

RUFF TIMES

December 2021



Russell Turner
Director

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Directors Update

Kia Ora everyone

Thank you again for another year of working with us to support our vulnerable young people and their families.

The stop/start nature of the year has impacted our work of course but I am incredibly proud of our staff who soldier on every day doing their absolute best to engage with and support our community.

Covid lockdowns and the uncertainty of the future has left many with a sense of hopelessness and this has caused them to disengage with the support processes.

Because they are already struggling, these situations only serve to reinforce their belief that there is no hope for them.

"What's the use", "why should I care", can be some of the default attitudes and our staff have to negotiate through those thoughts to encourage people to believe for better days ahead.

At Impactauranga we love to reverse that thinking, and part of that is to sponsor families and young people to experience good times or memories.

We will send a family away for a day out together, having fun and then a nice dinner, we will buy a guitar for a young person who simply cannot afford one, we will pay the Gym fees for a young girl who cannot attend because of the cost. We will pay the travel costs for a young person to visit family out of town. Time and time again we are seeing happy faces returning as we relieve some of the pressure they are facing and show them they are not alone in their struggles. There is help and hope as we support one another.

We had 8 of our young people travel on the MV Koha YWAM ship, two days and three nights travelling to Mercury Island. They had a blast swimming, diving, exploring, doing

ship work and learning life skills. The trip was fully sponsored and we intend to make this part of our program from 2022.

We also have the joy of supporting families with grocery vouchers and petrol vouchers to relieve financial pressure, and this support is ongoing, not only in a practical way but also through our Family and Mentoring services.

2021 has seen some of our young people return in Main stream schooling, some go on to work experience and employment, and one young lady leave our residential home to go into independent living. These are all part of the goals we have as we work together to secure their future.

You will read other reports from the staff in this "Ruff Times", and while we except we can't help everyone and we do have some disappointments, you will see we are passionate about our work and always give our best.

It is Christmas celebration time again. Time to remember this is the time our Heavenly Father came to earth to support us all, *".....the people who sat in darkness saw a great light....."* and encouraged us with His words *"....whoever hears these words of mine and does them, builds his house on a rock, and when the storms come it will not fail...."*

I wish you and your families a wonderful and blessed Christmas season and let us all look forward to a prosperous new year ahead.

May God Bless you all
Russell Turner



Impactauranga Social Services



Nynz Note

Nyn Martin,
Manager of Social Services

Arndt House — Residential Home

Help! Hope! Care!

Kia ora koutou whanau, God Bless you all!

I trust this finds you well as we come to the end of another year. Wow!! Time is flying so fast that it is hard to keep up with it.....

What a crazy year it has been with lockdowns, masks, traffic lights and so many new and different processors being enforced on us and our communities. This has been very unnerving, unsettling and challenging, and navigating our way through it all can be difficult.

Adversity is the birthing center for new and innovative ideas it is often in adversity that we find our way forward and see the rising again of what is really important!!

He tangatata, He tangatata, He tangatata The People! The People! The People!

Caring! Connection! Compassion! and Community! are all anti vaccinations for Covid 19!! and are pou as we navigate our way forward.

Here at Impactauranga we have had a great year with lots of huge milestones for many of our rangatahi including:

ARNDT HOUSE

Highlights

- * One of our young wahine left Arndt House after 4 ½ years to go flatting and work full-time. It was amazing to see her spreading her wings and beginning to fly. We are so proud of her.
- * One of our young wahine completed her employNZ course and is working part time. Well done.
- * One of our young wahine is settled, stabilizing, and reconnecting with her family.
- * Many of our rangatahi have started work experience leading into work opportunities.

These are very natural and excellent developments for all our youth, and it is a real privilege to be connected to some excellent businesses in our community, who help provide open doors of opportunity. We are very thankful to them.

We must come together as a community to love and support one another like never before. Community, connection and caring for each other is at the heart of our Family support program and we have been honored to journey along side many families this year that have struggled with out of control teenagers, challenging relational issues and the overwhelming stressors of life.

YOUTH AND FAMILY SOCIAL SERVICES

Feedback from families has been:

- * *You have given me a new perspective which has really helped me in parenting my moko – thank you so much!*
- * *You have been an angel, we couldn't have done this without you.*
- * *My family is stronger and more together now. Thank you!!*
- * *Our time's together have helped me so much!! I love my son again!*
- * *The mentoring for my daughter has changed her life!! Having that support at this critical time was gold.*

This is our privilege, as we all need each other in this day.

If you are worried, overwhelmed, struggling with parenting, teenagers and challenging situations and need some help, we are here to support you, give us a call or email and we will work it out together.

Thank you to our many supporters, sponsors and kind people that help us week in and week out!!

We couldn't do it without you all!!

May the Lord Bless you and keep you and make His face shine upon you and your whanau this holiday season!!

TAKE CARE OF EACH OTHER!

Nga mihi aroha, with much love always,

Nyn xx



Social Services... cont.



A great success this year is the transition of D'mitre from our residential home to independence. She is now flatting and has full-time employment. We continue to keep an eye on her development, but she is well on the way to a successful future.

Mentoring



Sudha Bhandari

Greetings to everyone,

Hello to everyone,

Welcome to the season of celebration—Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year in advance. I hope every one of you plans to have a good time during Christmas & New year and keep yourself safe even though things are shaky throughout the nation.

It has been an interesting year for everyone with so many ups and downs; however, we continuously served the young people through our programme. The mentoring programme had our 18-unit Youth Justice contract renewed for another year, which is amazing. Throughout this year, we served 8 young people through a youth justice mentoring programme and out of these, 7 have received a 282 Discharge (no record of offending), and the rest is still engaged in Youth Justice.

On top of the youth justice contract, we work with a few more young people. Among these, 2 are under service unit Oranga Tamariki contract, 10 through Youth & Family Social Services program and 4 Fee for Service, all of them are getting some good results.

One of the girls started going downhill – struggling with school, breakdown in the relationship with the family members, hanging out with the wrong people/peers leading her to fall apart from all the support she had.

However, engaging with our mentoring programme helped her break that chain and move forward in the right direction. The mentor helped her glance at the situation with a different lens, exploring alternative ways to handle the situation and finding inner strength. She didn't have the opportunity to explore her hobbies and passion where the mentor played a vital role in sorting it out in collaborating with the Impac Tauranga team. It was great to see how things changed for her as she started regulating back to normal at school, her relationship with family members getting better, and she started enjoying pursuing her hobbies.

Kia kaha whanau arohanui

Another girl we're working with had many issues with her and her whanau. Through our mentoring programme, our mentor did amazing work with her – during the lockdown, Impac Tauranga helped the mentor to supply food and necessary items regularly to her and her whanau (including five younger siblings with an 18-year-old guardian). Mentor did help her to enrol her on the Employ NZ course, organised a temporary place to live when they were about to become homeless. The mentor and staff continue supporting this whanau to get long-term support by approaching the available support around the community. The whole whanau felt supported during their hard time and expressed their gratitude toward Impac Tauranga's ongoing assistance. *Cont... on page 5*

Thank you for your support

YWAM MV KOHA—Adventure Trip



In October we were able to take 8 of our TYA students on a 3 night and 2 day trip to Mercury Island on the YWAM ship MV Koha. This was an amazing experience for our young people and we will be planning 2 trips each year. The trip included ship work, some personal development training and a great deal of fun. We are grateful to the YWAM team for this partnership.

Tauranga Youth Academy



Another great success story this year Mikaere took his opportunity through work experience and now has full time employment. This is a perfect result for us and we are continually looking to create opportunities for our young people.

As 2021 draws to a close for Tauranga Youth Academy, our teachers have reflected on their best moments of the year.

For Adam it was watching Pieta and Rayvin catching a 'party wave' together at surfing, both catching the same wave, standing up and surfing into the shallows.

For Chanel it was seeing the rangatahi plan, design and paint their kowhaiwhai panels which represent wind, earth, fire and water (page 5). Chanel enjoyed seeing the rangatahi connect with their culture and work together as a team to create some amazing art work which will soon be on display at kura.

For Dianne it was meeting each rangatahi at their initial interview, usually as quiet, hesitant and very untrusting young people; fast forward a month and to see a noticeable change in the young person as they flourish and spread their wings to engage with the staff and other

students; and enjoy activities that sometimes takes great mana to achieve.

As a kura we have done so much this year, but it is the simple things that we have really enjoyed the most like playing touch at Memorial Park, swimming in Pilot Bay, playing hangman and having thoughtful and engaging conversations in the classroom.

The community support, and programs that work with us have been invaluable; the aroha and awhi from everyone involved with Tauranga Youth Academy makes us proud to be part of this journey with our rangatahi.

Have a safe and restful school holidays, a Meri Kirihimete and a fabulous summer!

See you in 2022

Di, Adam and Chanel



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

**Merry
Christmas**

Mentoring cont...

Cont... from page 3

On behalf of Impac Tauranga, I would like to thank our current mentors Buster, Zane, Gray, Rachel, Zoe, Chanel, Stacey, Celeste, Chelsee and Bailey, for their exceptional work and a heart to work with young people.

I'm looking forward to our program continuing to grow and see success in our work over the periods.

Thank you,

Sudha Bhandari



Tauranga Youth Academy Photos 2021



Ruff Times



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Te Puna Tahua
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Partnering with us is easy and makes such a difference!

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

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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.
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
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