



Camp, Surfing, American football, 1 on 1 Mentoring, Sailing, Camp, Year 8 Leavers Dinner, Building a skate ramp, Finishing the Goal posts, Year 8 Formal, Leadership Group, Athletics Days, Family Fun Day, Morning Teas, Paper Dart Competition, Presentation to the Community, Guys Day Out, Making a Trebuchet; that's all just part of what I did in the final term of 2012!

### NORTH NEW BRIGHTON SCHOOL

Another top term at a top school.

This term may have been short however we still packed plenty into it.

Highlights of the term included Athletics, Finally putting in the goal posts we had been working on, a morning tea put on by YAT and created with help from young people and the year 8 leavers dinner.

Often it can be difficult to tell how effective you are as a youth worker and if what you are doing is actually making much of a difference, one of the young people confirmed for me that youth workers are really key in schools. This guy has had a disgusting upbringing, the amount of stuff that has happened to him is more horrible things than some people will have in a life time things for him at home have improved however are still not flash. During one of the times I met up with him he told me that "I really don't have anyone at home and everything there is still crap, I really don't like much at the moment... but I like Wednesdays because I get to spend time with you." It didn't take much other than going for a walk, listening and being consistent to make a world of difference for him.





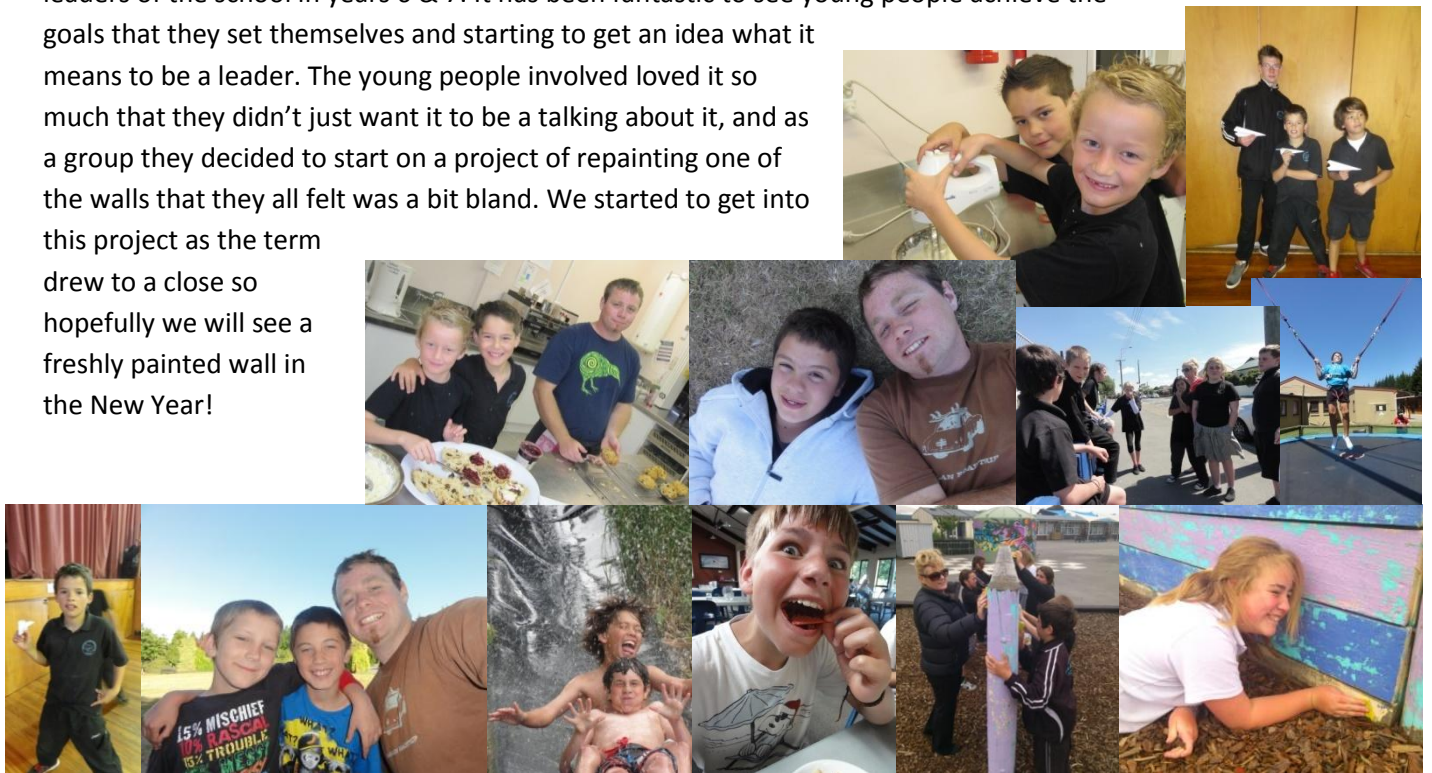
## CENTRAL NEW BRIGHTON SCHOOL

Term four at central has been a busy one, it feels like we crammed more than 12 weeks into only 9!

Highlights from this term at Central included making Morning tea for the staff with two year 3's that I have been working with all year, going on camp with the year 6's and 7's, being involved with the leadership group and running various lunch time activities on Tuesday lunches!

This terms lunch time activities included Ultimate Frisbee, a Paper Dart Competition, American football and Giant Pictionary!

One of the things that I have enjoyed at Central this term has been working with some of the up and coming leaders of the school in years 6 & 7. It has been fantastic to see young people achieve the goals that they set themselves and starting to get an idea what it means to be a leader. The young people involved loved it so much that they didn't just want it to be a talking about it, and as a group they decided to start on a project of repainting one of the walls that they all felt was a bit bland. We started to get into this project as the term drew to a close so hopefully we will see a freshly painted wall in the New Year!



## SOUTH NEW BRIGHTON SCHOOL

The amount that I got up to at South this term feels like it would be plenty enough to fill two terms to the brim.

Some of the highlights from South were the Legends camp (Y 5/6), building a trebuchet (that works), Athletics day, Sailing, putting together morning tea with two Y8's, Top Team, Boys Club and the Year 8's Formal.

This term at south felt as though I expanded relationships to more students as well as parents and staff. One reason for that is being involved in so many





of South's trips and events, these provide great opportunity to spend time with people outside of the norm, a great place for building on what is already in place!

It was great to be able to see real change in some of the young people that I have been involved with at South. One of the younger guys I work with started the year off with a few behavioural concerns, enough so that I was asked to come in alongside him. By the time that we got to this term you could hardly imagine him being any trouble at all. He would always look forward to seeing me every Friday morning, while we wouldn't do anything terribly structured the extra support around him was enough to help provoke change! Another of the younger boys I worked with was leaving to Australia at the end of the week, on the last morning before he finished at south he made it quite clear to me that he really valued the time that he had with me in the library on Friday mornings. "Matt, I've really enjoyed spending time with you every Friday in the library and looking at books of scary animals with you", again it shows me that it doesn't necessarily take a lot to make a big difference in the life of a young person.





## GUYS DAY OUT

Another top Guys Day Out was run this term with 14 year 7 & 8 Guys from the three schools



attending. We also had 5 top leaders, all great male role models from different walks of life. The day included Surfing, American Football, Archery, a manly BBQ, a life talk and a bit more American Football! The most popular being the Surfing. Overall the young people rated the day a 9.2/10.

It was amazing to see how naturally surfing came to so many of them, only about 2 had surfed before and by the end of our surf session all but about 2 had managed to stand up on their boards. A huge part of that was thanks to the amazing surf coaches at Professional Surf Coaching /0800 80 Surf at Sumner.

The other top part of the day was finding out on the feedback forms that nearly 75% of the young people tried something new that day!



## OTHER INVOLVEMENTS



To fill in a bit more of my time I have also been busy doing youth work down at the library. One great story from there was one afternoon there wasn't a lot happening when one young person that I hadn't seen for a few months came in and started chatting with me



about all sorts of stuff, eventually he got onto how tough things were for him at the moment and how he was struggling to deal with it all. Eventually he finished up and got going, however you could tell from the way he finished it up and headed out that he was super glad that there was a youth worker there that he could open up to about life.

Also I have kept up mentoring one guy through Big Brothers Big Sisters, it was reported back to me as things were finishing up for the year that his parents had really noticed a difference in him around home and in his behaviour especially when it came to making good decisions.

And then on top of all of that I have managed to squeeze in being involved with Rock Solid (YAT's Year 7 & 8 youth group).



## LOOKING FORWARD

This term has sadly seen the finishing up and moving on of many of the year 6's & 8's that I have met over this year, it feels like the time I have had to work with them has been cut short and they will be greatly missed.

As I look forward to what 2013 brings, I feel that it is going to be another full year ahead. Some of the new ventures to look forward to are a new Man Skills program for year 7 & 8 Guys which will aim to equip those who participate with some of the basic skills that every guy should know. Another that I am looking forward to is the probable restarting of a basketball team at South New Brighton School! I also intend to make space in my role to allow for support of young people that I have been working with as they move into new schools. There are also already many camps booked into my calendar which are always a highlight for me!

I look forward to another great year of building on and improving what is already in place.  
Thanks again to everyone that has been involved with making this year so successfully.

*Matt Barnes*



## AN EXTRA SPECIAL THANKS TO:

- The Todd Foundation
- Mite 10 Mega Ferrymead
- Professional Surf Coaching/ 0800 80 Surf

