

RUFF TIMES

December 2024



Russell Turner
Director

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Directors Update



God Bless you all again. It is Christmas time and I am sure everyone is reflecting on how fast the year has flown by. And that appears to be true, each year seems to fly by faster than the last.

However, it is the time to reflect and assess the year, hopefully with a sense of achievement and thankfulness, and anticipation for the year ahead.

With a reduced budget, we have had to make adjustments this year. I think many organisations have had the same issues, but we have wanted to be careful not to reduce our ability to support the community, and maintain the excellent work we have done for the past 30 plus years.

I am pleased to say, that with a small reduction in staff and the continued sacrificial commitment of the remaining staff, we are able to successfully continue our support for all our clients and are fully ready for 2025.

In a typical year, we are supporting over 150 families, approx. 500 individuals including children, completed 793 hours of mentoring for Youth Justice and the community, and our students are achieving over 60 % attendance in the Academy. We are also providing more and more Respite Care to very appreciative families and this service will increase through

next year. There is a great need in the community.

I would like to thank again, all those in the community who support our work. As you know, many of those who need help, cannot afford it. They often struggle on, doing their best but under great stress. Your contribution enables us to support families at a reduced cost, and while we like to ask for some contribution to the service, we will never leave anyone without the help they need.

We currently have a fundraising drive where we are asking for a \$5/week donation to ImpacTauranga. You receive our Ruff Dog as a token of appreciation, and also a reminder that there are many good people in our community who are doing it Ruff and "just need a hand". You will note our contact for this support on the back of the Ruff Times or scan our QR Code below. Please invite people to be involved.

If we have your email address, you will have received our monthly updates this year. We love to keep telling you the great results we are achieving as a result of your giving.

So, to you all, great and small, God Bless you, have a wonderful Christmas and the promise of a blessed and prosperous new year

Russell Turner (Director)

**CAN YOU PARTNER
WITH US FOR
\$5.00 PER WEEK**



Impactauranga Social Services



Nynz Note

Nyn Martin,
Manager of Social Services

Kia ora koutou, Merry Christmas and Blessings to you All!!

It's exciting to be at the end of another year, and to reflect on the many amazing moments amongst the many challenges being thrown our way.

This year we have exceeded all our expectations, and our team has risen to increased demands with love, patience and support.

Many challenges are facing our whanau:

Dysregulation, attachment issues, social anxiety, depression, suicide, ADHD, OCD, FASD, autism and other neurodivergent characteristics, violence, eating disorders and other challenging behaviors and situations.

Love finds a way forward and our team are committed to care, guide, support and provide help in these very challenging and at times hopeless situations.

This could look like:

* Mentoring, DDP (Dyadic Developmental Psychotherapy) Attachment Focused Family Therapy, Counselling, Respite and other supports are considered and offered to each family.

* We provide education for alienated youth 13 – 16 yrs

* We work alongside you in whatever capacity that may look like.

Our Residential Home

Help! Hope! Care!

What families are saying

Mum said "Thanks for caring for us so well and providing a safe space for me and my grandson to talk through things, this has been so helpful"

Mother – 'I don't know where we would be without your help! You are an angel!'

Young man – 'Thanks for the work opportunity and for helping me'

Young man - The house parent – 'Thanks for the amazing food, and care, the best place I've been in'

Mother – 'Thanks for the mentor, she has changed my daughter's life, and all of us and doing better now. (solo mum with 5 children)- We are truly thankful

Over 500 families have been impacted by the Social Services of Impactauranga this year and we are proud of our team of counsellors, teachers, social workers, mentors and caregivers that work tirelessly to support our community.

'For God so Loved the World, that He gave His only Begotten Son, that whoever believes in him will not perish but have everlasting life.' John 3 v 16

Thank you to all those who have sponsored Impactauranga this year, your help is making a difference.

A big shout out to the lovely ladies who bring the team baking every week! AMAZING!!

Stay Safe and look out for each other this holiday season.

God Bless you and see you in the new year! Nyn Martin x

Monthly Ruff Report

**If you would like to receive our
digital monthly update
please send us your email address**

Impactauranga Supports
thegoodsource.net
Broadband you can trust with your family



Mentoring



Sudha Bhandari
Head of Mentoring

Greetings to all,

Wishing you a joyful Christmas and a prosperous New Year! We are pleased to share the progress and achievements of the mentoring program over the past year, which has seen a positive and lasting impact on the young people we support. This year, the mentoring program successfully supported a total of forty young individuals. These young people were supported through various pathways, including:

- * Youth Justice Contract: 9 individuals
- * Fee for Services: 9 individuals
- * High and Complex Needs Unit at Oranga Tamariki Care: 2 individuals
- * Youth and Family Social Service: 20 individuals

Among the 9 participants from the Youth Justice contract, 3 received a 282 Discharge (no record of offending), while the remaining individuals are actively participating in their Family Group Conference plans, receiving mentor support, and engaging with other team members for additional help. The program's reach and impact in the community have grown significantly, with increased engagement and collaboration with other agencies. Our preventative Initiatives have been instrumental in guiding young people toward positive pathways.

Each participant has experienced some level of success, resulting in improved relationships with whanau and enhanced engagement in positive activities. Educational progress has been evident, including efforts to re-enter schooling and explore further training courses. Mentors have supported youths in adhering to curfews and overcoming challenges like trespassing orders, leading to tangible progress.

The overall well-being of the young people has improved steadily. They are developing healthier habits, gaining

confidence, and building brighter futures. Mentors have played a crucial role in this transformation, offering consistent guidance and support. We have also been able to assist several girls and boys who struggled with severe social anxiety, had limited social connections, and had not participated in education for a long time.

Through one-on-one support, mentors helped these young individuals gradually build confidence, providing a safe space for them to share their challenges and offering motivational support. Over time, the girls learned to create balanced life plans, view their situations from different perspectives, and take gradual steps toward overcoming their difficulties.

One notable example is the support given to a young girl through the Youth Justice contract. Her mentor and the team developed an intensive mentoring plan to help her reconnect with her whanau during the festive season. The mentor is deeply committed to ensuring she follows her bail conditions, and they will continue working together over the holiday period to support her goals. This personalized support underscores the effectiveness of the program in responding to the specific needs of young people.

The “Mentoring Plan” covers a lot of important areas of life. It helped me think about the future

Currently, our team consists of seven male mentors and nine female mentors, with more joining us soon. We're excited about the new energy and perspectives they bring to the program.

In summary, it has been a fantastic year for the mentoring program. The success of our participants is a testament to the resilience of the young people we support and the dedication of our mentors. We look forward to another year of growth, positive impact, and continued transformation for the young people in our care.

A heartfelt thank you to, Buster, Rachel, Martin, Jack, Sarah, Marisha, Logan, Anagrace, Corban, Jaimy, Emma and Andrew.

Term 3 & 4 Activities



Thank you for your support

Tauranga Youth Academy



Pastoral Care

These last 6 months have been busy but as of now, everything seems to be on cruise control and working like a well oiled machine. Which is a nice way to end the year.

At the Youth Academy, we have seen our 16 year old students finish the year well with next year already sorted with jobs and or further education planned. We couldn't be more proud of them.

We have also seen the class become more settled and less frazzled. This has not happened over night, it's been a sometimes arduous journey creating predictable routines and consistent expectations from our wonderful teachers. As a

result, the students are becoming far more optimistic about their futures. I was particularly impressed with their willingness to learn in this last month, without a complaint, nor a break in their focus. Anyone who would have walked in would have heard the sweet sound of their brains humming. From a pastoral care perspective, it makes my job that little bit easier, that the students have a place where they can leave their worries behind and come to a place where they can start to feel and believe that they have a hope and a future.

Meri Kirihiemete, Sarah, Pastoral Care

Respite Care

Currently, four residents are regularly utilizing respite services, each with unique and complex needs. One of the young residents demonstrates strong engagement and progress in the respite care environment, primarily due to the close relationship established with his caregiver. This individual has a history of challenging behaviours, making it difficult for him to be content with a single caregiver. However, the strong bond with his caregiver has led to a remarkable transformation in his emotional regulation and behaviour. The caregiver's ability to set consistent boundaries has supported the resident in managing his emotions and processing them in a healthy manner.

During his stay, the resident participates in a range of enjoyable and enriching activities, including fishing, boat trips, surfing, and other sports. These activities help maintain a full and purposeful schedule, fostering both physical and emotional growth. The care team works diligently to ensure that the resident's needs are

met, facilitating gradual progress through emotional regulation, while also offering the necessary support to address behavioural challenges.

A single mother of two children with behavioural and mental health issues has expressed profound gratitude for the respite services provided. As a primary caregiver, she faces the ongoing challenges of parenting two children with complex needs, which places significant emotional and physical strain on her. Respite care offers her the opportunity to take a much-needed break, allowing her to recharge, regroup, and continue to provide the best care for her children.

The mother reports that the respite care service has been a crucial support system, not only providing her with time to focus on her personal well-being but also ensuring that her children receive tailored care during their stay. The peace of mind provided by the respite service has been invaluable, as it reassures her that her children's needs are being met in a supportive and nurturing environment.

The respite care service plays a vital role in improving the well-being of families, nurturing the development of young residents, and supporting caregivers in their crucial roles. It is an invaluable resource that has a lasting, positive impact on the entire whanau. A heartfelt thank you goes out to all the respite caregivers, Martin, Jemima, and Delilah. Your amazing work with these young people is truly appreciated.

Meri Kirihiemete, Sudha



"Ruff"
Helping kids
who've had a
rough life

Tauranga Youth Academy

Kia ora e te whanau

As well as our academic programme, our students have had a productive year with extra curricular activities. Beginning in term one our rangatahi did pottery, learned to play squash and new team sports.

Term two, our students assembled our new basketball hoop, had facilitators in from the Revolution Tour to inspire them with their personal stories and victories, reminding them that there's no shame in reaching out and asking for help. We also had Jazz Thornton from Voices of Hope and her team share their stories, encouraging and bringing in books and resources for our akonga.

In Term Three we all learned Mau Rakau with local kaiako Te Reiroa Sellars, planted native trees, participated in Muay Thai and kickboxing,. We also had our new friend of ImpacTauranga and world boxing champion Mea Motu in to inspire our youth.

In Term Four we had two teams of new facilitators, covering education

for their health, alcohol and drug education. We began surfing lessons, planted more native trees and had another visit from Mea Motu.

Throughout the year, we played more team sports, visited local water holes, completed level one home economics work, worked hundreds of math equations as well as teaching analogue clock reading, did many a bush hikoi, made weekly trips to two local gyms doing boxing. As well, our student's learnt how to safely use gym equipment, making the gym less intimidating and helping them to be much more confident walking into another gym. Our rangatahi have picked berries, taken part in a confidence building high ropes course in Rotorua, been fishing off a local wharf. We recently visited Waimarino for our end of year activity ending and a bbq.

At the core of the programme, our intention is to create meaningful relationships with our students, and to build on those relationships with a focus on their wellbeing. That has been key in the success stories we

have now, at the end of the year. Despite the hardships many of our rangatahi face, and there are many, we are very happy to share these positive outcomes. We have two students that returned to mainstream school. Another leaves us to continue amateur boxing at IBA and further education. Another student has a contract with a local business planting native trees and maintaining council park areas. Several months ago, one student moved into dairy farm work. Our other student who recently turned 16 has a full time contract working in hospitality. Lastly, another teenage girl who has turned 16 has a part time job. These are great outcomes, and we both want to thank you for your continued support in helping us make this happen.

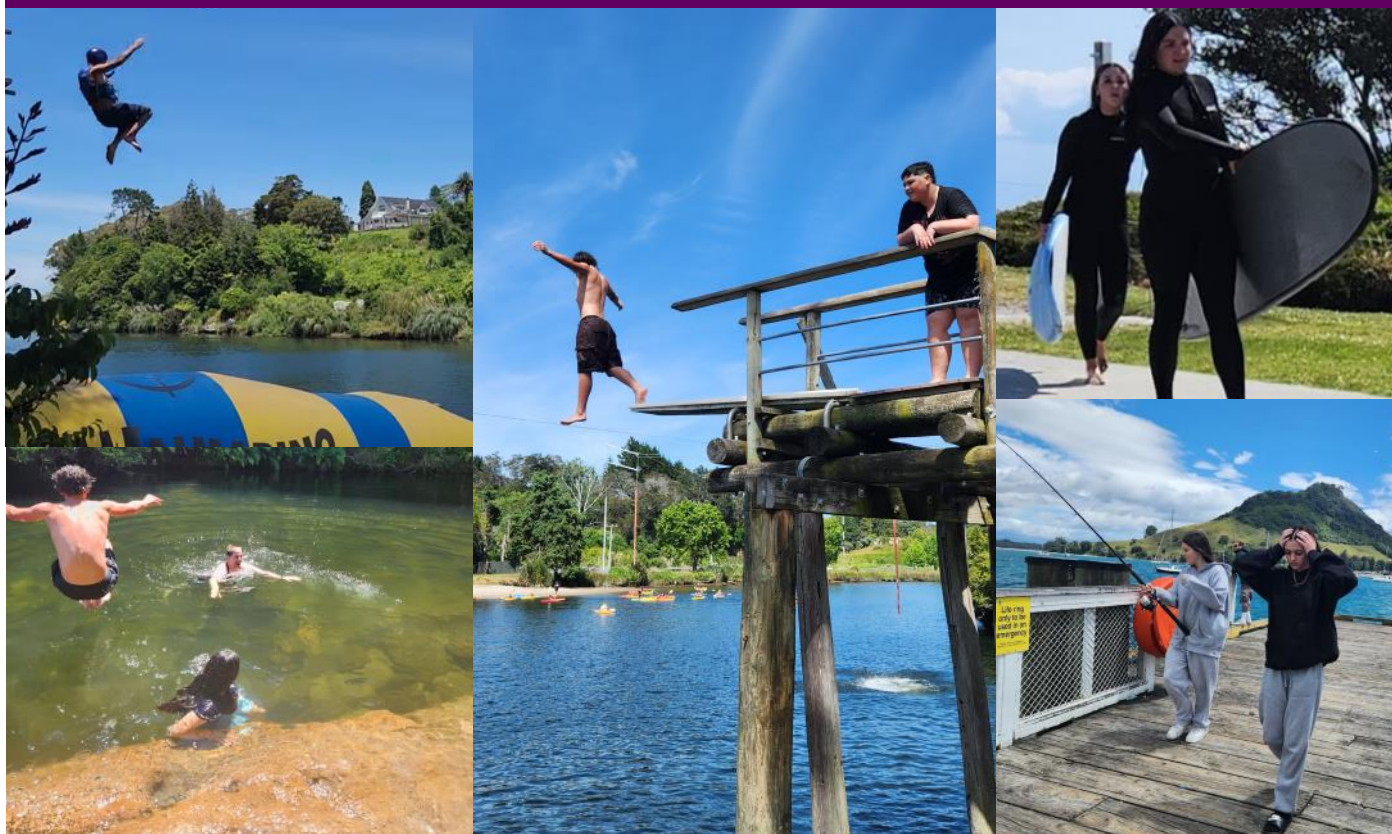
We wish you all a happy holiday season and if you are traveling, travel safely.

Nga mihi nui,

Carl and Kimberley



Term 3 & 4 Water Activities



Ruff Times



Partnering with us is easy and makes such a difference!



Lottery Grants Board
Te Puna Tahua
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Te Puke Anglican Community Care Op Shop

Looking for an opportunity to support struggling families in TAURANGA towards a brighter future?

You can partner with us by donating \$5 per week:

Set up an Automatic payment as follows:

Tauranga Christian Community Trust

Bank A/c BNZ 02-0466-0018915-00



We are a registered charity and all donations over \$5 are tax deductible.

For your tax receipt please email us at admin@impactauranga.org

All partners receive a 'Ruff' dog as an acknowledgement.

Many thanks for your generosity and kindness
The Impactauranga team.

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