

RUFF TIMES

December 2022



Russell Turner
Director

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Directors Update

Well another year comes to a close, it happens every year. For some that is a relief and hope for better days ahead, while for others it is a good time to reflect, take some rest in the Christmas break, and then look forward to the opportunities that will present themselves in the year ahead.

At Impactauranga it has been a mixed year. Covid, of course, has generally unsettled most plans, and all businesses and organisations have had to adapt the best they can to circumstances presented to them. However, hopefully, that is behind us all now, and we can see more clearly into 2023.

While our Residential Home and our Youth Justice Mentoring services have seen a reduction this year, our Family Services and Impact Youth Mentoring services have had good growth.

We also continue to work for the Intensive Wraparound Services of MOE, which provides support for young people to remain in school, and support to the caregivers/parents to strengthen the family unit. This is an excellent service as it aligns with our desire to provide Preventative Support, a "fence at the top of the cliff", looking to stand with families and young people before the situations get out of control. Our staff are fully trained in Family Therapy and with our mentors alongside the young person, we are seeing excellent results in this work.

Sadly, we are losing two critical staff this year.

Adam Gardiner has done an excellent work as our head Tutor in the Academy. He and his family are returning to their home town of Christchurch and we thank him for his work and wish him the very best for the future.

Marie Mc Grail had been one of our House mothers for the past four years, the last 2 as



senior House Mother, and she has done an exceptional job. Not only her heart for the young people but also her skill in creating a beautiful home for them. She will be greatly missed but again we wish her the very best in her retirement days ahead.

As always, I want to acknowledge the work of the staff for their tireless efforts this year.

Their heart, patience and passion, are the reason for the great results they have achieved this year, and this also motivates them to be ready again next year, 2023.

I acknowledge our sponsors, large and small, for their commitment to us, so that we can be committed to the community. Please note our sponsors on the back page of this bulletin.

Finally again to all our readers, we wish you a blessed Christmas season and we look forward to working together in 2023

God Bless you all

Russell Turner (Director)



Thank you for your excellent work. We will miss you, and wish you all the best for the future.



Impactauranga Social Services



Nynz Note

Nyn Martin,
Manager of Social Services

Arndt House — Residential Home

Help! Hope! Care!

God Bless you all as we come to the end of another epic year!! I trust you are well and will find some rest and refreshment over the summer break.

At Impactauranga we are here to serve our community in any way we can, this is our joy and honor.

With so many twists and turns all around us it is so important that we stay connected to each other and look out for each other even more purposefully. The most important thing is 'he tangata, he tangata, he tangata – it is people! It is people! it is people!

Through our Social Services Programme we have supported 36 families, this is a **200% increase** in the demand and volume of work we have responded to over the last 12 months and it's growing by the day. We have seen many families/whanau under intense pressure as they navigate these troublous times, it is our privilege to come alongside and support in any way we can.

Impactauranga provides:

- * Residential care – short term care for youth age 12 – 18yrs.
- * Alternative Education – education for youth age 13 – 16 yrs.
- * Mentoring – for children and youth
- * Family support, counselling, and wrap around services for whanau/families in our community.

Through the support given we are seeing a shift, families feeling more connected to one another, the love and care growing again and children and young people more settled and happy.

Jackie – Making the changes for her children and her future.

Jackie was struggling being a solo mum with two high needs children. One with ADHD and the other with Autism and other diagnosis, coming from a trauma background, there are a lot of challenges for Jackie to face every day.

Jackie believes education is a part of breaking the cycle and improving outcomes for her and her children. This year she has completed four papers in her Mental Health and Addictions Degree with mostly A's in all papers. She has included fitness i.e. walking every day as part of getting through this year. She is a battler and has battled the health system to get the support needed for her son, Kyle. Now with the support needed he can confidently embark on high school education in the mainstream system with the support around him to excel.

Kyle has had success this year too, with the support of his mentor he has learnt to fish, order Subway himself, and generally grow in confidence. He has completed the year at Tauranga Intermediate, getting an award for Hockey, is making friends and enjoys playing golf at the shooting range with his mother.

Jackie's daughter Bridget, also has shone this year. Herself struggling with AHDA and other diagnosis, school has been a struggle, but with the support of the MOE IWS program and an amazingly supportive school at Merivale Primary, plus her inspiring mentor, Bridget, aged 11, is doing well.

This year Bridget won the cross country, published a story that will be coming out in the Toi Toi publication called "How we met Moon", about a cat that found them and has become part of their family and part of the healing journey of them all. Bridget has performed in the Pacifica production, performed in the mid-year and end of year show for the KJ dancing Studio and performed in a movie that was released in December. Incredible effort Bridget!! You're a star!!



Well done Jackie! Your loving support and patience and never give up attitude has made this happen. Jackie, along with many others this year have experienced success in spite of challenging circumstances.

Please do not struggle alone, we are here to help and support you and together make a way forward together. Give us a call or email.

Let's stay connected this summer and into 2023!! We need one another and are stronger together.

God Bless you and your whanau abundantly. Have a safe and happy holiday,
Nga mihi aroha, *Nyn Martin*

Mentoring



Sudha Bhandari
Head of Mentoring

Hello to everyone,

Welcome to the season of celebration—Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year in advance.

The mentoring programme has had another amazing year working with a total of twenty-nine young men and women. Our 8-unit Youth and Justice contract got renewed for another year. Of those twenty-nine young people, we supported four (including two renewals of the existing contract) through the Youth Justice contract, seven were under Fee for Services, one under the High and Complex Needs Unit Oranga Tamariki Care, five from the Service unit Oranga Tamariki, and the rest through the Youth and Family Social Service. Two of these three young people of YJ have received a 282 Discharge (no record of offending), and the remaining are either unknown or yet to be discharged.

While our work with young people from Youth Justice has been less than usual, our preventative work with young people in the community, Arndt House, the Tauranga Youth Academy, and other agencies has greatly increased. We have seen some truly incredible outcomes with these young people and their families and God's work through our teams into the young people and their family's life. Lately, we started getting a referral for younger children aged 7 to 11 for the mentoring programme. After the assessment, we saw the great need for this age group and started working in their life when things started getting wobbly, and now these children and their families are blessed to be part of this service.

One of the girls we work with was going through a struggling

phase at school, relationship with family, self-esteem and identity. Our mentor, being a positive role model, assisted her in building her confidence, identifying her goal, and creating a plan to accomplish those set goals and gradually form a good relationship with the family members. Now, she is pretty excited to join the youth group program. Consistent support and guidance are helping her grow throughout her journey with the mentoring programme.

Another girl is doing fantastic with the help of her mentor. She was referred to the service as she was imitating her elder sister, who has mental health issues, to get attention. Since the mentoring started, she enjoyed her mentor's 1:1 undivided attention from doing cool activities that she likes. There were a few times that she struggled with other students at school and got in trouble, however, with the support of a mentor, she started to handle the situation differently and gradually gained self-confidence – by the end of the agreed contract hours, she was able to open up to her mother about some deep traumatic events which enabled her to receive additional mentoring hours to continue work with her and other services too are about to engage in supporting her.

So these are great outcomes and typical of the support we are able to give our clients.

On behalf of Impac Tauranga, I would like to thank all our incredible mentors for their fantastic support for our young people. Thank you to Buster, Gray, Zane, Ben, Ethan, Patrick, Martin, Loli, Rachel, Zoe, Bailey, Chanel, Stacey, Celeste, Steph, Jay, Jacquelyn and Becky for their hard work.

I look forward to our program continuing to grow and succeed in our work overtime. As usual, we have had some changes in our mentors' team, with some old ones moving on and some new ones joining in. Currently, we have four males and six females, and we're looking forward to having more new mentors on board.

Sudha

PS. Just some things I want you to remember as we close out the year.

- ♥ You are wonderful.
- ♥ You are appreciated.
- ♥ You are smart.
- ♥ You are capable.
- ♥ You are deserving.
- ♥ You are generous.
- ♥ You are caring.
- ♥ You are Awesome.
- ♥ You are beautiful.
- ♥ You are enough.
- ♥ You are loved.



Thank you for your support

Arndt House

Unfortunately, at the moment, there's no resident in the Arndt house, however, there are a few referrals in the process to start in the new year. We're looking forward to it to work with many more young people in the coming year. Six of the residents returned to the family/community throughout the year. Of these, three were from Oranga Tamariki, and the rest were from the community.

All of our Community residents came to us on a temporary agreement and stay with us for a few months. They learn the life skills they can utilise when they go back home. They also work on repairing the relationship with their whanau and building the connection with the extended whanau. During this time, they are supported in a Transition to Independence plan, which means can be here with us until they are confident to move out and start their life independently or with family members.

With the Oranga Tamariki referral, young people stayed at the house throughout the contracted period, where they were able to get support to accomplish the individual plan – to settle down in a safe environment, engage in education, work on the ongoing challenges (behaviour/emotional), build the connection with the whanau. On top of it, they enjoyed recreational activities as per their wishes, like RDA, gymnastics, mentoring, after-school programmes, music lessons, etc. and the care of our staff.

On behalf of ImpacTauranga, I want to thank our fantastic house parents and relief staff for supporting our young people. Thank you to Marie, Sarah, and Loli.

Thank you, Sudha Bhandari

Mentoring and Family Support



Bridget



Wilson



To Myneet and impact team!!
Thanks for sponsoring me & having an amazing time at horse camp!!



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Tauranga Youth Academy

Kia ora Whanau

We are now at the end of 2022 and what great year we have had. Thanks to all the teacher aides and mentor support, from Izaak, Becky and Patrick. These three individuals have been amazing to have as part of the TYA staff in terms 3 and 4. They are excellent with the students and provide an awesome positive role model to look up to.

At TYA we are fortunate to have an amazing group of students who engage in all the activities and like to challenge themselves and try new things. This term we had group cooking challenges where small groups invited the rest of the class to come to their lunch. The students had to create a menu and use a budget to buy the correct ingredients they needed. We had some delicious meals, chicken burgers, loaded fries, potato salad and chocolate brownie. It was awesome to see them work as a team and be proud of what they created.

Throughout the year we have had the opportunity to work alongside a diverse range of community providers,

this has benefited our student's connectedness to the wider community with a purpose of creating a greater sense of belonging to the place where they live. We would like to say thanks to these providers for taking to time to work with our Rangatahi. Thank you to Anton @ Positive Futures, Mauao Adventures, The Incubator @ Historic Village, Hibiscus Surf School, Mates and Dates, Tauranga Boxing Academy and Whetu Marewa.

We currently have 16 students, many of whom will be leaving us at the end of the year to return to mainstream education, start an apprenticeship or move onto Employment pathway programmes. We continue to receive new students regularly and we will see a new bunch arriving in 2023, it is a privilege to support them navigate life's challenges and re-engage in their education.

I am sad to say that this is my last term here as a teacher as I am returning to Christchurch where I was raised, and my wider whanau reside. It has been a great privilege to get to

know these young people and develop relationships with them. I wish them all the best going into the new stages of life and look forward to hearing of their achievements in the future. May the Lord keep you all safe and guide you onto the path He has planned out for you.

Thanks to Tania, Russell, Nyn and Sudha for all the support over the year.

Adam



Tauranga Youth Academy 2022



Ruff Times

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