

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS: 2006-2026



CONTENTS

- 1 AGM Agenda
- 2 Minutes of 2025 AGM
- 3 Mission Statement
- 4 Guiding Principles
- 5 Chair's Report
- 6 Rise Up Trust 20-year Timeline
- 7 CEO Report
- 8 Double Honour Page - Catherine Duncan
- 9 Treasurer's Report
 - *Statement of Financial Position
 - *Statement of Financial Performance
- 10 Hearts and Minds
- 11 Synergy
- 12 Path Plans
- 13 Rise Up Academy - Alternative Constitution
- 14 Te Awhi Whanau
- 15 After School Programme - SUPA/Beats
- 16 Good to Go Volunteers/Whanau Fono
- 17 Project Wy
- 18 Building Learning Communities Team
- 19 Tatou Collective Whanau Ora
- 20 Funders and Partners Acknowledgement

OUR BOARD



Maggie Winterstein - Madam Chair

Ms Winterstein has over 25 years practice as a lawyer, currently specialising in Youth Advocacy. She has governance experience as a board member of Youthline, the Rise UP Trust, Rise Up Academy and Rangitoto College. She believes in the transformative power of education and is actively involved with a wide variety of children-centred organisations. She has also served as a committee member of various organisations including the Pacific Lawyers Association, the South Auckland Bar and the New Zealand Bar Association.



Taulutoa Schuster - Trustee
MA, B.Ed, Dip Tchg, Senior Pastor

Taulu (New Zealand-born Samoan/Niuean) has consistently advocated for the next generation of youth and tertiary leaders in Aotearoa across academia, the arts, and sports. For many years, Taulu has been a supporter of Rise Up, believing in the methods and learning styles it offers to both parents and children within the context of learning through a Pasifika lens. Currently, Taulu remains engaged in education and the creative arts within the church, community, and secular realms.



Pulotu Bruce Levi - Trustee

Pulotu Bruce Levi is a dedicated leader in Pacific health, currently serving as Clinical Service Director Pacific Health Te Manawa Taki (Midlands) based in Waikato Hospital. With 28 years of experience in mental health/addictions and Pacific health, Bruce has held various senior roles in the Northern Region, including Service Manager for Counties and Waitemata Mental Health, and General Manager for Pacific Health at Waitemata and Auckland DHBs and Team Lead at The Cause Collective. His qualifications include a Bachelor of Science in Psychology, Post Graduate Diplomas in Health Science and Business, and a Master's in Health Management.

2026 AGM AGENDA

Reviewing the Year Ended 31 December 2025

	AGENDA ITEM	OWNER	OBJECTIVE
1	Karakia & Welcome	Albert	Welcome and bless the meeting.
2	Apologies	Albert	Present: Apologies:
3	Performance: Rise UP Academy Choir	Grace/Nainz	
4	The Governance Team: Introductions	Chair (Maggie)	Maggie Winterstein, Taulu Schuster, Bruce Levi
5	Declarations of Interest	Maggie	Declare any conflicts of interest
6	AGM Business	Chair/CEO	
7	Special Feature: 20-Year Impact Story	Grace/Celia	Powerpoint Presentation
8	Minutes of the 2025 AGM	Chair	Approve minutes and check any matters arising.
9	CEO's Vision & 2025 Report	CEO	Read and accept the CEO report. Moment of Silence for Catherine Duncan.
10	2025 Highlights: Video Presentation	Celia/Christine	Powerpoint Presentation
11	2025 Treasurers Report	Treasurer	Annual audited accounts read and accepted.
13	Community Thanks Honour Volunteers & 100% Attendance	Grace/Mark	Fuel Vouchers for all RUA whanau in attendance. Honour Top 4 Whanau Volunteers & 100% Attendance (Students)
14	Closing Song: Goodness of God	All	
15	Closing Karakia	Albert	

2025 AGM MINUTES

Reviewing the Year Ended 31 December 2024

	AGENDA ITEM	OWNER	OBJECTIVE
1	Welcome Opening Prayer Minute Silence	Bruce	Welcome and Bless the meeting.
2	Apologies	Bruce	Present 5pm meeting BOT only: Dr Ulumatootua Aiono, Cecily Taufelila, Sita Selupe, Bruce Levi, Kevin Pasene, Mike Fe'ao. Taulu Schuster (On phone). Apologies: Maggie Winterstein
3	Rise UP Academy Choir	Grace/Nainz	
4	Trustees Introduction	Chair	Maggie Winterstein, Ulumatootua Aiono - ONZM, Sita Selupe MNZM, Taulu Schuster, Bruce Levi, Mike Fe'ao, Cecily Taufelila, Kevin Pasene
5	Conflicts of Interest	Bruce	No conflicts of interest to declare.
6	2024 Video Presentation	Celia	Powerpoint Presentation
7	AGM Business	Chair/CEO	
8	Minutes of 2023 AGM	Chair	Approve minutes and check any matters arising. MOTION: To accept the 2023 AGM Minutes Phil McGregor/Rona Faga Unanimous
9	CEO 2024 Report	CEO	Read and accept the CEO Report.
10	2024 Treasurer's Report	Treasurer	Annual audited accounts read and accepted. MOTION: To accept the Treasurer's Report 2024 Bruce/Lemauga Unanimous

2025 AGM MINUTES

Reviewing the Year Ended 31 December 2024

	AGENDA ITEM	OWNER	OBJECTIVE
11	Acknowledgements Tributes Milestones	Chair	Graduates 2025 Avinesh Narayan - B Ed Rhonadean Godinet - Level 2 Te Reo Maori Dr. Ulu Aiono - Honorary Doctorate of Commerce 10 years Service: • Desagie Govender • Grace Leuluai • Mary-Ellen Peauafi • Cecily Taufelila • Andrew Letiu
12	Gift Card Draw	Bruce	Winners \$50 voucher - Kui Sifaheone \$50 voucher - Santos Family \$100 voucher - Lilo Akatea Family
13	Rise Up Academy Choir	Grace/Nainz	
14	Closing Prayer	Kevin	7.26pm

MISSION STATEMENT



VISION

OUR BEST GENERATION YET! HEALTHY, WEALTHY AND WISE

MISSION STATEMENT

- BUILDING LEARNING COMMUNITIES
- CONNECTING HEARTS AND MINDS THROUGH WHANAU AND COMMUNITY LEARNING TOGETHER.

ENVIRONMENT

Our authentic collaborative model means parents as well as students are learners. We provide a Pasifika Inquiry based model using authentic contexts for learning experiences.

Rise UP emphasises:

- High academic expectations
- Holistic student and whanau wellbeing through whanau support programmes
- Developing learning focussed relationships that produce lifelong learners
- Culturally responsive teaching and learning environment for students and parents
- Achievement of personal goals and aspirations through whanau mentoring.

STRATEGY

The Rise UP strategy is founded on a culturally responsive, intergenerational learning environment in Mangere. It is founded on Pasifika values.

The Rise UP Trust target population is primarily Pasifika, always acknowledging the mana whenua. Currently 80% of our whanau identify as Pasifika and 20% as Maori. We are open to all ethnicities.

PURPOSE

Our purpose is to improve educational and wellbeing outcomes for Pasifika communities in Aotearoa. For twenty years, the Trust (together with the Rise UP Academy) have partnered with our community to celebrate our Pasifika uniqueness and draw from our collective strength to challenge and change the 'long brown tail of educational underachievement'.

The shared vision for Rise UP Trust includes our Vision, Mission and Theory of Change. These elements reflect what we as a community aim to achieve with our people.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Through research, Rise UP Trust has developed core elements that will support Pasifika educational outcomes. This includes effective and adaptive teaching (**Lalanga**), whanau and community engagement (**Malaga**) and quality leadership (**Maaga**).

This also forms our **Theory of Change** which disrupts intergenerational disadvantage and creates positive outcomes for children and their whanau.



LALANGA TO WEAVE	MALAGA JOURNEY	MAAGA VILLAGE
Weaving our unique Pasifika approach to authentic context inquiry learning	Whanau participate in programmes and are empowered to drive and sustain positive changes in their whanau	Community leadership connectedness and empowerment
THE APPROACH	WHAT RISE UP PROVIDES	THE OUTCOME
Rise Up's 10 Principles of Practice	Path Plan Hearts and Minds Synergy Komiti Tupu Mai Free After School Programme Whanau Ora	• Excellent teaching and learning. • Fully engaged whanau. • Effective governance and leadership.

CHAIR'S REPORT



Celebrating 20 Years of the Rise UP Trust A Journey of Faith, Whānau, and Transformation

What an incredible milestone to reach! As we reflect on 20 years of the Rise UP Trust, we look back with immense gratitude for how a small seed planted in a garage has flourished into a massive beacon of hope for South Auckland. This journey is a true testament to building learning communities grounded in faith, and we certainly celebrate this 20-year milestone with the **Joy of the Lord** as our strength!

Here is a summary of the incredible journey, including the key milestones and challenges the Trust has beautifully overcome:

The Vision & Key Milestones

The Seed in the Garage (2006): The journey began in February 2006 as "Aunty Sita's Home-school," operating on Saturday mornings out of Sita's garage. It focused on an Inquiry Learning model, connecting real-world problems directly to the lives of local children and parents. By late 2006, the core Parents Programmes officially launched after a mother asked to learn Sita's garage teaching methods so she could help her own kids.

A Name of Purpose (November 2006): The initiative was renamed Rise UP Trust in memory of Sita's young cousin, Riki Harry Mafi, tragically lost in Otara. The name was chosen to bestow his passing with a deep sense of meaning and to foster hope for the youth of South Auckland.

Formal Establishment & Scaling (2007–2013): The Trust was formally incorporated as a charitable trust in March 2007. Major structural breakthroughs followed, notably securing a five-year ASB Community Trust (now Foundation North) MPEI grant of nearly \$1.5 million in 2009. This enabled the establishment of powerful community initiatives like Synergy, Hearts and Minds, and Kidz Club, successfully delivering targeted programmes to hundreds of South Auckland parents and children.

CHAIR'S REPORT

The Rise UP Academy Era (2014–2018): In 2014, the Ministry of Education contracted Rise UP Trust to open The Rise UP Academy (Te RUA) in Māngere East as New Zealand's first Pacific Primary Partnership School. Embracing the holistic curriculum of "Sharp Minds, Strong Bodies, Good Hearts," the Academy excelled academically, tracking 20 percentage points above the regional averages in reading, writing, and math.

The Modern Era (2020–2026): Today, in our 20th anniversary year, the Rise UP Trust operates a fully realized wrap-around educational model. It beautifully maintains a dual focus: providing high-quality inquiry-based schooling through the Academy alongside extensive, whānau-centered community and pastoral care support.

Challenges Overcome

Navigating Political and Sector Shifts (2018–2019): One of the greatest structural challenges came when nationwide policy changes called for the dissolution of the charter school model. Demonstrating incredible resilience and leadership, the Trust successfully navigated a complex transition to bring the Academy into the New Zealand state-integrated school sector. This required a massive administrative and governance overhaul to separate the school from the Trust's community pastoral care services, ensuring neither mission was compromised.

Breaking Societal Stigmas: In the early days of establishing the Academy, the team constantly had to push past negative stigmas and misinformation surrounding partnership schools. The Rise UP family stood strong, trusting in their unique culture, Pacific flavor, and the belief that "failure is not an option."

Structural & Operational Growth: Moving from a grassroots garage operation to managing multimillion-dollar budgets and highly regulated educational environments required exceptional governance, capacity building, and financial discipline. The Trust met this challenge head-on, earning pristine unqualified auditor reports and building long-lasting stakeholder trust.

"When we enrol a child, we enrol their whānau."

For 20 years, Rise UP Trust has proven that it takes a village to raise a child. Through every policy shift, financial hurdle, and societal obstacle, the Trust has stood firm on its faith-based and cultural values. We praise God for the past 20 years of transformation, and we look forward to empowering "Our Best Generation Yet!" in the decades to come.

RISE UP TRUST

20-YEAR TIMELINE



CEO REPORT



Kia ora koutou,

In 2006 we set out with a bold mission: to slay the brown tail of educational underachievement in Aotearoa. Fast forward 20 years- have we taken a big bite of that challenge! Two decades in, my heart remains fiercely committed to leading, disrupting and transforming education in the gateway of Aotearoa: South Auckland, one whanau at a time.

This past year has been a remarkable journey of growth, resilience, and collective achievement, and I am incredibly proud to celebrate the milestones we have reached together. Yes, we have made great gains and yes, we have navigated some significant losses- but through it all our vision remains strong: to nurture Sharp minds, strong bodies and good hearts so that our next generation will stand as healthy, wealthy and wise leaders within our community.

Old is Gold: Timeless pillars

Hearts & Minds

Our original Hearts & Minds programme continues to shine as our gold seal, soft entry point for whanau. We are witnessing extraordinary fruit when the connection between parents , whanau educators, our beautiful children and our dedicated teachers is completely locked in. Our whanau educators make light work of what is for some schools seen as a 'Goliath' beast of a job - they step in to build powerhouse, strength-based relationships with the utmost humility.

Synergy

The Synergy programme is still a crowd-favourite for so many of us. The pure gold we witness when our children step into their 'night school' classrooms hand-in-hand with their parents and guardians, is ten times better than anything you'll find on Netflix. I am reminded of the classic 1980's primary school reader 'Stars in the Sky' every time we celebrate the 'I know who I am' presentations.

PATH

The PATH programme lifted to a whole new level. We now have so many of our whanau taking the driver's seat and developing their PATH plans completely independently. It's the ultimate proof of our favorite equation: 'Information + Application = Transformation'

CEO REPORT

What's fresh and new?

The educational landscape is shifting and Rise UP is riding the crest of the wave. The Ministry of Education introduced changes based on *The Science of Learning* (underpinning the New Zealand Curriculum Refresh) and we have woven this directly into our teaching to supercharge and accelerate learning outcomes for our tamariki. The launch of our new HERO portal means parents can now celebrate their child's learning and track attendance at the click of a button.

Our attendance and student achievement outcomes continue to grow and improve from strength to strength. We have upgraded our management and administration systems and spaces to carry the growth of our new services. But the fact of the matter is- we need a bigger Rise UP house.

The launch of our Whānau Ora Navigator service in 2025 marks an exciting new chapter in our journey. Commissioned by the Tātou Collective, this service wraps around our whānau like a korowai, providing holistic support when and as needed. When the storms of life cloud the horizon, our Navigators serve as a steady anchor—guiding families forward and unlocking doors of endless opportunity.

Prayer remains the foundation of The Rise UP Trust. Last year, our staff attended Elijah House Prayer Ministry schools, strengthening our capability and trauma-informed care. This served as a vivid reminder of the generational blessings we have access to.

20 years-vision casting

I am looking forward to:

- The maximum roll increase to 300 students at Rise UP Academy.
- Our purpose built, state-of-the-art school building, which will include our brand new Middle School and Early childhood centre.
- More Navigators to fiercely armor-bear our precious whanau.
- Priming and unleashing a new generation of leaders for increase and stewardship to be faithful with the little.

Thanksgiving and Appreciation

Malo aupito, to our exemplary board of trustees, for fiercely guarding the vision, and digging of the trenches through the trials. Your leadership has forged and chartered new waters for the next generation of Rise Up whanau.

Faafetai lava, to our exceptional staff, thank you for your unwavering diligence, passion, and hard work. Your commitment to excellence and servant leadership is a force to be reckoned with.

Vinaka vaka levu, to our faithful stakeholders, we extend our deepest gratitude for your continued support, and belief in our vision. You are vital partners in everything we accomplish.

Meitaki maata, to all our whānau for your enduring partnership. Your trust and collaboration enrich our Rise UP community and keep us grounded in what truly matters.

Fakaaue lahi kia mutolu oti, it has been my absolute privilege to serve for the past 20 years in the undeniable favour of the Lord. I never cease to be amazed by just how much a little trust and a small school can do. If a vision is truly worthwhile, then nothing can stop us. If God is for us, who shall be against us.

**God's richest blessings,
Sita Selupe MNZM, B.Ed
Chief Executive Officer
Rise UP Trust**

Tribute to CATHERINE DUNCAN September 1971 - May 2025



We pay a heartfelt tribute to the late Catherine Duncan, a cherished soul who served as the structural and administrative heartbeat of our engine room for a decade.

From 2010 to 2020, Catherine served as the absolute pillar of our administration systems, seamlessly managing the vital foundations that allowed both the Trust and the Rise UP Academy to flourish. With meticulous care, and a deep love for our whānau, she built and sustained the systems that kept our vision moving forward. Rise UP adopted Catherine as an honorary Niuean and she did her level best to lalaga our documents and systems in a culturally responsive manner, like a true Falala Niue.

Catherine's legacy of service is woven into the very fabric of Rise UP. We are profoundly grateful for her years of commitment, her enduring grace, and the lasting impact of her work.

TREASURER'S REPORT

1) REVENUE:

Total revenue for the year ending 31 December 2025 was \$293,010, compared to \$372,608 in the previous twelve months.

The primary source of revenue for the year ending 31 December 2025 was community grants and donations (\$275,317), although 2025 did see another decrease in grants received.

The net operating result for 2025 was a deficit of \$140,169 following a deficit in 2024 of \$39,415.

2) EXPENDITURE:

Total expenditure for the twelve months ending 31 December 2025 was \$433,179, compared to \$412,023 in the previous twelve months.

The increase in expenditure was primarily driven by an increase in employee remuneration and related costs (\$23,964).

3) WORKING CAPITAL:

The Trust's working capital as at 31 December 2025 was \$428,842 compared to \$566,945 for the preceding year. This is primarily due to a decrease in cash held (\$100,842) and an increase in unused grants held (\$33,748).

4) FIXED ASSETS:

The Trust's fixed assets have decreased slightly from \$19,842 to \$17,416 over the twelve months preceding 31 December 2025. This was due to depreciation and a very small investment into assets during the period.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Performance Report

Entity Name

Rise Up Trust

For the year ended

31 December 2025

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Statement of financial performance

	Note	Current year \$	Last year \$
Revenue			
Donations, koha, bequests and other general fundraising activities		275,317	346,402
Membership fees and subscriptions	1	5,123	5,715
Interest, dividends and other investment revenue		12,570	20,491
Other revenue		-	-
Total revenue		293,010	372,608
Expenses			
Employee remuneration and other related expenses		362,927	338,963
Other expenses related to service delivery	2	36,009	44,451
Other expenses		34,244	28,608
Total expenses		433,179	412,023
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year		140,169	39,415

This performance report has been approved by those charged with governance.

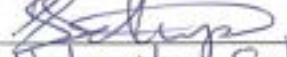
Date 5/25/2026

Signature 

Name Maggie Winterstein

Position Chairperson

Date 5/25/2026

Signature 

Name Nahusita Selupe

Position CEO

TREASURER'S REPORT

Performance Report			
Entity Name	Rise Up Trust		
For the year ended	31 December 2025		
FINANCIAL INFORMATION			
Statement of financial position			
	Note	Current year \$	Last year \$
Assets			
Current assets			
Cash and short-term deposits	3	581,490	682,332
Debtors and prepayments		1,374	6,207
Other current assets		-	-
Total current assets		582,864	688,539
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	5	17,416	19,482
Total non-current assets		17,416	19,482
Total assets		600,280	708,021
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Creditors and accrued expenses	4	34,021	32,903
Employee costs payable		7,086	9,524
Unused grants		112,915	79,167
Total current liabilities		154,022	121,594
Non-current liabilities			
Total non-current liabilities		-	-
Total Liabilities		154,022	121,594
Total assets less total liabilities (net assets)		446,258	586,427
Accumulated Funds			
Accumulated surpluses or (deficits)	6	446,258	586,427
Total Accumulated Funds		446,258	586,427

HEARTS AND MINDS UNLOCKING POTENTIAL



*6 week course for
parents and
caregivers*

*Learn new tools to help
unlock your child's
educational potential*

*Topics include:
Personality Styles
Learning Styles
Love Languages*



"Lots of fun and new learning, for us as new parents getting to know others parents has been valuable, skills and tools to be able to understand ourselves, children and community. The wisdom and knowledge has enriched us and we leave as different people. The amount of families that have been impacted, we get to impact our children and the next generation". Nu'uali'itia Whanau

*Term 1 intake: 7 whanau + teacher
Term 2 intake: 7 whanau*

87% of RUA Whanau have completed Hearts and Minds. The remaining 13% are made up of 6 new whanau and 3 whanau who cannot make Wednesday/Thursday nights. This year was also the start of Hearts & Minds creche in order to have both parents attend.

87% of Rise UP Whanau have completed this programme



SYNERGY *I KNOW WHO I AM!*

**72% of Rise UP whanau
have presented**



Out of the 36 whanau eligible for the Synergy programme - comprising of those who have completed Hearts and Minds Programme and have children 8 years old plus, 21 whanau have successfully completed the Synergy Programme. This year we had 5 whanau complete in Term 4.



Our family – myself, my partner Alex, and our four children – had the privilege of participating in the Synergy programme, and it was an incredibly rewarding experience for all of us.

One of the highlights was seeing Alex actively involved in the children's learning journey and working together as a whānau to prepare our presentation. Throughout the programme, our children were challenged in positive ways, learning how to work as a team, share leadership, and support one another despite all wanting to take the lead.

As parents, we were immensely proud watching them stand on stage and confidently share their learning about who they are, where they come from, and what makes them unique. The growth in their confidence, self-awareness, and sense of identity was inspiring to witness.

The Synergy programme provided us with meaningful opportunities to connect as a family, celebrate our strengths, and learn alongside one another. It was a truly positive and memorable experience that we will always be grateful for.
Moki-Sio Whanau

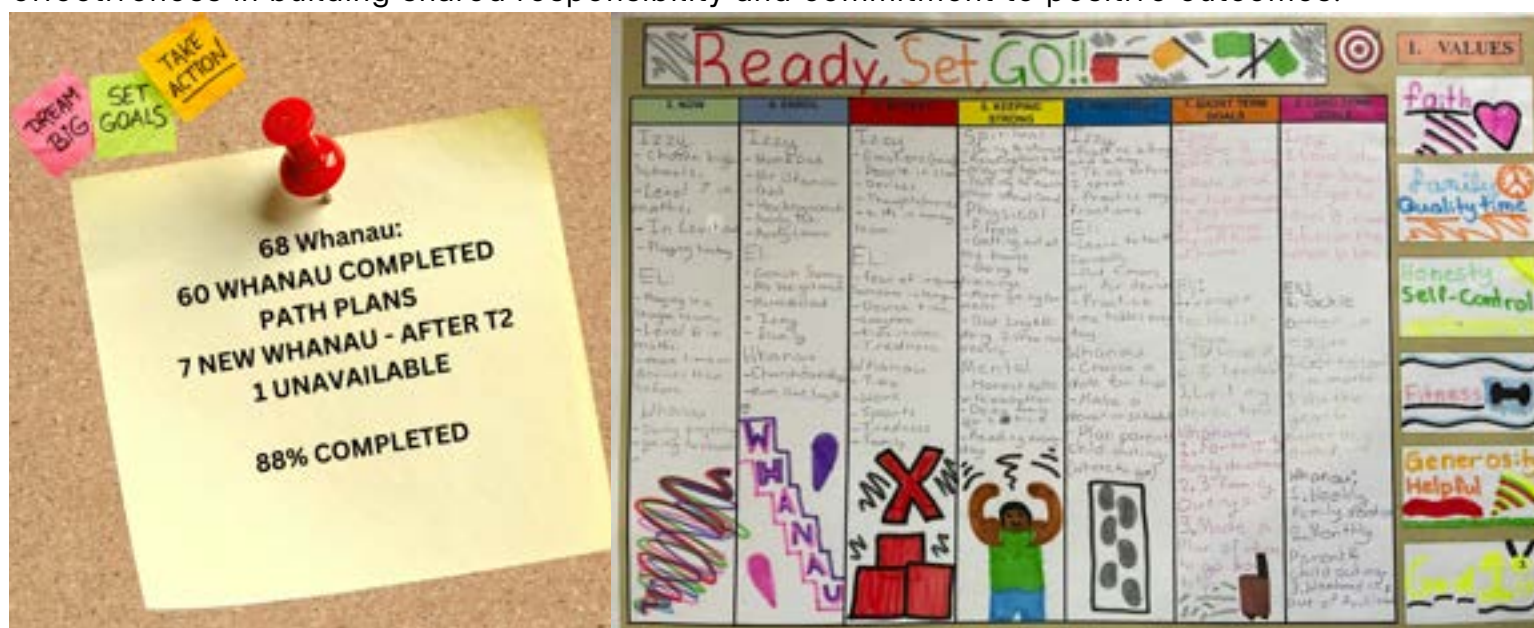


P.A.T.H with our WHANAU

PLANNING ALTERNATIVE TOMORROWS

WITH HOPE

PATH is a key tool we use to engage our enrolled whānau in setting meaningful learning goals for their children. This process helps families create clear, achievable objectives while fostering strong engagement within the home. PATH encourages children and parents to work collaboratively towards learning, social, and whānau goals, providing a sense of accountability and direction. This year 88% of our whānau have successfully completed PATH, reflecting its effectiveness in building shared responsibility and commitment to positive outcomes.



"Since the first year that our daughter started at Rise UP Academy, PATH Plans had become an important part of our whanau. What started as a Whanau Educator led session progressed to our family leading and facilitating our own sessions. 2025 was especially important, as we let our eldest child facilitate and design our Whanau PATH Plan. This was an encouragement to us to see how much knowledge she had gained over the years about PATH plans and also her understanding and reasoning behind why it was important to have one.

For our family, having a physical reminder of the goals and values that we had discussed and agreed upon, helped us to stay focussed and keep each other accountable. It was also great to have a document that was not just about a particular area of our life but actually encompassed every area - School, Church, sports, family life and our values.

Our daughter also had the opportunity to share this same knowledge about PATH Plans with staff at a Suncorp Collective Giving Expo. It was awesome to see men and women in a corporate setting captivated by a 12 year old teaching them the importance of setting goals, identifying obstacles and what little steps need to be taken to achieve your goals.

Thank you Rise UP Trust for upskilling our whanau and our daughter and for helping us to raise the next generation of leaders who can plan, set goals and achieve their targets."

MacGregor Whanau



ALTERNATIVE CONSTITUTION

No more than 7 and no fewer than 2 parent representatives; and
The Principal of the school; and
1 staff representative; and
3 trustees appointed by the Rise UP Trust on the basis of particular
experience, expertise, skill and or leadership that in the opinion of
the board will assist in advancing the students of Rise UP Academy

TRIENNIAL PARENT ELECTION PROCESS

STEP 1: INITIAL NOMINATIONS (KOMITI TUPU MAI MEETING)

*The process kicked off at our Komiti Tupu Mai (PTFA) meeting, where two strong nominees were put forward to step into the parent representative roles: our KTM Chair, Albert Scott, and Vaipae Titimanu, a longstanding parent in our community.

STEP 2: COMMUNITY CONSULTATION (WHANAU FONO)

*Nominations taken to the Whanau Fono to share them with wider community. Also discussion of how the official nomination and voting process works.

STEP 3: FORMAL NOMINATION PERIOD

*The floor was opened up to the wider school community for any further parent nominations.

ELECTION OUTCOME

Automatic Appointment :

Because no other nominations were received by the closing date, a formal voting round was not required. As a result, Albert and Vaipae automatically progressed as our new parent representatives.

100% Community Consensus:

The automatic appointment of our nominees reflects deep community trust and unanimous alignment. By utilising established cultural spaces like the Whānau Fono, we ensured the process was transparent, accessible, and culturally responsive.





RISE UP ACADEMY

SHARP MINDS - STRONG BODIES - GOOD HEARTS

TE AWHI WHANAU GROUP

In te reo Māori, awhi means to care for, embrace and cherish – to help or support others. The purpose of the Awhi Group is to create a supportive network for parents, enabling them to connect with each other, Rise Up Academy School, and external providers. This collaboration is centered on enhancing the learning and well-being of medical, pastoral and neurodiverse children ensuring they receive the necessary support and resources to thrive at school and at home.



Riseup Academy
AWHI NEURODIVERSE SUPPORT GROUP
Save the Dates!

Term 1
Date: 2 April 2023
Whakawānanga Pūriri

Term 2
Dates: 26 May 2023
19 June 2023

Term 3
Dates: 30 July 2023
17 September 2023

Term 4
Dates: 22 October 2023
24 November 2023

RSVP by via email
Time: 2:00-3:43pm



RISE UP ACADEMY **Flying Kites**

Join us to connect with other whānau in our community and learn more about Neurodiverse supports.

An inspiring session with Shirley Darwell, founder of Flying Kites (Disability Support)

Location: Māngere Arts Centre (MAC)
Date: Wednesday 22 October
Time: 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

From 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm
Whānau kōwhiri + Disability support info
Accessing and using funding and community supports

From 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm
Stay for light refreshments, connect with other whānau & stakeholders

Please RSVP for catering:
rheadman@riseup.ac.nz
Phone: 080 946 6066



"Sooo much information today, it was amazing and awesome to connect with parents who share the same worries and determination to fight for everything our kids deserve.
Thanks always Moki-Sio Whanau

"Thank you awhi group and kite organization for today alot of information and resources was taken in today to help and support us parents" Faaaoaga Whanau

"Today was gold, defs painted a picture of what we need to say and do to be able to successfully get our funding apps through and also gave me clarity on what is and is not funded always thankful and appreciative to have this support" Taufua Whanau

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMME

SUPA

Classes facilitated by Saintz Up Performing Arts

Hip Hop Dance Tutor: Whaea Becks

Bucket Drums: Kiko Tupa'i

Guitar Tutor: Viliami Tupa'i

Students: Rooms 1, 2 and 3

Attendance: 87%, average 35-40 per week



END OF YEAR SUPA SHOWCASE

On Monday 8th September, our Rise Up Academy students were able to show all their hard work to their family and friends at our annual SUPA Showcase at the Mangere Arts Centre.

It was a great night of dancing, singing and performing arts. We were all so proud of our talented students. We had hip hop dancers showing their moves, guitarists who serenaded us with their playing and our seniors blowing up the stage with the beats of their bucket drums. A beautiful night of displaying God's splendour led by our very own Isabelle MacGregor as our EMCEE and Hostess for the night.



AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMME

CULTURE & HERITAGE

Tribute Performance to the late Madam Chair Sally Ikinofu



Our journey to the Beats of Mangere stage was a labour of love and cultural pride. Every student in our school stepped up to represent Niue, demonstrating the strength of our collective identity. This commitment began in Term 3 with weekly rehearsals, which intensified in Term 4 to twice-weekly after-school practices. The dedication shown by our children during these long afternoons was truly inspiring, as they worked to perfect every action and song.



This year's performance carried a profound weight as we dedicated our items to the memory of our beloved late Madame Chair, Sally Ikinofu. Sally was a pillar of the Rise Up community, known for her "Good Heart" and her lifelong service to education and our Pacific people. She believed that knowing your roots was essential to success. Seeing our whole school represent Niue was a living tribute to her vision and the legacy she leaves behind.

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMME

CULTURE & HERITAGE

(BEATS OF MANGERE)



The atmosphere on the day was electricifying, but the true highlight was the presence of our families. Whānau engagement was at an all-time high, with every single family represented in the crowd. This support fueled our students' performance and showed the true meaning of the Rise Up community—coming together as one whānau to celebrate our children and our heritage.

We extend our deepest gratitude to the Talagi whānau. Their patience, expertise, and heart in teaching us our items were the foundation of our performance. They didn't just teach us dances; they shared the stories and soul of Niue with our school, ensuring our students performed with authenticity and double honour.



GOOD TO GO VOLUNTEERS

PARENTS GIVING BACK

GOAL

100% WHANAU ENGAGEMENT
2640 HOURS VOLUNTEERED

ACHIEVED

98% WHANAU ENGAGEMENT
1795 HOURS VOLUNTEERED



PARENT FEEDBACK

My son told me yesterday he was praying at school on the fields. He said he was kneeling on the grass and asking God for a good day, praying for his cousins and family...one of his friends came over and asked him what he was doing and he told him he's praying...

Rise Up Academy - this is why we believe God has set you apart. To be a beacon of light to the lost, a place where Jesus Reigns supreme. Thank you Lord for showing yourself to our kids in this way and in this school they have freedom to walk with you without persecution as a dad this makes me more grateful & proud then any award or academic achievement ever could. Rise Up leadership thank you for blessing our kids with prayers and encouragement in their relationship with God, a place they can worship God as well as learn



GOOD TO GO VOLUNTEER ARM

TARGET 100% WHANAU ENGAGED

TERM ONE

79%

TERM TWO

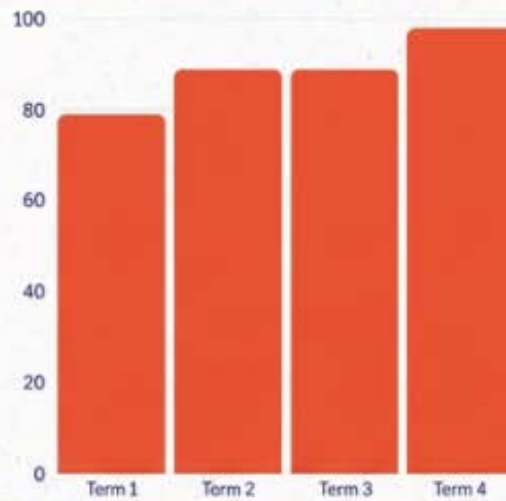
89%

TERM THREE

89%

TERM FOUR

98%



VOLUNTEER TASKS



SWIMMING
SUPERVISION



XRACE



WHANAU FONO
KTM
AWHI WHANAU



INQUIRY LEARNING
EOTC
PINK SHIRT DAY



275 DAY
MANGERE BEATS



PROJECT WY ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE - TRAIN - ACHIEVE THE GOAL



TERM 2
Mt Rangitoto
Rise UP Students: 6
Rise UP Whanau: 6



One Parent + One Child = One Team
2 Trainings a Week

Project Wy helps strengthen families and encourages confidence, determination, working together and the importance of keeping active.



TERM 3
10km Mt Maunganui
Rise UP Students: 4
Rise UP Whanau: 4



BUILDING LEARNING COMMUNITIES

MEET THE TEAM



Sita

Chief Executive
Officer



Cecily

Whanau Educator
Hearts & Minds Facilitator



Grace

Whanau Educator
Community Navigator



Mark

Whanau Educator
Navigator



Andrew

Whanau Educator
Hearts & Minds Facilitator



Christine

Administrotor

WHANAU ORA

Rise Up Navigation Team

In July 2025, the Rise Up Trust was blessed to secure a Whānau Ora contract through the Tātou Collective.

This exciting milestone allowed us to launch Rise Up's first-ever Navigation Team for our school and the Māngere East community! Our team's mission is simple: to walk alongside families and help them reach the goals they set for themselves.

Our Navigation Team is led by our CEO/Principal, Sita Selupe, alongside our dedicated Family Navigators, Grace Leuluai and newcomer Mark Faga. We were also thrilled to welcome Christine Santos as our Team Administrator.

Our Journey So Far

Between July and December 2025, 24 families chose to partner with our team on their journey. Almost all of these families belong to our Rise Up Academy school community, with just one family joining us from the wider neighbourhood.

During these first few months, our team worked hard behind the scenes to meet all our setup milestones and reporting goals for the Tātou Collective. We are happy to share that we successfully met every single one.

While we are a small team, we are committed to supporting 50 families in total. Even though this report only covers the end of 2025, we are growing fast and are already very close to reaching our full capacity!

We have also been busy building strong connections with other community organisations. These networks are vital because they help us get the right support for our families. So far, we have connected and worked with 36 different community services.

Stories of Hope and Success

For our team, it is an absolute privilege to watch our families take charge of their dreams and overcome some of their biggest challenges.

Here are some of the amazing goals our families have already achieved!



***Safe Housing:** Moving into a new home where the family can thrive.

***Closer Connections:** Building stronger bonds within the family

***Extra Activities:** Getting children involved in sports and after school care.

***New Zealand Citizenship:** Reaching major milestones for their future.

***Employment:** Finding new jobs and work opportunities.

***School Attendance:** Seeing children attend school more consistently.

***Confidence:** Gaining a clearer understanding of how government agencies work.

***Basic Needs:** Finding the right funding to support everyday family needs.



We are so proud of our whānau! Our team are excited for what the next year will bring as we continue to stand, walk, and run alongside our families.

FUNDERS AND PARTNERS ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Our mission, ‘Building Learning Communities’, is only possible because of our partners and funders. Thank you for standing alongside the Rise UP Trust—your unwavering commitment fuels our work and helps us show up every day to serve the nucleus of our community...our whānau.



māngere arts centre
ngā tohu o uenuku



Lemauga Lydia Sosene MP



THE FUTURE IS BRIGHT
as we rise up for the next 20 years



RISE UP TRUST
COURT TOWN CLOSE, MANGERE, AUCKLAND