

July 2017

## A RECENT SUCCESS

The pilot programme “Rodney Youth Pathway to Emergency Services” training workshops was held on 18-20 July for thirty Year 10-13 students in the Rodney area.

The YPES programme offered tasters from various local emergency services, such as the Auckland Civil Defence and Emergency Management, NZ Fire Service, NZ Police, NZ Defence Force, St Johns, NZ Red Cross, Coastguard and Blue Light. The youth candidates attended a three day workshop, hosted by the different emergency services. The experience enabled the candidates to apply their learning in simulated emergency scenarios.

The three day training workshop included :-

- A certificated NZQA First Aid certificate
- Hands on experience for the youth to put their First Aid training into practice scenarios
- Workshops from Triple One Care, NZ Fire Service, St Johns Ambulance, NZ Defence Force, NZ Police, NZ Red Cross, Coastguard, Auckland Civil Defence Management team, Rapid Relief Team, and Tzu Chi Foundation.



North Rodney Blue Light thanks Auckland Council Civil Defence and Emergency Management for their sponsorship of this programme.

## GREAT YOUTH

Blue Light has the privilege to work alongside some of the most likeable youth in the country says Community Youth Coordinator, Shane Gould based at Wellsford.

During the 22 years that Shane has worked in this area for North Rodney Blue Light, he has witnessed youth rise to the challenges that our programmes and activities offer and become very responsible citizens.

Working in collaboration with many community groups during our successful pilot programme, demonstrates that there is a real eagerness to develop safer communities. The youth who attended were amazed at the number of local volunteers that work in many areas of emergency services, including national and international disasters.

“Pathways” seems to be the buzz word around now. This is one area where we provide our youth with experiences and skills to develop meaningful careers. Blue Light’s affiliation with the NZ Police and their networks helps to develop our new youth pathway programme. All our local emergency services are keen to assist. With an accredited NZQA First Aid qualification this is a beneficial step in the right direction for the 30 youth who attended.

A highlight was to a meet up with a full time Silverdale female fire officer, Becky Wood from Mahurangi, who attended a Blue Light Defence Force camp 15 years earlier. Becky shared her experiences with the students on her career pathway.

Life skills, and our core values; **respect, resourcefulness, responsibility and resilience**, are key components of all our programmes. This was demonstrated well on our Youth Pathway to Emergency Service programme with each of the Emergency Workshop providers being thanked by an individual student and their willingness to participate in the scenarios.

## CAMPS AND OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

North Rodney Blue Light has built up a large resource of outdoor equipment including kayaks, snorkeling gear, paddle boards, blokarts, air rifles, archery, mountain bikes and safety equipment.

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*“Camps and outdoor activities - that’s what we do a lot of” says Shane Gould*

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Students appreciated the food prepared by the Rapid Relief Teams.



Mock crash involving St Johns, NZ Fire Service, and NZ Police. Students used their newly learnt skills to assess and provide assistance.



NZ Air Force No. 6 Squadron

## Contact Us

### North Rodney Blue Light Ventures Inc

PO Box 9

Wellsford 0940

T: 09 423 8545

E: [admin@nrbl.org.nz](mailto:admin@nrbl.org.nz)

W: [www.nrbl.org.nz](http://www.nrbl.org.nz)

Our equipment resources continue to be well maintained. In recent years we have undergone OutdoorsMark Safety Auditing to meet new government standards.

## VOLUNTEERS

We have a very dedicated group of volunteers, who meet monthly, from a diverse range of backgrounds and experiences. Meetings are chaired by our local Wellsford Police Sgt. Geoff Medland and include Police staff, teachers, students and business owners. It's important to our organisations to remain relevant and abreast of youth and community trends says Geoff and welcome new people who are interested seeing the youth reach their potential.

Volunteer of the month: Nicola Paterson

## GEMSTONES STORY TELLING

A popular story with youth and adults alike is being delivered to senior students at Mangawhai Beach School and the Living Way Learning Centre. In all ages and cultures, children, as they emerge from childhood, undergo a rite of passage into adult life. This is critical and often a difficult time for many of them.

Gem of the First water is a metaphorical rite of passage.

It is based on three principles:

1. There are right and wrong choices.
2. Good decision making leads to appropriate behaviour and good feelings, so building health self- confidence.
3. The steps to balanced living are quite simple.

The listeners go through three phases:-

- i. They identify with the boy in the story and then internalise his journey as their own.
- ii. They struggle with the boy's new learning and the decisions he must take.
- iii. They choose to take control of their lives.

## COMING UP

Rainbow's End Fun Day Sunday 10 September 2017 for Year 7-8 students.

This is an annual event that has been happening for many years, which involves other Blue Light branches nationally. The Trillian Trust and Oxford Sports Trust contribute to the event. The event is well supervised by NZ Police and Blue Light staff and volunteers.

## WE APPRECIATE OUR SPONSORS THIS MONTH

