

RUFF TIMES

July 2023



Russell Turner
Director

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Directors Update



Directors report Ruff Times

It is great to be back to normal again after all the Covid disruptions of the last 2 years.

Also it is nice to be able to report to you that all our programs are back running again and families and young people are being supported.

The start of the year was a bit “wobbly” with staff resignations, and some serious staff sickness which is still being worked through, but we are thrilled to have been able to employ new staff who are developing perfectly in our environment.

We welcomed John and Brigid Devcich as our new House Parents for Arndt House and Kimberly Ford into the Youth Academy. We also welcome new staff for Arndt House relief.

Unfortunately we received news that, after 30 years serving as a Care and Protection home for Oranga Tamariki, they no longer require Arndt House as a home for their young clients. While this was disappointing for us, it has also created new opportunities to provide a safe home for many different needs within the

community. We can provide respite to families, a safe and supportive home for young people transitioning to independence, and relief accommodation for young people in need.

Our desire to support Young people and their families remains unchanged.

All our mentoring and family services are fully engaged and we are getting great results as we support the community through difficult circumstances.

A huge thank you to our Staff and Mentors who work tirelessly , often beyond the call, to provide guidance and training to parents, families, and youth as they journey through life together.

Please enjoy reading the reports of the staff and again I take the opportunity to thank you all for your prayer and support for this Social Service.

Russell Turner (Director)



ImpacTauranga Social Services



Nynz Note
Nyn Martin,
Manager of Social Services

Arndt House — Residential Home

Help! Hope! Care!

Kia ora koutou,

Closed doors are new doors
ready to be opened!!

2023 has certainly been a year like that for us, changes are happening all around us, but we are seeing this as an opening of news doors and new opportunities at ImpacTauranga.

Serving families is what we do, either with respite residential care, education, mentoring or family support. To support, encourage, manaaki, awhi, and tautoko is our purpose.

Parents and caregivers are trying so hard to survive that it can be very hard to thrive, and this can be when overwhelm sets in, feeling like drowning beneath a huge weight of worries, concerns, and circumstances and unsure of how to get out of it.

We are encouraged **to bear one another's burdens** and by this we share the load. We all need help along the way and a burden shared in a burden halved.

This year the demand for support is greater than ever. Our numbers have doubled with the need increasing in our community.

We want to help lift the burdens, lighten the load, and support families to feel stronger, more connected, and more able to manage the challenges they face daily. With a little support the light begins to shine again, the load is lightened, and we can breathe easier.

We have a fantastic team who are also facing personal challenges themselves and still front up with a smile and courage to face the day.

Arohamai to you all, Nga mihi nui,
Blessings, *Nyn Martin*

This year we have supported over
50 Families
with family support, mentoring,
education, and residential care support

What are the families saying....

- * *I don't know where we would be today if it wasn't for your help!!! Thank you so much! – Mother.*
- * *Thank you for sponsoring me to go on camp!!! It was amazing! – young person*
- * *I am so excited to go to the snow!! I've never been before, this camp will be awesome!! Thank you for sponsoring me. – young person*
- * *Thank you for creating a safe space for me to process my life. It really helps!! – Mother.*
- * *Your phone call was divine!! I didn't know where to go for help and you called thank you for your help – Father.*

Kia kaha - Be strong
Kia Maia - Be steadfast
Kia Manawanui - Be willing

- * *The house is the best!!! I can't wait to come back for respite! The house parents are so lovely – young people on respite stay at Arndt House.*
- * *I'm learning to cook, have routines and I'm going to school! Being here is awesome! – young person in Arndt house.*
- * *My mentor is the father I never had – I love him!! - young person*
- * *My mentor has taught me to journal, get my feelings out, I feel safe to talk about stuff and we have lots of fun!! – she's the best! – young person.*
- * *This is the first break I have had for 10 years! – thanks for providing respite for my children. It means a lot. – solo mum.*
- * *We couldn't have done this without you!! – thanks so much – Mother.*

Mentoring



Sudha Bhandari
Head of Mentoring

Greetings to everyone, trusting everyone is keeping well during this winter.

The mentoring programme has had another fantastic start. Through the programme we're working with twenty-one young people. Through the mentoring program, we have worked with **two** young people from Youth Justice during our F23 contract, **two** from Oranga Tamariki Service Unit, **nine** from Fee for Service, and **eight** from our Youth and Family Social Services.

Our work with young people from Youth Justice and Arndt House has been less than usual, however, our preventative work with young people in the community, the Tauranga Youth Academy, and other agencies has been consistently growing.

There are numerous success stories of our young people moving from disengaged in education to re-engaged in school or a course, from unemployed to employed, from boredom to engaged in pro-social activities like youth group, boxing, the gym, and music, from curfews, community service hours, and trespassing orders to being discharged through hard work, support, and positive change.

One of these young men came to us as he was Remanded in Custody for a period of time and was due to return to the care of his Aunty after the decision from the court and be subject to EM Bail. His life was in a downward spiral, he was caught stealing cars multiple times, he left school & different courses, smoked cannabis regularly and grief and loss from

the passing of his Mum. In a period of six months, with the support of his mentor, whanau, and the rest of the team, this young man engaged in education at IBA, completed all the court plans and received a 282 Discharge from the courts. We're still continuing our support to him as there are many other areas needed to assist.

We have seen these young people making better choices in life and getting support to be consistent to maintain positive changes in their life. It is awesome to witness the impact mentors can have on a young person's life through relationships, support, conversations, and being a positive example to them. Here is some of the mentee's feedback:

"My advice to a young person starting the mentoring program would be "just do it", because you can get a lot of help and support out of it"

"I have enjoyed the activities we do, the talks we have about life and my future, and the feeds"

"The mentoring plan helps me know what to focus on in the future, my education, wellbeing, etc."

"I enjoyed the activities like mini-golf, tenpin bowling, and walking around Mt Maunganui"

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.

On behalf of ImpacTauranga, I would like to thank all our incredible mentors for their fantastic support for our young people. Thank you to, Buster, Rachel, Martin, Johannah, Becky, Jacquelyn, Stephanie, Goeff, Patrick, Jay, Jack and, Emma for all their hard work. We love working alongside you all to support the young people of our city.

Thank you, *Sudha Bhandari*

Arndt House

Greetings

We currently have one resident in Arndt house, and four of the residents returned to family/community. Out of these, three were from Oranga Tamariki, and two were from the community.

Recently, Oranga Tamariki discontinued the residential care contract which was quite unfortunate as there is still a big need for this service in our community for our young people. However, we have accepted this challenge as a new opportunity to serve our young people. We're continuing our residential care facility for respite or transition to independence support.

One of our residents came to us under emergency placement through Oranga Tamariki and has a high and complex need. She also had an issue with the placement as she moved to many places before coming here. Quite a lot of hard work from the team was there to support her to

keep her stabilised during her stay at Arndt House. Despite her ongoing challenges, she enjoyed recreational activities and her time at AH. We praise the two houseparents and the relief caregiver for their consistent great effort to assist this young lady in managing her time in the house.

Another resident from Oranga Tamariki came to us on a temporary agreement from the community, staying with us for around two months as she was struggling at home. During this time, she enjoyed her stay at Arndt House and learning the life skills that she could utilise when she's back home, and working on repairing the relationship with her mother and building the connection.

With our new respite facility, we're working with two young siblings, both of them have special needs. They were shocked and very excited when they first visited

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Thank you for your support

The Caravan Project



Historic Village



Outdoors



Arndt House cont...

cont... from page 3

our place and wanted to be here earlier than their planned respite date. They loved their time here at the house and always looked forward to their next visit.

We have had some changes in the Houseparent's position as Sarah left after a year of great work, and Loli, and a couple Karen and Phil finished

their short term time with us. Bridget and John, a fantastic couple, have recently joined us; they are doing amazing work with our young people.

On behalf of Impac Tauranga, I want to thank our fantastic house parents and relief staff for supporting our young people. Thank you to Sarah, Loli, Karen & Phil, Becky, Tash, Bridget & John.



"Ruff"
Helping kids
who've had a

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Tauranga Youth Academy

Kia ora e te whānau,

Wow, we are halfway through the year already, and what a great start to the year we have had. We have welcomed our new full-time teacher (Kimberley) who has a big heart for our rangatahi (youth) and is passionate about making a positive difference in our community. I would like to extend a big mihi (thanks) to Kimberly for being with us and to our teacher aids Patrick and Buster, who are amazing role models to our rangatahi and encouraging in our classroom.

Here at Tauranga Youth Academy, we have been very fortunate to have a unique roopu (group) of rangatahi (youth) that bring with them individual strengths and talents. Each taiohi (young person) engages and strives to achieve all challenges put in front of them, these challenges are, facing their fears such as social anxiety, learning a new skill and/or engaging in their daily activities. TYA has recently introduced Te Kura where our taura (students) can work towards their level 1 NCEA credits,

this is a massive advantage in their constant pursuit towards their future pathway.

Every morning our roopu engage in Karakia (prayer/giving thanks), Whaka Whanungatanga (creating meaningful relationships and kai cooking, setting our taura (students) up for a successful day with full belly, nurtured and nourished minds ready to learn.

Throughout terms one and two we have had the opportunity to hoahaere (travel alongside) a wide range of community providers that benefit in the learning and life skills of our taura (youth) such as QEYC sport, Historic Village art with the incubator, Huntaway Farms horse riding, bay venue facilitators, Te Tuakiri program, positive futures with Anton, Iwi involvement and kaumatua korero helping our taura feel a sense of ahurutanga (safe spaces) and belonging within their community, all adding to their mauri ora.

We have had great success with the transition of four taura that have

gone on to further learning, full-time work or back to school, we wish these taura all the best in their future adventures and will always be here to support them along their hikoi. We have an exciting project in the works for term three, we would like to welcome "The Ruff Project" We have bought a retro caravan and placed it on our site. As a team we will be revamping the caravan and turning it into an ongoing working space for all to benefit from. Taura will learn new skills such as building, painting, and using power tools, with the end result being a working hospitality space that we will introduce into the community. The taiohi will participate in hands-on work experience plus the chance to earn a bit of pocket money.

We feel very blessed and excited to be part of such an amazing cause for our taiohi to thrive within and beyond this space. We look forward to terms three and four and completing many more achievements to come.

Ngā mihi nui, Chanel Tappin

Term 1 & 2 Activities



Ruff Times

Partnering with us is easy and makes such a difference!



ImpactTauranga gratefully acknowledges the support of our Ruff Partners and...

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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



We are a registered charity so donations are tax deductible.

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