

# RUFF TIMES

December 2023



Russell Turner  
Director

## Inside this issue:

### Director's Update

.....Page 1

### Managers Update

..... Page 2

### Arndt House &

### Mentoring Update

..... Page 3, 4

### Tauranga Youth Academy

..... Page 4,5

## Directors Update



God Bless you everyone, another year draws to a close. I trust it has been successful for you all and 2024 is an exciting prospect.

Obviously in all spheres of life there are challenges, but these can often be opportunities to re-assess, re-group, and re-purpose, so in the end the challenge has created new excitement about new possibilities.

This year has been like that for ImpacTauranga. We have been partnering with Oranga Tamariki for many years, providing them residential care for their young people. This has been a great privilege serving their young people and seeing great outcomes for many of them and the Families. However a change in Government policy around Residential Care, meant the contract was not renewed, and this presented us with the challenge and opportunity to re-focus our services into the community.

We found a huge need in the community for respite care. Working with other agencies and through our own community family support services, we have been able to provide regular weekly relief and some longer term relief for the Families and Young people, as they negotiate some difficult times.

We love seeing families growing strong together and our staff love to be able to support them in our Family Community Service.

With the reduction in funding for ImpacTauranga, we are incredibly grateful to several new major donors who have stepped into the gap. Along with our regular support from Lotteries, Acorn Trust, COGS and our private "Ruff" supporters, we have received substantial additional support from a private sponsor through Acorn, a legacy sponsor, and from Trinity Lands. Because of their substantial support to ImpacTauranga we will be changing the name of Arndt House to

Trinity House next year. These donations have significantly bridged our funding gap and enabled us to continue our services unhindered.

The Youth Academy has had another wonderful year and I am thrilled to see the attendance at the school is over 60% again this year. This is a direct result of the environment being created by the staff and the young people are arriving each day happy to enjoy the learning and activities prepared for them.

Our Mentoring service continues to be a great support for our young people. Our excellent Mentors provide stable support to these young lives, and is an anchor for them as they negotiate the multiple decisions and distractions of the modern world.

In the last 6 months we have supported 29 families, completed 280 hours of Mentoring, attained 62% attendance at school, completed 175 respite nights in Arndt House and answered 30 enquiries from our website.

You will enjoy reading the various reports in this issue of Ruff Times.

So we consider 2024 and we are always optimistic and excited to be able to help our community at its core, the Family, and among our young people, getting them on track for the future.

It is my joy to serve an amazing team of dedicated staff and to wish them all a wonderful Christmas break. Also to you, I wish you the very best now and for the future, may God bless you all this season and into 2024. Thank you all for your support.

Russell Turner,  
Director



# ImpacTauranga Social Services



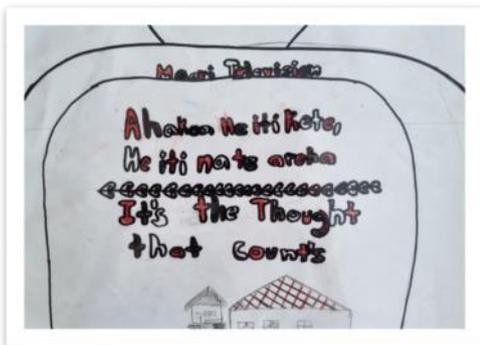
Nynz Note

Nyn Martin,  
Manager of Social Services

## Arndt House — Residential Home

### Help! Hope! Care!

Kia ora koutou,  
God Bless you!  
It is such an honor to serve you as we come to the end of another epic year.



In an ever-changing uncertain world, we reflect on Christmas - Christ our Savior! The Light and Hope of the World! He is our rock and ever-present help in trouble! I trust you will find strength and comfort in His Love for You this Christmas season and the year ahead.

At ImpacTauranga we are here to serve our community in any way we can.

Through our Social Services Programme we have supported 44 families this year. The demand is ever increasing and the needs more complicated and layered. We are blessed to be able to help with a wrap-a-round service to support the needs of both the children and parents. Intervention at a critical time can change the trajectory and bring hope, strength, and stability again.

#### ImpacTauranga provides:

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

If you need help, support, encouragement and someone to talk to then give us a call! Our team is here to help.

Thanks to all our supporters for your amazing support over this year! We really appreciate it.

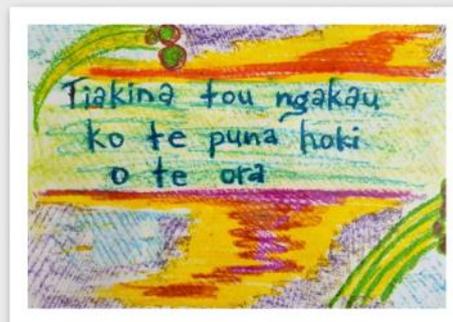
Wishing you all a safe and happy holiday.

God Bless you,

Nga mihi Aroha. - NYN

#### What are our clients saying!

- “I felt safe being here” – young man in Arndt House.
- “My mentor is awesome! We’ve been fishing, surfing and hanging out” – 6 year old boy.
- “I loved the camp! I made new friends and now we keep in touch. I want to go again” – 12 year old girl.
- “Thank you for listening! Your support is helping” – mother.



- “I have no family here, I don’t know how I would have got through without your help and intervention, thank you for providing respite care and mentoring for my son” – solo mum
- “Unbelievable!! – my daughter is doing so much better, no drugs, self-harm, she’s working full time and in a solid relationship, I don’t know where we would have been without your support” mother and father of 18-year-old girl.
- My girl loves her mentor, it is really helping, especially while her mother is so unwell and unavailable - thank you so much” Father of 9-year-old girl.
- “My daughter loves respite!! It’s her weekly sleepover and gives us all a break. We really appreciate it. Thank you!” – mother of autistic girl.
- ‘LOVED the activities! LOVED the mentor! – I didn’t want it to stop!’ mentee.
- “I was so relieved to have space to gather my life together while my son was being cared for at Arndt house – I felt so supported!” Mother.
- “The house parents are cool” – respite child.



## Mentoring



Sudha Bhandari  
Head of Mentoring

Wishing you all a joyful Christmas and a prosperous New Year!

The mentoring program had a fantastic year supporting a total of thirty-six young individuals. Among them, we assisted seven through the Youth Justice contract, ten through Fee for Services, two through the High and Complex Needs Unit at Oranga Tamariki Care, one from the Service unit at Oranga Tamariki, and the rest through our Youth and Family Social Service. Within the Youth Justice group, three out of seven young individuals received a 282 Discharge (no record of offending), while the others are either under family group conferences or awaiting discharge.

Our engagement with young individuals from Youth Justice has regained momentum, nearing completion of an eight-unit contract within just six months. Simultaneously, our proactive efforts within the community, the Tauranga Youth Academy, and other agencies—have notably expanded. Remarkable outcomes have emerged among these youths and their families, attributing the success to the work of our teams.

One of the boys we're working with under Youth Justice, initially faced challenges engaging due to his severe anxiety, causing concern for his mother. Despite a promising start, where he enthusiastically embraced the program and connected well with his mentor, he eventually withdrew. He reverted to previous habits—such as smoking drugs and reconnecting with negative influences—after facing setbacks in court, requiring him to stay within the system until meeting certain conditions. However, his mentor persisted despite the resistance, consistently expressing

unwavering support and reinforcing a positive "can-do" attitude. The mentor consistently reminded him of the remarkable transformation he had undergone, even with the setbacks. Despite several missed sessions, the mentor's steadfast determination to not give up eventually led the young lad to re-engage. Currently, he received a 282 Discharge (no record of offending), obtained a restricted license, and secured a full-time job. The mentor continues to guide and encourage him, ensuring he stays on track.

### Remarkable outcomes have emerged among the youth and their families

A girl with high and complex needs, facing challenges at school, in family relationships, self-esteem, self-harm, and identity struggles, has made remarkable progress with the mentor's help. She's actively a work in progress, steadily building her confidence, outlining her goals, devising a plan to achieve them, and has been gradually fostering good relationships with her family members. The consistent support and guidance she receives continue to nurture her growth within the mentoring program journey.

On behalf of ImpacTauranga, I would like to express gratitude to all our amazing mentors for their fantastic support for our young people. Thank you to Buster, Rachel, Ben, Johannah, Emma, Patrick, Martin, Jay, Becky, Jacquelyn, Jack, Sarah, Geoff, Logan and Celeste for their hard work.

I eagerly anticipate the continued growth and success of our program as we move forward. As usual, changes have occurred in our mentors' team, with some departing and new ones joining. Presently, we have a team comprising four males and six females, and we're excited about welcoming additional new mentors.



*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**

## The Caravan Project



## Historic Village



## Arndt House

This fiscal year, we concluded the contract with Oranga Tamariki for the care of residents and are now open for respite and transitioning to independence. Five residents have returned to their families or communities; three were from Oranga Tamariki, while the others were from the community. At present, two residents are utilizing the respite services at Arndt House, while two others have completed their stay for this year.

All our residents received support to fulfil their individual plans, aiming to establish themselves in a safe environment, engage in education, address ongoing behavioural or emotional challenges, build connections with their whanau, receive care from houseparents, and acquire life skills applicable upon returning home. Throughout this period, they are guided through a Transition to Independence program, ensuring they stay until they feel confident to embark on independent living or reunite with family.

One of the residents eagerly anticipates her time at the respite, counting down the days to return to the house and the houseparents.

Despite her high and complex needs, she effectively copes with her ongoing challenges with the assistance of the staff during her stay. She finds great pleasure in the one-on-one attention, ensuring her voice is heard and receiving ample support to partake in recreational activities.

Another resident recently reunited with his family, facilitated by the team's safety plan support. The mother expressed deep gratitude for the assistance, noting it was the first time she didn't feel alone during such a challenging period. She appreciated the opportunity to gather her life together, feeling a sense of relief knowing her son was in capable hands and well cared for. The entire team provided continuous support throughout and intends to sustain this assistance in the future

On behalf of ImpacTauranga, I'd like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to our exceptional house parents and relief staff for their unwavering support of our young people. Thank you to Brigid, John, Martin and Celeste.

Thank you, Sudha Bhandari



**"Ruff"**  
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who've had a  
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ImpacTauranga Supports  
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Broadband you can trust with your family

## Tauranga Youth Academy

Kia ora e te whanau

We are now at the end of what has been a great year for Tauranga Youth Academy. Firstly, I would like to thank all our staff who have worked tirelessly, going above and beyond to make this year extra special for our youth, Kimberley, Sarah, Geoff, and our teacher aides Buster and Klint. I would also like to extend a big thank you to our external facilitators who have welcomed our youth with open arms and made a huge difference to their mental, physical, spiritual and family health. Mauao Adventures, IBA Box Fit team, Alex and Morgan from Sports Bay of Plenty, Sophie from the Incubator at The Historic Village, Anton with his Futures Program and local Iwi that have come in to support our youth with healthy lifestyles.

Throughout the last two terms 3 & 4 our youth have worked together on the Ruff Project where we all helped to renovate a retro caravan. This

allowed our students to gain practical skills in literacy, numeracy, building, painting and much more. The outcome of the caravan is amazing and also gave our youth the experience of perseverance to see things through.

We have had great success with the transition of students who have gone on to further learning, full-time work or back to school, we wish these students all the best in their future adventures and will always be here to support them along their journey. Here at Tauranga Youth Academy we feel very blessed to be part of such an amazing cause for our youth and their families to thrive within and beyond this space. We look forward to term one in 2024 and completing many more achievements to come. Next year will bring a new Head Teacher Carl, as I stand down from the role to have my second child. Carl brings with

him a passion for supporting our youth and many skills including being a registered teacher with years of experience, building trades, senior arborist and previous pastoral care/mentoring for youth within our local community. Our wonderful Kimberley will continue to be a familiar face in the classroom. Bring on 2024 with all the new and exciting developments to come.

Thank you to our sponsors and local communities for supporting Tauranga Youth Academy, we wish you all a blessed Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Ngā mihi nui

Chanel Tappin

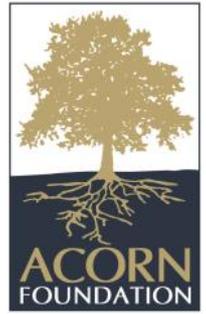


## Term 3 & 4 Activities



Ruff Times

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Te Puna Tahua  
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- Resonance Consulting
- South City Baptist Church
- Tauranga Sunrise Lions Club
- Te Puke Anglican Community Care Op Shop

You can partner with us from as little as \$10 a month, via a one off donation or supporting us in other ways in helping the young people of Tauranga to a brighter future please phone or e-mail us at [admin@impactauranga.org](mailto:admin@impactauranga.org)



We are a registered charity so donations are tax deductible.

Please make cheques payable to Tauranga Christian Community Trust and post to PO Box 15-035, Tauranga 3144

Or

direct credit to BNZ 02-0466-0018915-00

Please email your details and we will issue you a tax receipt

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