

# the RISING FOUNDATION NEWS TERM FOUR 2016

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Many Thanks

Hi everyone, this is our last newsletter of the year!  
What a year it has been !!

We held our annual graduation ceremony on the 7th of December and it was awesome to see another 24 outstanding students graduate from our programme post their Year 13 at School. The graduates included our first students from Rosehill College so that was a special moment for all.



It is at this time of the year that we reflect on the successes of our programme from last year and I am happy to say that our students excelled in all measures that we use to judge our outcomes. A summary of those successes are as follows:

- 90% of TRF Students achieved passes in Levels 1, 2 and 3 of NCEA, versus a whole of school average pass rate across our five secondary schools of 65%
- Attendance levels of TRF students were between 1% and 19% better than the average attendance of others
- A breakdown of current employment of our 30 graduates from our 2015 year is - 9 at University, 8 at other Tertiary Institutions, 10 in full time employment, 2 overseas and 1 unable to work due to family immigration issues.
- Our students were surveyed and results show that **91%** have gained **confidence** because of being part of TRF, **77%** have gained **leadership skills** because of being part of TRF, **94%** have gained **self respect** because of being part of TRF, **87%** have gained **determination** because of being part of TRF and **89%** have gained **purpose** because of being part of TRF.

The facts above are fully audited by our external auditors and truly reflect the amazing work being done by the TRF team and students on the programme. **We wish you all a fantastic family Christmas and a magical and successful New Year.**

Regards to all *John*

John Bongard, Board Chairman, The Rising Foundation

## Good Guy Gideon



TRF Programme Coordinator, Rosehill College

Kia ora Koutou katoa

My name is **Gideon Rihari**, my parents names are Te Hurihanga and Sheree Rihari. I am of NgaPuhii descent and my Hapu is Ngati Torehina. I am 21 years old and I am currently a Community Youth Worker for **TRF** and Programme Coordinator for Rosehill College.

My journey with **The Rising Foundation** started at Papakura High School during my senior years – Year 12 (Form 6). I was invited to join TRF and from then on I have been involved and been a part of

**Continued from page one.**

the TRF family. Throughout the remainder of my High School life, TRF challenged me to grow as a young leader in school, and to be a better son at home. I was challenged many times by The Rising to take on bigger leadership roles in school, one being Head student in 2012. I always had a lot of support from my fellow TRF members and JB Graduates which helped me get through the tough times.

I graduated High School in 2012 and went on to Unitec to study towards a Certificate in Applied Technology for Boat Building. During this time I was still attending The Rising Foundation camps as a JB Graduate and assisting to help run them.

I was hired by The Rising Foundation in 2015 and I started my Youth Work Diploma through Careerforce. I was placed in

Rosehill College to be the Programme Coordinator there and it has been a privilege watching the students grow as young leaders themselves and an honour to be a part of my student's lives.

Ever since then my colleagues and I have been flat out continuing the work that has helped so many young people in South Auckland.

Over the years The Rising Foundation has taught me many life lessons that I am extremely thankful for. My goal now as a Youth Worker is to support young people through their struggles in life and to do my best to teach them the Values and Principles of The Rising Foundation that have empowered me on my journey.

**Gideon**

## A Very Merry Christmas And a Brilliant New Year From the TRF Team



**From left:** Grace Kingi, Feleti Lotulelei, Tiare Matara, Les Richard, Alex Tarrant (General Manager), Donna Rogers (Administration Manager) Jordan Tanielu, Gideon Rihari and New Recruit Tyrian Holland.

# Reaping the Benefits

## Our relationship with KiwiHarvest

One of our four Pillars is **Synergy** – the idea that, by collaborating with others, we all become greater than we ever could be on our own. We have been so impressed by the generous and efficient way that **KiwiHarvest** functions and by partnering with them we have opened a door of blessing for our students and their families.

We have had our first delivery of rescued food items and we were impressed by the range and quality of the food delivered. From that one delivery we were able to make up **22 care packages** for some of our needy families and had lots of fruit left over for our students too!

To think that, without the efforts of **KiwiHarvest**, all that good food would have gone to waste. Many thanks to **Terry Marsters** for delivering the food to us and to **Julie Crocker** for being such a great co-ordinator and liaison – nothing is too much trouble for these guys and they are a real pleasure to deal with. I'm also excited about the deeper themes beneath the work of **KiwiHarvest** – food politics and their willingness to nibble at the edges of some of the injustices related to food in society.

In my experience Kiwis are naturally generous and honest people, it's not in our nature to deliberately deprive or cheat others. But I think sometimes we don't realise how much need is out there, hidden in our communities. Or we don't think that our extra stuff might really help a struggling family – or we just don't know any good ways to turn our excess into a help for others.

On the other side it's hard for us to accept the charity of others – there's a staunch pride in our own independence which can derail the efforts of those who genuinely care and can isolate us from the compassionate community that wants to share and wants to give.

New Zealand needs more groups like **KiwiHarvest**, selfless and subtly courageous. Willing to see a need and negotiate with big business to find a way to meet it. With the commitment and conviction to do what's necessary to pass on the basics of life to the people in humble circumstances who need them most and are the most deserving, but are generally the least likely to ask for them.

Because we know our families and they know us, we can pass on this blessing where perhaps others might not be able to without causing embarrassment. We are proud to partner with **KiwiHarvest** and we are looking forward to passing the blessing of free food on to the families and communities we serve.



Terry and Alex with some of our first delivery.



A big pile of fresh and classy goodness!



Teamwork! 22 care packages sorted and delivered.

# Transition Camp - PAUANUI

## *A little slice of paradise*

The Rising Foundation's first ever stand-alone Year 8 Term 4 transition camp kicked off in the heart of Pauanui. The transition camp involved two of our feeder schools - Pukekohe Intermediate and Pukekohe North with Year 8 students who will be attending Pukekohe High school next year.

The purpose of this camp is to introduce our Year 8's to The Rising Foundation's core values, familiarise the students with our Embassy (classroom) at school, and gain positive relationships with TRF Pukekohe High. Our objective for this camp was to introduce TRF's core values and pillars, give students motivation to explore new environments and discover attributes that help unlock the hidden potential they have.

25 Year 8 students from Pukekohe North and Pukekohe Intermediate joined us for a four-day camp held at Pauanui Glade Holiday Park. We started off at Red Alert Paint Ball where the students split up into two groups, Team Telescopes and Team Blessings. Our theme for this camp was "Builders". The concept of this theme was to teach our students that leadership is constantly under construction - there is always an opportunity to develop as a leader.

Pauanui served us with great weather as we entered into The Amazing Race: Pauanui Edition. TRF Pukekohe High students stepped up to the challenge of leading their respective groups and focusing on the Year 8's journey on camp. The quotes below overall wrap up an amazing camp for all.

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

*"I learnt the foundations of a team and how to contribute to the workload. I also learnt to live in the moment!"* – Year 10 Student

*"What I liked about this camp is that everyone accepts you and it taught me to be myself."* – Year 8 Student

*"I learnt that it doesn't matter what you look like, it matters what's in your head and your heart."* – Year 8 Student

*"This camp was a life changing experience that you will never forget. It is a lot of fun and will test you and your limits. I really recommend TRF!"* – Year 8 Student

*"TRF is the best thing that happened in my life and it helped me overcome my fears."* – Year 10 Student



Team Telescope get creative on the beach.



The Blessings thinking through what they stand for.



On top of Paku overlooking the Pauanui harbour.

# Asaeli and SET For Life!

**Asaeli Mapa** has just graduated from the Rising Foundation at **Sir Edmund Hillary Collegiate** in Otara - his Programme Coordinator, **Feleti Lotulelei** has been building a strong connection with our partners at the **Skills Organisation**. And thanks to their connections and support, **Asaeli** now has a contract with **Upright Access** and starts work in the New Year.

We want to thank and honour **Amanda Wheeler** and **Andrea Daly** for their patience and flexibility in bringing us on board. It has taken a while to work out how our two organisations can interface but it is just that willingness to take the time and be flexible that sets **Skills** apart from other Industry Training Organisations.

We have had the privilege of linking with **Skills** at the ground floor of a new pilot programme and **Asaeli** is the first of our students to go through the programme and land a job as a result!

Here's a summary of the programme from **Skills**:

"**SET** stands for Skills, Employment and Training – and the **SET for Life** programme bridges the gap between education and employment in creating a holistic and personalised plan that supports a learners' successful journey into sustainable

employment and further training.

**SET for Life** aims to provide:

Cross sector connectivity and collaboration, effective pastoral care and support for learners, increased support and workforce capability for employers and transitional support for learners when entering the world of work.

The programme also includes assessment and support in the development of foundation skills of all learners in the project and increased qualification completion rates for learners through collaborating with existing organisations, current projects and services, whanau, education providers and local industry.

We are confident that **SET for life** and our partnership with **Skills** will continue to be a great benefit to our students.

# skills.



**Asaeli Mapa** and his new employers, **Mick and Jaine Curran** of **Upright Access Systems** and **Andrea Daly** (Inset above) from **WorkChoice** and **SET for Life**.

We are so grateful for their support and we are confident that **Asaeli** will be the first of many young people from TRF to find employment via this excellent programme.

# Prizes galore for TRF Students!

We are so grateful to the excellent teachers at all our schools for helping our students excel in their chosen subjects. We don't want to take any credit for their academic achievements - but we do believe that students who feel confident and safe - students who have a pro-social group to belong to and students who get consistent encouragement to set goals and 'put the yards in' - have a better chance of succeeding in school as well as in life. Here are a small selection of the many award and prize recipients from our groups across the schools we serve.



Wendy, Robert and Ivy from Papakura High and Esperence and Grace from Pukekohe High



Wayne Fa'afua Leapai from Papakura High, All the prizewinners from Pukekohe High and Junior Fiu from Sir Ed.



It is wonderful to see the whole family turn out to support one of our students and we wanted to make a special mention of Junior Fiu's aiga.

However much we sow into the lives of our students, nothing can replace the support of a proud and loving family - in this case Junior needed his whole family to help him carry all the trophies and awards he got, including Sportsman of the Year!

Perhaps some of the family are also planning to help him with those lollies?

# More of our proud prize recipients



Philip Fulutusi, Tara Tinirau, Siale Faaui - Receiving their prizes at Sir Edmund Hillary Collegiate in Otara.



Mererahi Mataio also from Sir Ed.



Taumata Lowe, Kiana Lawton, Hayley James from Rosehill College



Wendy and Melevesi who got an award for her music and a scholarship towards her tertiary study costs.



Alfred Paea, Inoke Paea and Ana Faaui with Mele. We are so pleased with all of our students! Their success is our success and we love to see their sense of achievement when they recognise that they are capable of fulfilling their potential.

# Graduation 2016 - A Night to Remember

Our 2016 graduation night was all about honouring the young people who had completed their time in our programme and demonstrated the characteristics that we promote and encourage.

I was struck, again and again by the sincere love and respect that each of our Graduates have towards their Programme Coordinators – it came across in every nervous speech, braving the many eyes in the audience, some public speaking for the first time, because communicating their loyalty and admiration for their leaders became more important than their shyness.

I'm excited to say that our Graduation night was three hours of clear evidence – to our younger students, to our families, to our Board and to our valued sponsors - that The Rising Foundation programme changes young lives and equips our students for a successful and healthy adult life.

As the procession of graduates continued I reflected that

these are all great people – they will make great workers, great friends, great husbands and wives, great parents – I want to live in a suburb with people like them, they would make great neighbours. Isn't that the outcome we want? Gradually creating a safer, kinder, friendlier New Zealand – not with politics – with more good people.

Thank you to the 200 plus students, parents, JB Grads, board members, funders and team who joined us for a great evening. Congratulations to Prestige Catering for an excellent meal, and to the Pukekohe Cosmopolitan Club for a wonderful venue. But most of all, thank you to this year's Graduates – your genuine character, your maturity and your mana are an inspiration to us. You are why we keep doing what we do.

There's no way to do justice to the night in the space we have here but the next page is a montage of memorable moments.

Alex Tarrant - TRF General Manager



**A great venue, excellent food and a very enjoyable evening. We all came away with a sense that we had been part of a special night in the lives of our wonderful graduates. All the best to each of you for the future!**





# The Rising Foundation Graduation 2016



# This Year's Landmarks

It's always good to reflect on the landmarks that we achieve each year. Often it's not until we stop and look back that we see how far we have really come. Here are some important steps on this year's journey.

## Integration of the Gem Journey

The principles embedded in the stories of the Gem Journey were such an excellent match with our programme and add depth and clarity to the moral and ethical framework that underpins TRF. We are so grateful to Ron Phillips for his support and inspiration as we continue to learn to tell the stories, communicate the values and share them effectively with our students.

## Skills Organisation

We very much value the connection we have formed with Skills and especially with Amanda Wheeler and Andrea Daly who have been tireless in their work of establishing a workable link between our students and the trade based industries they represent. Their commitment to building a practical pathway between the world of school and the world of work will create ongoing opportunities for our students.

## New General Manager

We saw recruiting a new manager as an important step to building team cohesion and sustainability and providing better local leadership and consistent direction for TRF. Alex Tarrant brings his training as a Registered Social Worker, Counsellor and Youth Worker and has settled well into his role with us.

## Kiwi Harvest

This collaboration will enhance our capacity to be a blessing to the broader 'rising community' as well as helping us to focus our resources on the training and equipping of our young leaders rather than on feeding them!

## Case Management

By adopting the excellent EXESS software we have enhanced the professionalism and accountability of our practice. We now have a consistent way to track our interactions with our students and monitor our use of time. We also now have a means to establish student pathways so they can set goals and follow progress as they mature as people and prepare for their future.

## New Programme Co-ordinator

Jordan Tanielu has already proved himself as a great asset to the team and the students appreciate his calm and easygoing nature. You will be hearing more from Jordan in the new year and we are excited to see how he continues to step up to embrace his new role.

## There's A Better Way

We are also looking forward to seeing how our friendship with Glen Green and his groundbreaking community basketball programme develops. Glen's infectious enthusiasm for sport and for the transformation of lives and neighbourhoods with his message of hope and collaboration has really caught our imagination.

## The Careers EXPO

We wanted to promote face to face interactions between our students and families and potential employers, industry trainers and tertiary education providers. We expect this annual event to grow in popularity and effectiveness and become a true catalyst for change in the lives of our graduates.

This has been a year of strengthening and consolidation for The Rising Foundation. A year of honing our vision and building valuable community connections. A year of preparation and inspiration. Thank you for your part in making 2016 a great one for us.

## 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

When you support TRF **you buy us time** to meet and befriend our students – we see them at their best and worst, during stressful and confusing times. We support them through the most complex and formative years of their lives.

And **you buy them time** to build up trust and respect for us – then the principles and values we teach and model are much easier to swallow.

And **you buy them time** to absorb and question and test out the way of life we recommend to them.

They have **time** to make friends, **time** to grow in confidence, **time** to get good at being good people, **time** to be encouraged, **time** to be corrected, **time** to be inspired, **time** to be trained and **time** to be prepared to step out of the world of school as successful



Asaeli Mapa, Alfred Paea, Tyrian Holland, Inoke Paea, Ana Faau.

students and into the world of work as reliable and honest employees.

**Thank You - For Buying us time.**

## A Community of Friends of TRF

The Rising Foundation would like to acknowledge all Sponsors, Family 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. Your help and support has enabled more young minds to shift their thinking into positive directions, more lives to be influenced for good, more honesty, more tenacity, more confidence, more responsibility, more hope. You have helped these wonderful young people set and meet their goals, embrace differences, expand their networks, understand time management, discover their capabilities, become more employable and much more ...

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

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