



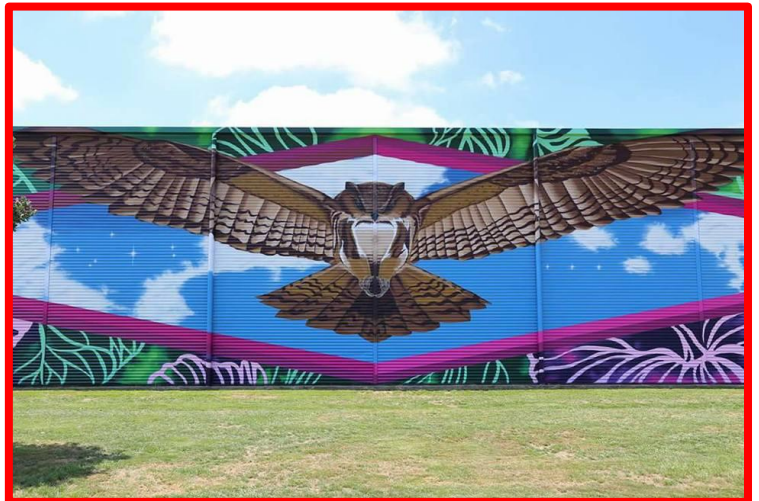
HIGHBURY WHĀNAU CENTRE NEWSLETTER

Issue No. 1 | 15th March 2022

The Highbury Whānau Centre was established in the early 80's, by a group of concerned parents as a reaction to negative youth behaviours that the communities of Highbury, Takaro and Westbrook, Palmerston North, were experiencing at this time. Since then, the organisation has played an integral part within the provision of youth and community development activities, services and programmes to the communities of Highbury, Takaro & Westbrook and the wider city.

The organisation has continued to grow, and currently provides youth, Whānau and community services that encompass the realms of education, recreation, community development and social services. The Highbury Whānau Centre has a solid and robust reputation, locally, nationally & internationally of working with children, Rangatahi and their whānau to support and progress youth, health, education, recreation, community and social development.

The Centre has developed a positive working relationship with Crown and non-government sector organisations to provide youth, whānau & community-orientated services, with a specific expertise with Rangatahi Māori, within an urban Māori paradigm. The Highbury Whānau Centre developed a strong and supportive working relationship within the youth and community development sectors locally and nationally. Some of these relationships have been formalised within MoU between organisations, where a collective ethos and skill sets can ensure we service our communities of need. This has developed to include frequent consultation processes on best practice and organisational growth, development and sustainability.



Through these closer working relationships a collaborative framework has been developed that supports the capacity to provide services that would complement the existing array that were being provided from collective agencies, as well as provide an avenue to scope future developments within youth development and would assist in the education of new staff, complete the advancement of young people and assist in the progression of service provision to young people and their Whānau within the enhancement of youth health, education, transition, development and justice services. We believe this relationship is unique and highly valuable within our sector and organisational working environment.

TRANSITIONS' TEAM

Young people leaving Oranga Tamariki care or a Youth Justice Residence face some big challenges and sometimes struggle to overcome them alone. The "*Transition to Independent Adulthood Service*" strives to provide support for young people exiting out of State Care. We work with young people (aged between 16 to 24 years old), providing support and guidance as they prepare themselves for adult life. Whether we touch base occasionally to see how the young person is getting on, or we provide regular support helping with study, work, housing, bills, etc - it's up to the individual. The whole service is driven by our rangatahi, whatever goals or aspirations that they have, we try to help them achieve.

Hui is a big part of the Transition Service. These could be Meet and Greets, Case Consults, Professional's Hui, FGCs (Family Group Conference), Hui ā Whānau, Job Interviews, Flat Meetings, Youth or District Court Hearings, visits in Youth Residence or Prison and more. Transition Workers are able to support in all these spaces. It is important for us to ensure that the voice of our rangatahi, and their whānau, are heard in this hui. It is also important to ensure there is a process of whakanoa afterwards, this helps to settle any unsettling that took place during the hui. We practice Manaakitanga in the form of kai, which has been a challenge with the current "climate".

Transition Workers support rangatahi with whakawhanaungatanga, to connect, or re-connect, and engage, or re-engage with important people in their lives. Sometimes this is with family members, and sometimes it is with others who are significant to them, including support people who will play a role in their lives. This both empowers the rangatahi to understand where and who they come from, as well as increasing security in their identity. This raises self-esteem and self-confidence.



Transition Workers also assist young people with learning; mentoring, role modelling how we speak, how we behave in situations, our body language, assessing and preparing for employment, navigating government agencies paperwork and processes, and upskilling with day to day tasks. We help them gain matauranga / knowledge as they transition to adulthood. We help plant the seed and watch it grow; walking alongside our rangatahi as they learn these new skills. The Transition Service is lucky to potentially have up to six years with our rangatahi before they move on from our service, so if it takes a day, a week,

or much more to learn the skill then that's entirely up to our rangatahi. Persistence, consistency and drive is what we value in our team.

Our youth work with rangatahi transitioning out of care is both inspiring and challenging. The struggle for independence and self-determination, or rangatiratanga, is very real for young people. The Highbury Whānau Centre Transitions team of professionals take responsibility to communicate with government partners and other agencies for better outcomes for the communities we serve. Although this can be difficult, it is also rewarding when we see the young people flourish and grow into the life they want for themselves.

KAIMAHI PROFILES

Kia Orana Kotou Katoatoa,

I am Jenine Scoon, the Team Leader for HWC-Transition Service, I am of Kuki Airani and Samoan descent. I have worked mostly in the public sector for the last 30 plus years until moving to HWC two years ago. I have three grown sons and numerous moko who all reside here in Te Papaioea. I am an active volunteer for the local softball community and love working in this sector, great for the soul.

Kia ora!

I'm Reweti from a small valley on the Rangitikei now living in Papaioea. I hail from Raukawa and Tūwharetoa iwi and represent Ngāti Haeperi. My experience working with rangatahi in Youth Justice and in community for the last 12 years keeps me young, but I often look back to what my kuia and kaumātua (elders) would say to support our whānau. I am proud to represent my culture in my work. I am a good listener, keep whānau informed, offer tikanga as a term of reference, and feel privileged to be an advocate for young people and their whānau.



Tēnā koutou

Ko Kapakapanui me Whitireia ngā maunga, Ko Raukawa te moana, Ko Waikanae te awa, Ko Kurahaupō me Tainui ōku waka, Ko Whakarongotai me Takapūwahia ōku whare Tīpuna, Ko Te Atiawa me Ngāti Toa Rangatira ōku Iwi, I'm Mike, and I was fortunate enough to join the Youth Transitions team in July 2019. I have a strong passion for helping young people along their life journey and have a talent of bringing out the best in people. With a background in health and wellbeing, I have a key focus of looking for the positive aspects of any situation. I enjoy supporting rangatahi in achieving independence in the adult world and helping them find what motivates and excites them.

SUMMER HANGOUTS

The Summer Hangouts programme is a new pilot initiative from the Specialist Youth Whānau and Community Services Team (SpYWCS) that is designed to provide a wider reach for the HWC Youth workers and services to the Highbury Community. This program aimed to provide young people the opportunity to engage in fun, interactive and productive activities that they may not have the opportunity to otherwise. It also aims to give them the chance to gain skills, build confidence and make new friends and provide a safe opportunity to be creative and have fun. For our first year of



this new program we incorporated activities based within the centre and external. We had up to 17 students from 8-13 years old that jumped on board and enjoyed Epic outdoor games in the sun, Off the loop wakeboard park, Lazer tag and the new splash pad in the Manawatū, which is an absolute hit!! We look forward to this being the start of many diverse and different summer hangouts to come along with a collection of new programs for the HWC community.

WHATS COMING UP AT HWC

Tech Sport 2022, Challenge yourself with technology combined games and drills that will level up your skills for sports day. Ages 8 - 13 Years, Every Wednesday from March 4 - March 30 @ Highbury Whānau Centre 4.00-5.00pm. For more information please contact Sharon on Ph: 02102701717 or Email; sharon@hwc.org.nz



For more information contact us on the following platforms:

WEB: www.hwc.org.nz

FB: <https://www.facebook.com/HWC7163/>

EMAIL: info@hwc.org.nz

PHONE: (06)3580504