily imagine our students and Grads really getting into the recording studio, dance room and maker spaces.



## Intelligent Philanthropy - What Due Drop offers to charities.

Due Drop Foundation is focussed on supporting the most effective intervention and wrap-around community programmes. We are grateful for the support, professional insight and accountability that Due Drop has given to us at The Rising Foundation, as we seek to be the best we can for the young people we serve.

Founder and patron Fran Wyborn said: *"Our goal is to improve the living standards of as many New Zealanders as we can and help to lift them from poverty through empowerment and support. To achieve this, we use innovative and intelligent technology to provide a way for donors to see the real difference of their charitable dollar on the lives of the people who need it the most".*

This involved measuring the value of charity programmes, and the impact of the charitable dollar, by using a scalable evaluation process and Wellington-based Impact Lab's big data tools. Using big data allowed "intelligent giving", instead of just "emotive giving".

Impact Lab brings together big data, powerful analytics, and the best scientific evidence to understand the social impact of dedicated people doing good work.

"Due Drop Foundation's scaled evaluation process answers these questions, giving our donors peace of mind that they are getting the best return on their valued gifts."

The foundation is already working with a range of charitable organisations whose mission is to empower and support New Zealanders, including Guardian Angels Charitable Trust, St Elizabeth's Charitable Housing Trust, Pillars and The Rising Foundation. *(Exerpts from the NZ Herald Article)*



Unlocking Your Potential

# READY TO ACHIEVE?

Our Term Theme of Achievement, is all about finding the best way to express whole selves and bear fruit in life. We deliberately teach our students to not spend too long looking before they leap, and so miss their opportunity, but to give things a go. Many young people get stuck in life through indecision and fear of failure. We show our young people that 'not trying' is way worse than failing. Failure just shows you're trying! They learn not to get too comfortable and to recognise that motivation comes as a result of successes, not the other way around. This term started in lockdown and we sent our message direct to our student's devices to make sure they got this important concept. However much you know, however talented you are, unless you learn to achieve, the world can't see what you are capable of. Do the visuals we sent speak to you?



## TAKING TRF ONLINE

Our social media platforms are very much active, with Maria spearheading our 'People of TRF' campaign. "T2 Tuesdays" has also built momentum, we now have a range of career interviews uploaded to our Facebook and Instagram pages. A huge shout out to Matilda and Mikaele who hosted our Correction Officer interview, Asotasi and Fane from Sir Edmund Hillary Collegiate who answered questions on Secondary School teaching, Ariana who is a registered Early Childhood educator and Eseta and Grace from NZ Police. We value your insights into the reality of these roles. Our hope is that our students and Graduates will get the full picture of their chosen career. From educational preparation, application processes, what a typical "day in the life" can be, and how often you take on different "hats" as part of your role. Students pose questions via our Instagram poll, a good way for our shy students to have a voice when they may not ask these questions face-to-face. The more informed our career thinking can be, the better choices we will make.



6

Unlocking Your Potential

# TRANSITION<sup>2</sup>N

meaningful work for our rising generation



Wendy

Maria

Tiare

Kia ora everyone, Tiare here! I have the great privilege of building on the great work that my predecessor, Feleti Lotulelei began.

The 25th of January 2020 is a day I will never forget, as we welcomed a beautiful baby girl, Lilo Nu'u, into the world. Motherhood to me, has placed so much more purpose, love and learning into our family's lives. My daughter brings so much joy and exuberance to me! So hello everyone! My name is Tiare and I am firstly a mother, and secondly, I'm the new Employment Pathways Manager for Transition 2.

With the absence of our traditional Term Two Careers Exposure week, due to Covid-19, we instead took full advantage of the extra time, and hosted restricted licence theory workshops, along with learner licence workshops.

Following our first wave of learner licences last year, we hosted restricted licence workshops with the help of

Marutawhao Delamere from AT Transport. The restricted licence workshops, have provided our young people with the knowledge to better understand how to successfully pass a practical restricted test. The seminar also gave our students an opportunity to get behind the wheel for a driving assessment with Driving Instructors from Class 1 Driving School. It has been exciting to see our young people progress to their restricted licence having seen them gain their learners licence, we really feel we are on an important journey with them.



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

**Look for: The Rising Foundation Trust**

on **givealittle**  
POWERED BY perpetual guardian

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During the two-week school holiday, we also collaborated with ICE who gave our students some excellent work experience opportunities. We saw a range of our students and Graduates head out into different industries:

Hazy, Grace and Losa (who are interested in External Law) headed to Te Mana Law firm. Although the firm maintains strict confidentiality, they were still able to help research cases and get a glimpse of the legal profession. Meleana (who wants to pursue medicine) headed to the Crawford Medical Centre where she was able to shadow workers in two different roles, tasked with the booking and management of the clinic, meet with patients and took their temperature. She then went to Middlemore Hospital.

Mya, Justyce and Saia were able to see behind-the-scenes of ICE, a corporate talent brokering agency that moves 'beyond the traditional early talent processes and exploring new alternatives for how we can develop emerging young professionals, in this constantly changing world of work'. Their experience included meeting clients, operational admin duties and for some, just learning to catch the train into Britomart! Justyce also headed to Gogo Tourism, a destination management company specialising in educational and corporate packages.

We want to thank Kulina, Emma and Maryana from ICE for championing the interests of our students and spotlighting the plethora of roles in their desired career pathways. We hope to continue the relationship we have with ICE, and we already have students accepted onto their Term 3 work placement programme.



Mya, Tiare, Justyce and Maryana from ICE, in their CBD office.



Maria, Justyce, Ana Marie, Grace, Sia and Tiare, ready to meet with the ICE team and find out more about their work experience placements.



Above: Mya after her make-over with ICE Managing Partner, Kulina, at the Lamborghini dealership, as you do!  
Right: Emma, Engagement Lead from ICE.



As a team, we thrive off visual aids. Our office at the Momentum Hub in Manukau is now a space to be inspired and motivated. We want our young people to walk in and feel welcomed!! Our clipboards showcase our stories of success where we hold evaluations on service delivery.

The infographic (shown left) gives us a daily reminder of who we are and what we set out to accomplish. Our biggest source of motivation is seeing each individual we have helped, gain a step up in their lives.

# REBUILDING CONNECTIONS AFTER LOCKDOWN

Adolescents are generally very sociable people. Even though they are often portrayed as grumpy, rude and prone to distance themselves from others and retreat into their rooms or onto their devices. The truth is, that when you get them together in a safe place and get them talking and having fun, there's nothing they like better. Peer friendships are the most influential relationships in their lives and the Covid-19 restrictions forced us to be apart and limited our interactions to those we had on line. For the first few days being away from school and spending more time online felt like fun, but when you have no options, entertainment without a friend to share it with gets old fast.

There is no denying that isolation had an impact on all of us and we could feel it when we were eventually able to reunite. Term two has been one of consolidation and re-grouping, a time to gradually feel secure again even when the threat from the pandemic is still very real around the globe.

Young people aren't oblivious to the world, they just hear about it in different ways and from different sources. Often they have heard more than we have about a story and they have heard it direct, without the filters the mainstream media apply. This can be good and bad, often what adolescents lack is broader context, an understanding of how all the facts and fake facts they are exposed to, fit together and make sense. There is lots of room for misinformation and lots of cause for anxiety in a world like that. So it was good to get out of the bubble and get together again, to remember what real life should be like and have a baseline to balance all the theories against.

It has been a relief to see our 'babies' coming back to us and to see the relationships re-forming and the 'buzz' coming back to our Embassies.

**Yes Covid knocked us down but we always get back up again. We are The Rising Foundation after all.**



**One thing everyone loves about The Rising Foundation is the feeling of being together as a family, supporting each other and encouraging each other. The friendships formed during these years last a lifetime and we weren't going to let the effects of isolation get us down for long. Its a new start and we're glad to be back up and running.**



# SAILING SIR PETER BLAKE'S WAKA

Our friendship and collaboration with the folks at NZ Bluelight has helped us in so many ways over the years and at the moment a number of our Students are working towards their Bronze Award in the Duke of Edinburgh Programme. Each student is expected to develop in four key areas and we find that these challenges align perfectly with the goals and values of our programme. Students must develop a new skill, get involved in a sport and take on tasks that benefit their community in some way. They also are asked to go on an adventurous journey that gets them out of their comfort zone and try new things.

This year our students had the huge privilege of sailing around the Hauraki Gulf on one of Sir Peter Blake's original Round the World Yachts, Lion New Zealand! The Yacht is maintained and run by the New Zealand Sailing Trust and their excellent team bravely accepted the challenge of hosting groups from three of our schools for these exciting overnight sailing adventures.



This was truly a world class experience. Many of our students had never been on a boat let alone a racing yacht. The team were patient and easygoing and the students soon adjusted to a different way of life. Living and eating in a limited space, sleeping on stretchers, even the compact toilet facilities were all new things to adapt to.



Experiences like this stick in our minds for a lifetime. We learn about ourselves and our friends and we find ourselves capable of more than we expected. Thank you, Duke of Edinburgh, NZ Bluelight and the NZ Sailing Trust for this great adventure.



# 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.



Unlocking Your Potential

# THE PARTING SHOT

We just wanted to take a moment to honour one of the real original heros of TRF.

**Feleti Lotulelei** served as a Programme Coordinator and then as our first Employment Pathways Manager, eight years of wholehearted service. He has now moved on to his next challenge as a Care and Protection Social Worker with the Homai Office of Oranga Tamariki.

Feleti is a living example of the kind of people our programme strives to build and we were truly sad to see him go.



## 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 1,702 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



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