

2012

# Staff

# Newsletter

YouthAlive TRUST

Serving young people in New Brighton since 1989



**JAMES RIDPATH**  
Age: 33  
Trust Manager

I started doing **youthwork** as a junior leader aged 12 in my home town of Withernsea, in **Yorkshire** (England). I always wanted to make the world a better place, and providing a safe & fun environment for children & young people, that challenged them in their **self worth, ethics** and **faith** was doing that. We don't know the long term effects of speaking positively into the life of young people - but we know it does more good than TV & PS3's! I've been with YAT for **8 years** and my job involves **managing** staff, networking, marketing, **fundraising** and doing the practical youthwork in school and on our programmes. Outside of work, I play **football**, think about work, and spend time with my beautiful wife of 6 years **Amy**.

**NAME: STEPHEN DODGE**  
Age: 46  
Programmes Manager



In May I took up the newly created role of Programmes Manager, for me this is more than just a job – this is a opportunity to **serve** God and people, which has always been a passion of mine. My role is **supporting & enabling** the staff and the many volunteers in the running of the programmes. I am **mentoring** a young boy at Central New Brighton School and also organise the **training & support** of our volunteers. I have been married to **Sue** for 23 years we have 3 daughters and 1 son and also a 1 year old granddaughter. We've been serving voluntarily at **Grace Vineyard** for the past 5 years. Over the years we have been involved in various aspects of church life. I enjoy **gardening** and spending time with the **family**.



**TEISHA NICHOLSON**  
Age: 41  
Administrator

I was employed in Jan 2011 as **Administrator** and Holiday Programme Coordinator. My role involves planning, running and administrating our **Holiday Programmes**, & other administrative tasks around the office. I mentor a young girl at Central New Brighton School and also **mentor** other 'up and coming' youth leaders. It excites me to see so many of the children that used to attend our clubs and programmes, become **junior leaders** and give back to the community that gave to them. I really believe in what is being done here at the Trust, as we **journey** with the young people and work alongside the church and other organisations to make our community a better place. Originally I come from **Southland**, but have lived in Christchurch for the last 16 years. I have been married for 8 years to **Fil** & we have 2 boys, Noah & Joshy

**NAME: MATT BARNES**  
Age: 20  
Primary Schools Male Mentor



I'm employed in a new role as **Male Mentor** with Youth Alive Trust with funds donated post EQ. I work in **Central, South** and **North** New Brighton **Primary Schools** working specifically with the boys. This role involves doing heaps of **activities** with the guys that keep them engaged and allow for a safe place for them to **open up** and give new things a go. This is done 1-on-1, in small groups and in class. Highlights so far have been teaching some boys how to **weld** (we're making the school some soccer posts), activity based learning sessions and **Boys Club!** (first rule of Boys Club - don't talk about Boys Club). In my time outside of work I'm a real **outdoors man**, I love rock climbing, fishing, surfing, snowboarding and just getting out into the **wild** and **exploring**. I'm also right into cooking and a great coffee.



We're on the web!

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**YouthAlive** TRUST

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## GEMMA CREEK

Age: 24

HIGH SCHOOLS YOUTHWORKER

Kia Ora. I'm employed to work with community teenagers - particularly the girls. I work in **Aranui High** as a Youth Worker under the **24-7** framework, the **New Brighton Library** and lead **Sodium** our High School aged club on a Monday night. I also **mentor** a few girls and help out with Unity East & the **Breakaway Holiday Programmes**. Before I started working at YAT I worked for another youth organisation in Aranui, and really fell in love with the community. I'm really glad that I still work in that community and with some of the same young people & families I used to work with. I'm a **Brighton Girl** born and raised so love being able to work in the community I used to cause mischief in myself. I love being a youth worker and being able to support young people in some of the **tough** things they go through and help them to discover the potential they do have.

## MATTY TAIT

Age: 25

HIGH SCHOOLS YOUTHWORKER



I've been working at Youth Alive Trust since September 2010 with our community teenagers. I started a year after finishing a Bachelor of Ministries at **Laidlaw College**. I work in a few different areas; in Aranui High under the **24-7** framework, **mentoring** students, helping Breakfast Club, a **Drop In** Centre, events and I lead a weekly **Running Club** for teens. I work at Beach Campus as a leader for **Sodium** on Monday nights, a leader at **Unity East** on a Wednesday nights and coordinating **holiday programmes** for teenagers. I work in the community, mentoring teenagers, helping at **big events** and weekly shifts at the **New Brighton Library**, which is awesome for meeting a large range of young people. Outside of work I'm a passionate runner, an enthusiastic gamer & enjoy all things Star Wars. I love my job, and just in case you're wondering, "**I'm loving life!**"



## AMBER HENDERSON

Age: 21

Year 2 Trainee YOUTHWORKER

I'm a 2<sup>nd</sup> year **intern** @ Youth Alive Trust doing a **diploma** in youth work & community studies with **Praxis**. I predominantly work with our local **Year 7 - 8's**. However I do help out with both our **Holiday Programmes** and at the local **Library** twice a week. I work in 2 of the local full primary schools; Central & North New Brighton. My roles include mentoring, lunch time support, running a Year 8 **Girls Group** aimed at getting the girls ready for high school and building their self confidence and self worth. I coordinate an after school club called **Rock Solid** which is for Year 7 & 8's young people every Friday night - probably the coolest club in town! Outside of work I enjoy **a good coffee**, good friends and a good movie.

## KIRSTEN CLEMENT

Age: 19

Year 1 Trainee YOUTHWORKER



I'm a first year **intern** for Youth Alive Trust doing a **youthwork certificate** with **Praxis** and my practical ours with YAT. I came in touch with YAT as a young person, then a junior leader and I decided to give a year of my life to **servng** God & my community. My main roles are **school** support at Central New Brighton, including **BBBS** mentoring. I'm a key leader with **Rock Solid** on Friday nights and **Unity East** on Wednesday nights. I also coordinate the Holiday Activities in New Brighton **Library**, which is both stretching and rewarding to see so many smiles on so many faces. In my freetime I enjoy being **creative**, experimenting with art and listening to good music.

Youth Alive Trust was established in **1989** to meet the needs of children and young people in New Brighton and surrounding suburbs by the **local church**. We aim to support young people holistically; **socially, emotionally, mentally** and **spiritually** through our programmes and our dedicated **staff** and **volunteers**. We do this through 7 different ways;

- 1) Safer Streets Programmes** Our after school & evening programmes including; Cheeky Little Monkeys (Years 1 - 2), Connect (Years 3-4), WAVE (Years 5 - 6), Rock Solid (Years 7 - 8), and Sodium (Years 9 - 13).
- 2) In-School Programmes** Supporting the students in class, on lunchtimes, and through extra curricula activities in Central, North & South New Brighton Schools and Aranui High School (24-7).
- 3) Holiday Programmes** The programmes run 4 times a year for three different school year categories, 1 - 4's, 5 - 9's, 9-13's every school holidays, catering for 100 young people every holidays.
- 4) Camps** We take youths on trips, camps and weekends away throughout the year, such as Base Camp, Bootcamp, Eastercamp, 40 Hour Famine Sleepover, and AMPED Camp.
- 5) Library Support** Our Youth Workers are employed in New Brighton Library everyday outside of school time, plus weekends offering support to young people. In the school holidays we run free activities for community youth.
- 6) Community Events** Large community events eg: Skate Jam, I Heart New Brighton, Beach Blasts, Family Fun Night.
- 7) Youth Leader Training and Support** Attracting, supporting and training 50 weekly volunteers to work in their community on our programmes and events. We also provide internships through Praxis.