

# Youthworkers in Rawhiti School

## Term 4 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

Oscar Co-ordinator and SNBS Youthworker

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

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## PURPOSE & HISTORY

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 workers 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. We were able to go rock climbing at the ROXX center for our final session.

It was a great chance for the girls to set goals and once at the goal (point on the wall) push themselves even further. But more than that, saw how important it is to have active support and the change it can help bring.



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

## CLASSROOM SUPPORT

The youth workers 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.

## EVENTS AND EXTRAS

We help in a number of other areas of the school. The Youth workers 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.



## CAMP

James, Matt, Esther and Amber all came out to camp at different stages during the end of year camp.

James helped taking fishing groups, Matt and Esther both helped out with the archery and walks, and Amber stayed at the camp home base floating helping out with the young people who were either injured or not participating in activities.

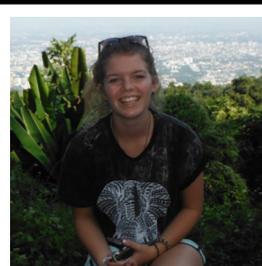
All staff loved being involved and have said that the camp reflected the level of trust the school had been giving to the students throughout the year.



## CHANGES FOR 2016

Youth Alive Trust youthworkers will continue to support Rawhiti Primary in 2016 - however there is going to be a 'little' change with the exciting news of our long serving youth worker Amber Paterson taking leave to have her first child. Amber will be missed however we are not leaving Rawhiti short of a female youth worker, we will have the amazing Kelsi Henderson standing in for Amber to continue the quality programs that Amber has started as well as supporting the school in other similar aspects to Amber. Esther will no longer be at Rawhiti, as she takes up Amber's role at SNBS but Matt and James will continue their roles with similar hours to 2015.

If you have anything that you would like us to assist you in events, working with young people, mentoring or supporting particular students in 2016 please contact us so we can see what we can do to help!



**Kelsi Henderson**

Rawhiti Youth Worker

Loves: games, overseas adventures, and a quiet read.

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## 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!

## ENGAGE COMMUNITY PROGRAMME

Engage is a personal development programme for Years 7 & 8, that helps them to engage the body, mind and community spirit. It is ran over 4 consecutive Saturdays, by local youth workers who engage the young people through physical activities, personal development and community engagement.

This had 30 young people enrolled / referred for the four weeks. 13 of those young people were from Rawhiti School.

A highlight from the leaders was seeing the young people learn about their own personal strengths and really take ownership over them and a sense of pride in themselves.



*"I love Youth Alive. I want to work here when I grow up."*



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