

# Youthworkers in Rawhiti School

## Mid Year Report 2015



### Matt Barnes

6th year in  
Youthwork

*Loves:* Fishing,  
Basketball, Food  
and the Outdoors

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### Amber Paterson

5th year in  
Youthwork

*Loves:* Baking, the  
Outdoors and going  
to markets

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### James Ridpath

Trust Manager

*Loves:* Football,  
Movies and his  
baby Henry

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### Esther Mitchell

Youthwork Intern

*Loves:* Books, Video  
Games and tramping  
with friends

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## PURPOSE & HISTORY

Youthwork 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 Youthworkers have supported the communities of Central, North and Freeville Primary schools in various ways for many years. They have led a variety of programmes including boys clubs, girls groups, sports coaching, leadership programmes, mentoring, lunchtime support, helping with trips, camps and a general part of school life. We have continued this support in the merged Rawhiti Primary school, and have enjoyed settling into the new school, building relationships, and offering specialist support.



*"The YAT workers are fabulous, they give our students massive support and have a hugely positive effect on our community" Andrew Redmond (Senior Teacher)*

## Programmes and Support

- Mentoring
- Girls Groups
- Boys Groups
- Classroom Support
- Break Time Support
- Sports Coaching
- Trips
- Fundraising Support
- Community Programmes

## MENTORING

Amber, Matt and Esther all spend time doing one-on-one mentoring sessions with Year 7 & 8 pupils in school, that the senior teachers have referred for special attention.

Amber is formally mentoring four girls in school, who are going through a variety of issues. Matt mentors two of the more 'challenging' boys and Esther is mentoring two of the quieter girls to help raise confidence and self-esteem.



Sometimes the mentoring is based around an activity such as baking, craft or sport, but the main work is done in the talking and listening. They provide a 'cool' young adult supporter who they know has their back, but can also make referrals in more serious matters.



## GIRLS GROUP

Resolution Girls Group runs on Wednesday mornings for eight of the Senior Girls to help inform and equip them in the discovery of who they are and help prepare them mentally for the next step in life - high school. It focuses on truths they struggle to believe about themselves, including their uniqueness, their beauty and addressing the lies of the media and the fashion world. The mixture of activities and discussions are about changing negative patterns in order to develop resilience for the hard times, self confidence, team work and healthy relationships. The Rawhiti girls are responding well to the group, and it's raising some great discussions!



## BOYS GROUPS



Matt runs two separate groups for the Seniors. The Man Skills programme runs with 5 Senior Boys and is largely practical based - which is a proven way to get quality youth work done with boys. Sessions include Problem Solving/Teamwork, Knot Tying, Bike Maintenance, How to use basic tools, Setting up a tent and Relationships. It's through such practical interactions that we've had some great discussions and life lessons are

taught. He is also running an Outdoor Skills/Survival Group for 6 - 7 seniors which covers topics such as how to set up a fire, using a map and compass and how to set small rodent traps. The relationship and trust he is able to build during this time, allows him to speak truth into the boys lives and be that role model that many of them need.

*"The YAT Youthworkers provide our children with fun,, meaningful activities, invaluable mentoring and teaching of essential skills for adolescence" Jenny Whiteford (Senior Teacher)*

## CLASSROOM SUPPORT

The youthworkers have spent time in class, supporting individuals on a variety of tasks. This includes anything from reading with a young person, helping them with their Maths, running a PE activity or an taking a small group for a ABL (Activity Based Learning) activity.

## OTHER

We help in a number of other areas of the school. The Youthworkers are often around during lunchtime and other breaks, 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 have helped on recent class outings including the Friday afternoon incentives, the Ski Trip and the Cross Country.





## SPORT

Sport is a great way of interacting with young people in a fun way! James lead the Senior Football Team, including weekly coaching sessions and Friday afternoon games. With only 2 regular club players, the team fought hard against much more experienced teams. Matt also helped wherever he was sent, which sometimes meant rugby, and other times netball!!! Since winter sport has finished, Matt has been helping with some Basketball coaching and James has been helping with the Table Tennis team.



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## YOUTHWORKERS REGULAR TIMES IN SCHOOL

### Matt

**QE2 Base:** Wednesdays 9am - 3pm  
Fridays 1:30 - 3pm

### Amber

**QE2 Base:** Wednesday: 9am-12:30pm  
Thursday: 1pm-3pm

### James

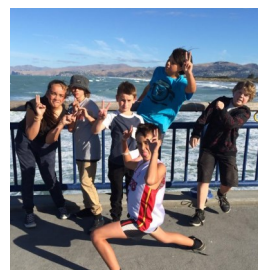
**QE2 Base:** Thursdays 2pm - 3pm  
Fridays 1:00pm - 3pm

### Esther

**QE2 Base:** Thursdays 10am - 3pm

These are our regular times, we may stop in during other breaks when able.  
We are also potentially available to help out with extras like camps, trips and events just touch base with us to see if we are free to help.

## COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES



We see Rawhiti pupils in many of our community programmes, outside of school. Rock Solid attracts 50-60 intermediates most weeks from all local schools, including many from the Learning Centre. Our Boys Clubs and Girls Clubs hosts the smaller children and our holiday programmes cater for all ages from 5 - 17 year olds. Our youthworkers are in New Brighton Library everyday after school and on weekends interacting with many Rawhiti students, we do Music Lessons for local young people and also organise big events popular with all schools such as the recent Epic Dance Party & Sk8 Disco! Here's another recent highlight involving Rawhiti Students and families...

### MOTHER DAUGHTER CAMP

The very first Mother Daughter Camp was fantastic. We took away mothers and daughters away to Hanmer for the weekend., including girls from Rawhiti and other local schools. It was a chance to spend quality time with their daughters who are soon be going to high school and build on their relationship. Camp included a treasure hunt around Hanmer, workshop sessions around communication, the hot pools, exceptional food and most importantly memory making!

