

September 2017

RAINBOW'S END FUN DAY

For the past twenty years we have taken between three and four buses to the National Blue Light Fun Day full of excited year 7 & 8 students from local schools.

The day goes ahead whether it is raining, hailing or shining and we have had all three some years. The event would not be possible without the support of Police staff, Blue Light staff and volunteers. The event is heavily subsidised through support from Rainbows End, Trillian Trust and the Oxford Sports Trust.

A special mention to the support of the local schools admin staff who sell the tickets and promote the event on our behalf.

Another successful Rainbows End Fun Day was held this year on Sunday 10 September 2017.



Some of the students ready for the return trip home from Rainbows End

EMPOWERING YOUTH

Catch phrases, mission and vision statements take some time to craft for organisations to develop their Strategic Plans, Outcomes, Measurements, KPI etc. to be aware of why the organisation exists and what attracts participants, staff, volunteers and sponsors. However, the greatest task is how do we execute this and make this all happen. The joys of being a youth worker!! Our Strategic Plan covering the period 2016-2019 is a work in progress and we plan our programs to meet our objectives. Our Youth in Emergency Services program conducted a few months ago brings us one step closer to meeting outcomes to develop employment skills and opportunities for youth.

We are always on the look out for community projects that are suitable to involve youth in the local area. If you have any suggestions we will be happy to listen to your ideas.

ACTIVITIES

It's interesting hearing about the amount of youth issues particularly with mental health in the media of late. One of the remedies reported to better well being is getting out into the outdoors and away from the items that seems to be attached to every teenagers autonomy, the smart phone. This device supposedly to keep youth connected has had the opposite effect in my opinion. This is especially witnessed when youth are enjoying some of our outdoor and camp activities where we promote values of community. Not only is it a health and safety issue the anxiety created when the use of their device is withdrawn is remarkable. Something like having a limb amputated!!

"Like a limb being amputated."

Having had the privilege of sponsoring a number of youth to attend Outward Bound and participating in a Youth Workers 8 day course the one element that always came through was the time being on "solo". The solo on the full 3 week course is for three days with limited rations, no outside contact, restricted area of 10 metres, a tent fly, a sleeping bag, and of course a bucket for ablutions. For most this was the highlight of their time away. But why.? Peace of Mind?, Being connected to one self? Possibly but what ever the professionals come up with its important not only for youth but all of us. "Being Well" not only helps oneself but the community.

The majority of our programs exclude mobile phones for students to ensure we have their well being and safety paramount and create a healthy socialisation environment.



Our wonderful, faithful volunteers at Rainbows End.



Mangawhai Sand Dunes. Always fun.



New adventure at Piroa Waterfalls near Maungaturoto.

VOLUNTEERS

North Rodney Blue Light wishes to thank Roger and Laurie Farr, Todd Gibson, Kristal Gould, Paul and Sally Carstensen together with Police staff, Snr Constables Graham Gough and John Williams who assisted with the Rainbow's End Fun Day on Sunday 10 September.

VOLUNTEERS OF THE MONTH

Roger & Laurie Farr

BLUE LIGHT BRANCHES UTILISE OUR RESOURCES

This year we have supplied our resources and local expertise for youth attending programs or camps from our branches. Earlier this year we had South Kaipara Blue Light and in September we had a small group from the new Activities with Supervision program running out of Papatoetoe. Activities included Kayaking, Archery, Mountain Biking, Air Rifles trips to waterfalls, sand dunes, local beaches and Marsden Bay Oil Refinery visitors centre.

We have to adjust our programs to suit the weather, tidal and other constraints

COMING UP

It's great being a part of an organisation that witness youth development. We partner with the Duke of Edinburgh's Hilary Award, an international award. In mid December we are monitoring eight senior female students from Rodney College. The 4 day tramp around Lake Waikaremoana is to assist them achieve their Silver award. The awards are made up of Service, Skills, Physical Recreation. The Silver Adventurous Journey of at least 3 days 2 nights 7 hours of purposeful effort per day is a requirement. A great award to achieve and place on their CV. The girls have been supported in the award by teachers Ian and Lara Callachan from Rodney College

WE APPRECIATE OUR SPONSORS THIS MONTH



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National Blue Light

