

# RUFF TIMES

July 2024



**Russell Turner**  
Director

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## Directors Update



God Bless you everyone again

It is time to update on the year's progress and the services of ImpactTauranga.

One thing is for certain, the need for supporting the families in our community does not diminish and it seems the general pressure of life has created significant difficulty for many individuals and families.

The good news is that ImpactTauranga is here with the heart and the skills to help.

Over 30 years it has been our privilege to stand with the people of Tauranga, and beyond, to give them a "hand up", when all else seems to have failed them.

During the past 12 months ImpactTauranga has supported 53 families through its family service, provided over 750 hours of Mentoring for our young people, given 250 nights of respite care for families needing a break, and achieved over 60% attendance at the Youth Academy, our alternative education program.

This is a wonderful effort and we celebrate re-united families, young people making positive choices for their life, families refreshed, and young people engaging in their education and future aspirations.

Some of our mentoring is with younger children, 8 to 10 years old, and this is also making a hugely positive impact on their lives as they look forward to their weekly visits and outings with their mentor.

A huge thank you to all staff for their unwavering commitment to helping others, and giving their best, often sacrificially, in support of another's need.

With much of the funding for community Social Work support drying up, we are eternally grateful to all the businesses and agencies who have remained faithful to support us in our work and we remain 100% committed to our services.

However, we also take nothing for granted and continue to thank God for His heart for the people and families of our community, to ensure these services can continue.

Bless you all again and thank you

Nga mihi aroha

Russell Turner ( Director )



### Introducing Brett Fleming

Brett has come alongside the Management team at ImpactTauranga to help develop our future services. He will take the Director role over the next few years allowing me to focus on my other passion of Mission work overseas.

You will see him representing us in the community.

## ImpacTauranga Social Services



Nynz Note

Nyn Martin,  
Manager of Social Services

Nynz Note!

Kia ora koutou,

Nga mihi nui, God Bless you all.

In challenging times, we must stand together, look out for one another and strengthen what we have. The most important thing is He Tangata! He Tangata! He Tangata! It is people, it is people, it is people.

As funding is slashed everywhere we must be creative, collaborative, and clear in our Kaupapa and mission.

At ImpacTauranga we are here to serve our community with love, support and practical help for whanau/families experiencing difficult times.

Our demand has grown exponentially, we have increased our staff to meet the needs and continue to expand our services to the growing complexities in our community. All staff are trained in trauma informed therapeutic responses to the presenting issues and have ongoing Personal development and supervision.

**We have just set up a Respite Residential Care Program for 5 years and up to 17 years. Our bespoke trauma informed therapeutic residential program runs from Monday – Friday during the school terms. We can also provide support at the weekends and school holidays. Our program can include a day program for education if needed. For enquiries and or more information, contact [admin@impactauranga.org](mailto:admin@impactauranga.org)**

We also provide mentoring and family support.

This last 12 months our community contract was for **20 families**. We have supported **53 families**, young people and children. This is a **wraparound program** and may include a **mentor, family therapy, residential care, education** etc. We can **create** a program that best meets the needs of the whole whanau/family.

### Our Residential Home

### Help! Hope! Care!

### What families are saying

**Mentee** *"I love my mentor! We go surfing, skateboarding and have so much fun".*

- ◆ **Mother-** *"Counselling has been a **stabilizing voice in my child's life.**"*
- ◆ **Resident at Arndt House** – *"My stay at AH has been **refreshing and stabilizing** for me, it's the **safest place** I have stayed in for a long time. I can think clearly again."*
- ◆ **Young person at AH** – *"The house parents are **like my family members** and will be for the rest of my life!! "*
- ◆ **Young person getting 1-1 support!** *"Thanks for **not giving up on me!!** and always ringing and making contact, my life has completely changed! Next week I start a beauty therapy course, I have started a job and am no longer addicted to drugs!! Words cannot express **how thankful I am**"*
- ◆ **Whanau/Family** *"The **Equine Dynamics** was great to get us all out together and allow the horses to be our teachers, **it was fun!!**"*

Mentoring relationships often provide emotional support, helping mentees feel more confident and valued which encourages them to adopt healthier lifestyles and make positive life choices.

Thank you for your ongoing support to ImpacTauranga and the Youth and Families in our community.

It is very much appreciated!

Nga mihi nui, Nynette Martin, Manager/Social Worker.

### Equine Therapy



## Mentoring



Sudha Bhandari  
Head of Mentoring

Greetings to everyone,

I trust you are all keeping well during this winter.

The mentoring programme has had another fantastic start, through the programme we're working with twenty-six young people. Since January, we have worked with **six** young people from Youth Justice during our F24 contract, **one** from High and complex need, **six** from Fee for Service, and **thirteen** from Youth and Family Social Services.

Our work with 8 young people under the Youth Justice contract has successfully met its target, and we have received additional referrals. This indicates that the 8 Units contract was insufficient to meet the growing demand for our services. Out of 8, 4 have received a 282 Discharge from the courts and the remainder are effectively completing their Family Group Conference plan with mentor support and other team members. Our preventative work with young people in the community, the Tauranga Youth Academy, and other agencies has been very consistently growing.

**It is inspiring to see these young people making better choices in life**

Each participant in the mentoring program has experienced some level of success, leading to grateful whanau who appreciate the mentors' support. Relationships between youths and their whanau have been restored, and the youths are now actively engaged in positive activities. There have been notable improvements in their educational progress, including the exploration of pathways back to schooling and courses. From adhering to curfews to

overcoming trespassing orders, their consistent efforts have led to significant progress. Additionally, the overall well-being of the youths is steadily improving, as they are developing healthier habits, gaining confidence, and building brighter futures. This transformation is a testament to the unwavering dedication of the mentors and the resilience of the youths.

It's truly inspiring to see these young people making better choices in life and receiving the support they need to maintain these positive changes. Witnessing the impact mentors can have on a young person's life through relationships, support, conversations, and serving as positive role models is incredibly rewarding. Here is some feedback from the mentees:

- ◆ *"Found mentoring support helpful. Enjoyed being active each week."*
- ◆ *"Liked the activities and hanging out with mentor. Also loved having time away from the business of home and family."*
- ◆ *"Just go with them and get the support."*
- ◆ *"I would tell them mentoring is mean as, and tell them about how much fun it is."*
- ◆ *"I enjoyed basketball and pool. Helped with accuracy – I like games where you have to shoot things at a target."*
- ◆ *"Photography at Te Puna Quarry was super fun I love all the activities."*
- ◆ *"He was fine at home but definitely showed massive improvement at school. Thank you guys so much for all your support, you have truly been amazing" – mother of young lad*

On behalf of Impac Tauranga, I would like to thank all our incredible team for their fantastic support for our young people. A heartfelt thank you to, Buster, Rachel, Martin, Jack, Sarah, Marisha, Logan, Anagrace, Jemima and Emma for all their dedication and hard work. We love collaborating with you to support the youth in our city.

## Tauranga Youth Academy Art Project



**Thank you for your support**



## Sports Funding for new TYA Equipment & Activities



Thank you BOP Sports for funding the new equipment for the Academy students.

## Respite Care

Currently, **four** residents are regularly utilizing respite services. One individual has completed their allotted time, and another young person is booked for a week of respite during the end-of-year holidays.

One of the parents of a young individual who engaged with our service expressed gratitude for the immediate wrap-around support provided during their emergency. Their whanau was on the verge of breaking down due to extreme behavioural and mental challenges presented by the young person. In response to their urgent need, we accommodated this young boy for six days of respite care along with life coach support during the day. This intervention helped him learn strategies to regulate his behaviour in a comfortable and secure environment that offered predictable routines and activities, fostering stability and assurance.

After the respite, he was quite excited to return, so the team, along with the whanau, decided to establish a regular respite schedule of a few days every month.

A single mother of two children with behavioural and mental health issues deeply appreciates the respite care service, as it provides her with the only opportunity to take a much-needed break. This service allows her to regroup and recharge, preparing her for the ongoing challenges of solo parenting.

Rest of the parents share similar stories about how this respite care is vital for the entire whanau. They express immense relief knowing that their children's personalized care needs are being met, which nurtures their overall well-being and development.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to all the respite caregivers, Martin, Jemima, and Delilah, as well as the house parents, Bridget and John. Your amazing work with these young people is truly appreciated.

Thank you  
Sudha Bhandari



**"Ruff"**  
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who've had a  
rough life

ImpacTauranga Supports  
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## Tauranga Youth Academy

Kia ora e te whānau,

Welcome to halfway through the year and what a journey; we have so much to celebrate. Firstly, we must acknowledge and mihi Kimberley for the enthusiasm and aroha she brings to school every day. And, to Sarah our multi-talented pastoral care worker who also works tirelessly to add value to our program. We are blessed to have so many amazing humans all contributing countless hours to the education and well-being of our rangitahi (young people). Without them, none of this would be possible.

Building positive and meaningful relationships between students and staff has been the focus of term 1 & 2. We have created a place for our students to feel safe, respected, and loved. On these foundations of aroha great things have been possible.

Fostering autonomy and encouraging regular reflection has allowed students to practise managing their emotions and mature as adolescents. We have seen the students gain confidence, try new things, and take ownership of their individual learning goals. We encourage regular time

outs and 'check ins' with staff for extra support and understanding. Rangitahi have made tremendous progress in the ability to identify, self-regulate and manage themselves on a day-to-day basis. They regularly make mature choices and self-directed learning is becoming the standard. We are extremely proud of them for the growth and resilience!

Students have shown outstanding engagement and willingness to be vulnerable, ask questions and accept instruction from the staff or their peers. Each day students studying and working towards their goals. Our students are excelling in the opportunity to be students again. Each day they sign into Awarua Pathways online learning and put in mahi to prepare for the upcoming NCEA Co-requisites.

After our classroom education we get out into the community for activities and fresh air. We have been swimming at local waterfalls, beaches and public pools followed by shared lunches, barbeques, and laughs. I have been able to share my passion for trees and conservation with our

students in the bush. We participate in mindfulness hikoi throughout the Kaimai ranges, we've discovered ancient taonga rakau (sacred trees) in our community and learned cultural significance of historical sites throughout the motu.

During the week we participate in organized physical activities, art projects and mental health workshops provided by Tauranga's best providers. We engage in programmes run by: IBA -Boxing, Tautoko Mai, QE2 Gymnasium, Historical Village, Devoy Squash Centre, Bay venues and more!

Our biggest celebrations so far have been two students moving on to contribute back to their community. Our first has enrolled at Toi Ohomai to study agricultural farming and pursuing her dream of becoming a dairy farmer. Our second rangitahi is on his third week of work experience at a local arboriculture company. He is enjoying planting out the city's new green spaces with a crew of workers for TCC.

Bring on the second half of the year!  
Nga mihi nui, Carl Cunningham

## Term 1 & 2 Activities



Ruff Times

Partnering with us is easy and makes such a difference!



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Te Puna Tahua  
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- South City Baptist Church
- Tauranga Sunrise Lions Club
- 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](mailto: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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MENTORING

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