

# Youthworkers in Rawhiti Primary School Report 2020



**Jayden Wall**

1st Year in FT Youthwork

*Loves: Photography & multimedia, creative arts and football.*

✉ jayden.wall@yat.org.nz



**Melissa Moore**

3rd Year Youthworker

*Loves: Netball, Creative Activities, Family*

✉ melissa.moore@yat.org.nz

## TERM 4 TIMETABLES

**Tuesday 10am-2pm**  
Morning Surfing support  
Ata Hapara boys group,  
lunch time support, one on  
one mentoring.

**Thursday 11:30-1pm**  
one on one mentoring,  
lunchtime games.

**Friday 11am-1pm**  
Tāwhirimātea boys group,  
one on one mentoring.

**Wednesday 9.00-2pm**  
Surfing support, Girls group, lunch  
time support, One on one mentoring

**Thursday 12-2.00pm**  
Lunch time game, One on one  
mentoring.

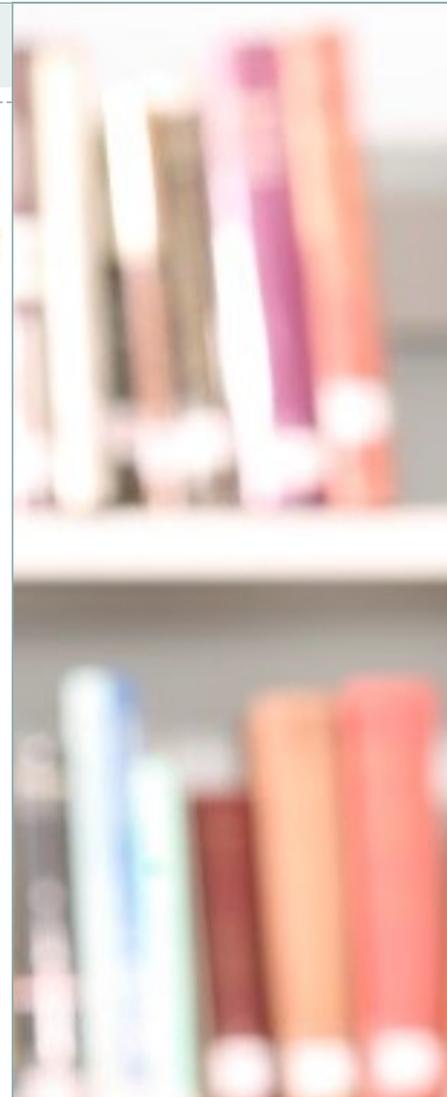
**Friday 9:00-11am**  
Surfing support

## THE ROLE OF A YOUTHWORKER

Youth work is the process of creating an environment where young people can engage in informal educational activities, support a young person's development and help them build healthy connections with family, peers, and their community. It encompasses role modelling, being accessible to young people and being around to help young people make good choices.

*"Our Youth Alive Trust workers are a very important part of our school. They serve as fabulous role models and mentors to our students, and are a massive help to us in areas including mentoring, running sports teams, camps, and trips, and running personal development groups. I know that we are very lucky to have people of this quality in our school, and they have a hugely positive impact on the culture of our school, helping to create a caring environment and making our students feel, accepted and cared about."*

*Andrew Redmond (Tangaroa Teacher)*



## Programs and Support

- Boys Groups
- Girls Groups
- Mentoring
- Friday Winter Sports
- Surfing
- Thursday Activity
- Break Time Support
- Community Activities

## GIRLS GROUPS

Melissa has been running Girls Groups with both Years 7-8s and Years 5-6s. The programme has been very tough for some as it focuses on connections, friendships and also their relationship with themselves. It has been interesting to have some very deep discussions and seeing the changes in everyone from week to week.

A young girl that Melissa is currently working with is struggling to be a part of the friendship group. Within the six week course she has started opening up more to be herself. The girls have been welcoming and we are aiming to get several good friendships through the process. From the feedback received from the girls, they are very happy to have another familiar face around school who cares about them. Some say it's the highlight of their week!



## THURSDAY LUNCH TIME GAMES

This year Jayden and Melissa have been running a lunchtime activity every Thursday. This has been a great chance to connect with the wider school while the seniors are away at Technology. They have both been able to connect with students from classes they're not involved in.

This has had a great response from students with many of them requesting games and activities. Almost every day they're being asked "Are you doing games at lunch today?". Some games that we have run include a Frisbee competition, giant jump rope, circus skills, capture the flag and several games in the gym on those cold raining days.



## SURFING

On Wednesday and Friday mornings we are at North Brighton Beach with some of the intermediate students. Surfing has been a fantastic way to connect with the young girls as we are able to learn, laugh and have fun together. One young boy had never done surfing before and was quite nervous about the experience. I went in the water with him and held his board while he got his balance. I encouraged him to start paddling and gave his board a push, he was able to catch the wave and was so proud of his efforts. Surfing is a great thing that Rawhiti school provides as it's building skills, competence and confidence that can be used locally for the rest of their lives!



Grace Vineyard Beach Campus,  
111 Seaview Road,  
New Brighton, Christchurch  
☎ 03 388 1001  
✉ [office@yat.org.nz](mailto:office@yat.org.nz)  
🌐 [www.yat.org.nz](http://www.yat.org.nz)



## FRIDAY SPORT

This year both Jayden and Melissa helped out with Friday afternoon sports. Jayden refereed the football teams, while Melissa coached the Y 7-8s Netball team. These Friday afternoons are great ways to connect with the young people and being able to help them develop both sporting and life skills at the same time.



## EXTRAS

We help in a number of other areas of the school. The Youth workers are often around during break times, which is a great opportunity to connect with all of the young people in the school on a more informal basis, as well as helping out the duty teacher and running the odd game. We are always keen to be involved in the extras of school life like camps, trips and events!



**Youth Alive** trust  
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Grace Vineyard Beach Campus,  
111 Seaview Road,  
New Brighton, Christchurch

☎ 03 3881001

✉ office@yat.org.nz

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## BOYS GROUPS

Throughout the year Jayden has been running two boys groups. One in Ata Hapara as well as one in Tāwhirimātea. Both of the groups had a main focus on building social skills. They cover the basics of communication, both talking and listening, winning & losing, good decisions vs bad decisions, being a good friend, bullying and saying sorry. From the feedback the boys said they are better at recognizing good choices and how their bad choices could effect them, not just in the moment but in the future as well. Other comments included; "That we can use actions to communicate", "thinking about emotions and how to manage them" and "its fun".



At the end of each session Jayden asked one of the boys in the group to stay back and have a brief chat about anything they weren't confident enough to bring up in the group. Through this Jayden got to understand the context of their individual lives as well as create a space for them to feel welcomed enough to bring up any difficult situations. Initially this program was only meant to run for 8 weeks however, the lockdown disrupted learning across the board and we decided to restart the program once the boys had settled back into school.

For the duration of term 4, Jayden is running a new program with the boys that encourages them to explore their personal history, feelings, strengths and weaknesses to help them develop into respected young men.

## MENTORING

Jayden & Melissa catch up 1-on-1 with individual students during the week that are referred by teachers. These can be informal one offs or a more formalised weekly catch up time. If you do have a young person that doesn't quite need Sandy or Mana Ake but could do with a 1-on-1 chat, do contact us or Paul, who signs off on our timetable.



## COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

We see many Rawhiti students at our other community activities, particularly our weekly clubs such as Rock Solid, Boys & Girls Clubs, holiday programmes and the many students learning instruments with our Amplify School of Music. It's great to see a number of them becoming volunteers and even one joined our staff recently!

