

RUFF TIMES

July 2025



Russell Turner
Director

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Directors Update



"No one left behind" – this is the mantra of many groups as they consider their collective responsibility toward the group members, and I wonder whether this should be the Mantra for our community.

In a world where life's pressures have tended to cause us to think more independently, our struggle to survive doesn't leave a lot of room for others, we become unconsciously selfish, every man for himself. In this mode, we cannot consider or even care about the plight of others. This is not necessarily a conscious decision but rather a result of the personal and family pressures we are facing in our own lives.

As a result, many are being left behind.

We often say it takes a village to raise a child, that sounds nice, but actually, it takes parents to raise a child. What the village needs to do, is support that parent, that solo mother or father, that nan or Koru as they do their best to support their children and grandchildren. It is always the parent's responsibility to raise their children, but it is equally the communities' responsibility to support them, stand with them, be aware of each other's struggles, and reach out a helping hand.

This is how communities should work, each aware of each other and committing to the community mantra – "NO-ONE LEFT BEHIND".

It is also an interesting fact in life, that when we reach out to support others, our own struggles are diminished. Somehow our own struggles are bought into perspective, and we ourselves are strengthened to carry on.

A Bible proverb reads, "Do to others as you would have them do to you" and "give and it shall be given to you", the sowing and reaping principal. It really does work.

As a community support agency, this is ImpacTauranga's absolute commitment. To lift every client that comes across our path, to a place of equal. To lift them up to a place where they can stand on their own feet and be a contributor rather than a victim. Where they can be a supporter of others rather than needing support. Lives changed, strengthened and confident about themselves and their families' future.

In the last 12 months we have directly supported 153 individuals and families, touching hundreds of lives. This is Community.

Let's do it together and see all our people prosper and filled with purpose for life.

NO-ONE LEFT BEHIND

Thank you again for your support to us

Russell Turner (Director- ImpacTauranga)

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Impactauranga Social Services

Kia ora koutou,

It is with mixed emotions that I write another article for our Ruff Times, I'm blessed that we are here to listen, walk alongside and support anyone that comes through the doors of Impactauranga and this year we have supported many families, children and young people, but I'm equally saddened by the state of our communities, nation and world. With so much devastation all around us, there has never been a time for us to support each other and to be intentional to build community.

Community is defined as a group of people who share some things that bind them together, these could be physical location, or socio-cultural such as heritage, common experience or common visions and expectations. The critical factor is that members engage with one another and have a sense of belonging and identity. (L.Chile)

Like never before we need to build community within our communities. This starts with a smile, knowing someone's name and listening, looking outwards and being aware of those around us.

In big ways and small we can all be part of building a better world and create an environment we are proud of. Let's not give up when things are tough, but draw on the strength, and wisdom of our elders and forefathers and the Lord, and change the world around us for good and for our future generations.

God Bless you and your whanau!

Nynz Note

Nyn Martin,
Manager of Social Services



What families are saying

Nyn Martin—Manager/Social Worker.

Young mum: I'm off all fizzy drinks, my panic attacks have nearly all stopped and I'm so much happier, I now have my own home, and my boy has his own space, it's so good. Thank you so much.

Young person: I feel peace again, I haven't felt that for so long. It's so good, things are getting better.

Parents: Thank you for your love, wisdom and support, it means a lot and is helping, our family is more settled and connected.

Young mum: I changed my tone, and it changed everything!! My kids are responding so much better.

Young person: School is like a jungle, but I'm learning to navigate it better and find my voice. Thanks for your support.

Young person: I thought I was drowning and there was no way out, thanks for helping me to find another place to live, I'm happier, I get regular meals, and I'm able to still have

Mentoring



Sudha Bhandari
Head of Mentoring

The mentoring program continues to deliver meaningful outcomes for young people across multiple contracts. We are currently supporting 22 individuals through personalized, needs-based mentoring.

Youth Justice (Oranga Tamariki – F26 Contract)

- * Our three-year agreement remains on track.
- * Last financial year: 10 young people supported within an eight-unit framework.
- * Current financial year (commenced this month): 5 young people actively engaged; 3 new referrals in process, expected to increase caseload to 8.
- * Two cases successfully closed with YJ. Remaining cases progressing toward FGC completion or Section 282 discharge.

Fee for Service

We are working with 11 young people, delivering goal-oriented mentoring.

Youth and Family Social Services

- * Currently supporting 6 individuals, broadening program reach and community impact.

Highlights

- * Strengthened Relationships: Improved family and peer dynamics through communication and conflict resolution support.
- * Motivation & Goal Setting: Increased focus on setting and achieving personal goals.
- * Social Development: Noticeable growth in confidence, communication, and interpersonal skills.
- * Academic Engagement: Enhanced participation and performance through consistent mentor support.

These outcomes reinforce the transformative potential of tailored mentoring in shaping resilient, future-focused young individuals.

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Thank you for your support

Tauranga Youth Academy

Tauranga Youth Academy: A Whānau of Resilience, Growth, and Pride

At Tauranga Youth Academy, we couldn't be prouder of our incredible ākonga. Term Two has been a journey of growth, determination, and connection—one that deserves to be celebrated.

Our rangatahi have shown true grit. Many have faced challenges that could have easily held them back, but instead, they've chosen to rise. With an attendance rate of 71% this term, we're seeing a powerful shift. For students who have previously struggled with regular attendance or who have felt disconnected from school, this is a massive win—and it speaks volumes about their strength and commitment.

What makes this even more special is

that they're not doing it alone. Our staff have been walking alongside our ākonga every step of the way—offering encouragement, care, and consistency. Together, we've been growing a culture where showing up, trying hard, and supporting one another are values we live by every day.

There's a real sense of whānau here. Our students are not only coming to school—they're enjoying it. They're learning to lean on one another, celebrate each other's progress, and find joy in the little things. We've seen deep friendships form, laughter in the classroom, and a strong sense of belonging.

Academically, our ākonga are stepping up too. They're spending longer periods engaged in online learning, completing Te Kura modules, and building the study habits they need for

success in NCEA. These are skills that will carry them far beyond the classroom.

As our attendance has lifted, so has everything else — confidence, relationships, motivation, and purpose. We are seeing our young people set goals, work hard, and believe in themselves.

This term, more than anything, has reminded us of what's possible when students feel seen, supported, and valued. We are so proud of every single one of our ākonga. The journey isn't always easy, but it's worth it—and we're walking it together, as one whānau, kia kaha! Mahi tahi!

Nga Mihi Nui,

Carl Cunningham,
Head Teacher



Tauranga Youth Academy

Term One and Two Activities

Mentoring *cont...*

Cont... from page 2

We have a committed team of 13 mentors: 6 male and 7 female, each playing a vital role in delivering high-quality support.

Thanks to all our mentors, Buster, Martin, Sarah, Anagrace, Corban, Jack, Shiloh, Logan, Dom, Brooke, Nathalia and Bek, for all their hard work.

Respite Care

Currently, two residents are using the respite services, with a new referral in progress.

Parents view this support as essential for both their own and the young people's well-being.

Thanks to Martin and Nathalia, for their dedication to supporting the young people in need.

Ruff Times

Partnering with us is easy and makes such a difference!



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Many thanks for your generosity and kindness
The Impactauranga team.

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