

Term 2, 2013 Male Mentor Report

YOUTH ALIVE TRUST



South New Brighton Wave Riders Antarctic Centre Trip

Term 2 has felt like a workhorse of a term, now into full swing of things for the year I was never short of something to do. While busy with lots of hard work the term also brought its share of fun.

NORTH NEW BRIGHTON SCHOOL

This term at North New Brighton I have had four main points of focus – Man Skills, Mentoring, Boys Club and a year 6/7 Boys group.

This term saw the first two groups of boys finishing up Man Skills, and the beginning of another. All of the boys involved constantly look forward to Man Skills every week, several of them would have considered it as one of the highlights of their weeks. The program finishes up with a very hard challenge which gives a scenario from each session for the group to complete together, while the guys found the scenarios difficult they enjoyed that they put the skills they learnt into very real world applications. Those that have finished up enjoyed the challenge of the course, and have all learnt plenty. The fresh group of boys is currently taking on the program whole heartedly and also learning lots!



Man Skills



Man Skills



Man Skills



Y 6/7 Boys Group

This term has also seen the beginning of a new boys group with year 6/7 boys, using Adventure Based Learning as a catalyst for developing confidence and self worth.

I have also began running on Wednesday lunchtimes a replica of Boy's club (from South Brighton) which is gathering a consistent following of keen boys, In the



Boys Club – American Football

past term highlights have included bull rush and American Football.

I have also continued 1 on 1 mentoring of two year 4 boys both of which look forward to the time each week. It has been pleasing to begin to see improvements in their overall attitude after working with them for such a short amount of time.



Y 6/7 Boys Group

This term at North I will be mostly business as usual continuing on from last term, however I intend to place a bit more focus on developing the year 6/7 boys group hopefully into another program similar to the Man Skills program, focusing on more 'Who am I' with the intentions of developing Confidence and self worth.

CENTRAL NEW BRIGHTON SCHOOL

This term in at Central has had me focusing on running the Leadership group, Man Skills and Boys Club.

The Leadership Group at Central currently has nine year 7/8's participating. Over this last term we have been focusing on what is great about each of us, and where some of our strengths lie. This has led into each of the young people then setting themselves a few goals around how they want to improve and become even better. This term the leadership



Leadership group.
Learning through ABL

group is going to be working towards putting into practice some leadership skills by running a yet to be designed event. One of the best ways to learn to be a leader is to get out there and be one, so by giving them the opportunity to get practical I feel that they will end up empowered to really improve!

Man skills, as with North, has been going great. The two boys that I have been running the course with over the last term have learned heaps from it and loved learning the many skills each week. This term will see a fresh group of boys



Boys Club – Sock Wrestling



Man Skills – The first boys
have finished!

participating in the program.

Boys Club on Tuesday lunch times has been running well with the boys loving to get a bit of 'guy time' and generally getting to do a bit rougher activity than usual. The boys absolutely loved sock wrestling, with American Football coming a close second!



Man Skills

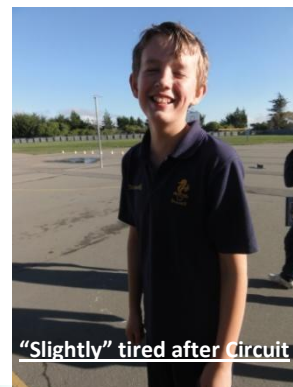


Leadership group.
Setting Goals

SOUTH NEW BRIGHTON SCHOOL

This term at South has been busy, very busy. I have been running Man Skills, an Alternative Sports Group, Boys Club, a Reading Group, Coaching two basketball teams as well as running a junior Activity Based Learning Group – all on a weekly basis!

One of the Highlights for me this term has been running on Friday afternoons an alternative sports group. This group has been run for the few boys that are not involved with winter sports. My idea coming into this was to show the boys how to still get active without playing the usual soccer, rugby, hockey or netball. This term has seen us try activities such as basketball, capture the flag, doing a circuit course petanque and a other various ways of getting active. The highlight for many of these 'not sporty' young people was the intensive circuit course due to how good (and exhausted) they felt at the end having pushed themselves through an hour of near back to back physical activity. They loved that it was pushing their own limits and that they would be rewarded themselves by how hard they pushed their boundaries.



"Slightly" tired after Circuit



Shuttle Runs turned competition



Bearing the Plank



The Year 7/8 team after their first game

My other big highlight has been coaching the two basketball teams, one year 5/6 team and one year 7/8 team. This being the first time I have ever coached a team it has been a rewarding new experience that I have learnt a lot from. So far the improvements seen in the young people that are playing is quite significant, both teams were originally at the grade of the lowest teams and are now both sitting up in the upper mid range of the competition. The other side to the basketball, that for me has been hugely positive, has been seeing such a revival of the sport at south. Several of the boys are already planning to play basketball next year for a club/school as well as or instead of soccer or rugby or even better many either already have or are going to take up

basketball instead of playing no sport at all. Another success has been seeing a player from each of the two teams chosen for the Cowles stadium all star team!

Boys Club is still going strong at South and is still proving a top outlet for the guys to get their fix of rough and tumble. This term we have

had the usual suspects of bull rush and sock wrestling as well as a few not so usual such as big ball soccer and giant volleyball.



Big Ball Soccer



Junior ABL

With the juniors this term I have been working alongside two year 4 boys. Originally this was in the form of 1 on 1 mentoring however as the term went on this developed into more effect being drawn from working with small groups (with the specific boys each time) running a basic activity



Junior ABL



Reading group –
Baking Scones



Reading group –
Baking Scones

based learning session and drawing the learning from that. While the specific boys can be quite a handful in class they often respond well and take on what they learn from the ABL sessions, bit by bit I am definitely seeing improvement in them.

With the Legends (years 5/6) I have been asked to run a reading group. This has proved an interesting and fun challenge being quite different than what I usually end up doing.

This term has seen us doing several activities to get the boys reading and loving it without even realising that they are learning and improving their reading skills. Some of the activities that we have done over the last term to facilitate this have been baking, the games taboo and boulder dash, construction challenges and more.

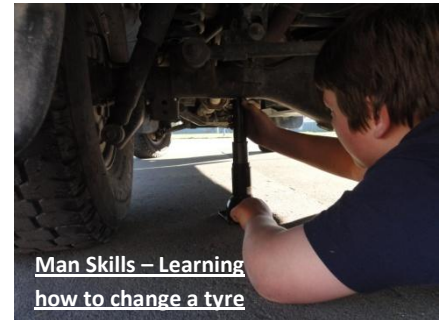
Man Skills in South is also going great, with the first group of boys now through and the 2nd more than half way there, it is definitely working out well.

This term I also went along with the wave riders (year 7/8) to the Antarctic Centre for a half day trip. The trip proved a great chance to connect with the young people in a different environment than usual.

In the coming term I see it being very similar to term two with me mostly working off what is already happening.



Junior ABL



Man Skills – Learning
how to change a tyre



Antarctic Centre Trip



Antarctic
Centre Trip

GUYS DAY OUT

Guys Day Out for term 2 was an 11 hour packed in day of American Football, Archery, Snacks, Paintball, Swimming, a Pizza Feast, Great leaders, a life talk and an epic Night Game!

A fantastic and exhausting day was had by all that came along. The young people rated the day a solid 9/10 with many of them wanting to do it all again, a few even said that this was one of the best days they have had in a long time.

Interestingly enough the young people rated the leaders as the best part of the day at a 9.5/10, better than a feast of pizza or even paintball!



It just goes to show how much young people really do value older people that will take a bit of interest in what they have to say.



OTHER INVOLVEMENTS OVER TERM 2

KIDS CAMP

During the first week of the July school holidays I was again on CDN Trusts (Community Development Networks) Kids Camp, in the role of Program Director. This camp boasted a record 89, 10-13 year olds. Over 5 days we gave these 89 a fantastic break from their regular worlds and allowed them to live it up on camp. While I end up having lots of contact with young people from all around christchurch these camps continue to prove value due to getting to share the camp experience with the ones that come that I am regularly working with. Aside from the young people aspect of kids camp, it also provides a good place to network with other youth workers and potential volunteers.

QUEENSTOWN CAMP

Over the second week of the July school holidays, I joined with YAT's teenage camp down to Queenstown for 5 days with 38 teens and 8



leaders. This was a fantastic trip for both young people and leaders. For many of the Teens that came along they had never been to Queenstown or gotten to do several of the activities that were planned. The camp involved lots of

driving, lugeing, mountainbiking, swimming, exploring Queenstown township, heading over to wanaka, stoping in at another youth facility, spending an afternoon at puzzling world and even an icy mid winter swim in Lake Tekapo for the few of us that were game.

This camp provided me opportunity to catch up with several of the boys that I was working with last year that have now moved through to high school, all of them absolutely stoked that I was along for the trip.



ROCK SOLID

Rock Solid this last term has been a great place to finish the working week of by spending the late afternoon with upto 50+ of the year 7/8s that I am in regular contact with. This last term has seen many fun and interesting nights such as Cluedo, Food Glorious Food, ice skating as well as an EPIC Dance Party (with nearly 200). This term is another packed out term with plenty more fun planned.

MENTORING – BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS

Once a week I am mentoring one boy through big brothers big sisters. This last term has been a term that has again shown me the value of 1 on 1 mentoring. In the consistant space of meeting up with a young person for an hour a week over a long term, most young people will open up about more and more of their worlds. Sadly more often than not what they have to share about their worlds can be painful to hear about, however having 1 on 1 mentoring in place is something that those young people hold dear to and realy value esspecially when times are tough.

TERM 3

Term 3 looks set to be a short, busy, fun work horse of a term. With lots coming up such as heading away snowboarding with SNBS, taking both of my basketball teams to go and see the breakers play when they come to christchurch and Amped Camp (A combined camp with 300+ year 7/8s from various youth groups from all around chch overnight) to finish it off it's going to be fantastic!

Thanks again for all your support over the last term, as it's this support wich makes all of what you have read about in this update possible!



Matt Barnes

