

A new life for Manuel

Despite growing up surrounded by violence, drugs and gangs, 18-year-old Manuel Tawhai knew that this was not the kind of life he wanted.



Photograph courtesy Hawke's Bay Today

"I didn't want to join the gang because I didn't want drugs, alcohol and violence in my family," says Manuel.

Through the experience Manuel gained on the Ka Hao Te Rangatahi (KHTR) programme in Napier, his life changed. He received the support he needed to commit to living his life a different way.

Coming from a whānau where his father and brother are members of the Mongrel Mob, he did not want his life to be dedicated to a gang.

"I didn't want to join the gang because I didn't want drugs, alcohol and violence in my family," says Manuel.

KHTR is a kaupapa Māori-based initiative that targets young Māori males who are exhibiting violent behaviour and are potential targets for recruitment into local gangs.

On the 48-week programme, Manuel learnt the values of self-discipline, self-awareness and respect for others, using mau rākau (Māori martial arts).

This was a life-changing experience for Manuel as he gained knowledge to make better choices and received the support he needed to stay on the right track.

He embraced the programme and its teachings and became a tuakana (leader).

Tutors from KHTR say Manuel is a natural leader. He stood out from the crowd because of his leadership skills and motivation to change.

"He's not afraid to speak out and leads by example," says KHTR Trust Secretary Robyn Smith. "He just gets on and does what's required rather than just talking about it."

In his role as a tuakana, Manuel was involved in mentoring other boys on the programme by encouraging them to reach their goals and not get involved in gangs.

When his mates ask him what gang he belongs to, Manuel responds by saying, "My gang is Māori."

KHTR is a holistic programme based around the values of wairua (spiritual), tinana (physical), hinengaro (mental), and whanaungatanga (relationships).

At the beginning of the programme, the participants spend two weeks on a marae and participate in workshops that address topics including health education, anger management, sexual health, literacy and numeracy.

"The learning of Māoritanga teaches a new way of living," says Robyn. "It provides something real to identify with – and what it means to be Māori."

A key component of KHTR is the learning of Māoritanga and supportive role of the Youth Leadership Co-ordinator.

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FROM OUR Aotearoa Youth Voices Toolkit resource...

“If you want to get the opinions of young people about how to make the downtown area better, go down there and ask young people who hang out there.”

**YOUTH ADVISORY GROUP
MEMBER, 17 YEARS**

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Based at William Colenso College, the Youth Leadership Co-ordinator works alongside the programme participants, meeting with them on a daily basis at school.

Many young men who complete the KHTR programme go on to further training. In Manuel's case, he went on to complete the six-week Limited Service Volunteer (LSV) course at Burnham Military Camp in Canterbury.

Manuel was one of 83 young people who graduated from the LSV course, out of the 144 people who entered at the beginning, in May this year.

His success at completing the LSV course proved what the KHTR tutors already knew – that Manuel was a natural leader.

“I felt dedicated and motivated by the team,” says Manuel. “The hard work paid off and I made new friends during the course.”

As Manuel's confidence and self-belief grew, he chose to set a new goal for himself – to get a job in the army.

“I want to become a Physical Training Instructor (PTI) in the army,” he says. “I've got to spend two years in the force before I can apply. I've just got to work and train, learn the theory test and stuff like that.”

After completing the LSV course, Manuel's family wanted him to stay out of trouble, and his father approached KHTR for help. His father wanted Manuel to move from Napier and all the negative influences surrounding him.

Through the support of his whānau and KHTR, Manuel moved to Christchurch and was connected to a local youth programme.

“His dad is making up for lost time,” says Thomas Heremia, KHTR Trust Manager, “putting his family first and supporting his son all the way.”

Manuel now lives with his aunt and uncle and is working full-time for Maui Motorhomes while also preparing for his army test.

“My family have been massive,” says Manuel. “It sucks to move from my family, but that's the way it has to be.”

What Manuel has achieved has impacted his entire whānau and the tutors from KHTR – he has proved that, with the right support, anything is possible.

Young New Zealanders come out on top

Six senior secondary students from New Zealand proved that they have what it takes to compete in the international arena – winning the top two awards in Singapore at the FedEx/Junior Achievement International Trade Challenge (ITC).

In the space of only 48 hours, the students were faced with the challenge of exporting carpets to Egypt, developing a detailed market strategy and delivering a 10-minute presentation to judges.

First place and a prize of US\$4,000 went to Paul Minors and Chuck Slogrove for their value-added prayer mat. Their presentation, including a simulated radio ad, really captured the judges' attention.

"The experience was awesome," says Paul. "To be honest, it was an achievement in itself just to get there. To come so far and win was incredible."

"I learnt how to deal with great time pressure," says Paul, "and just what you can achieve in a short space of time."

The idea behind their transportable prayer mat was to provide an easy way for Muslim people to pray using current technology, and it included an inbuilt compass and clock.

Paul and Chuck were part of Team NZ, which included Aimee Groom, Talman Madsen, Danica Burghout and Anna McDonald.

Second place and US\$3,000 was awarded to Aimee and Talman for their project, Pieces – a modular carpet system with limited edition panels designed by contemporary Egyptian artists.

Being a member of the only boy-girl team in the competition didn't faze Aimee, as she and Talman impressed the judges with their presentation style.

"We wanted to present in our own style rather than the style we thought everyone else would bring to the competition," says Aimee. "We were confident, friendly and had fun. We didn't list the features of our product; we knew the features of our product."

Adding that Kiwi flavour definitely paid off, as the experience taught Talman a valuable lesson. "It shows us that you have to believe in yourself as a Kiwi and not be afraid to do things a little differently and you can compete on the world stage," says Talman.



Team NZ achieved a level of success that is unprecedented in the history of the event. It was the first time a New Zealand team has entered the competition.

On their return from Singapore, they were given a welcome that is normally reserved for the All Blacks. They were greeted with a kapa haka, performed by Tāmaki College, and a cheering crowd of family, friends, Young Enterprise Trust and FedEx staff, teachers and principals – all very proud of their achievement.

Young Enterprise Trust manages the process for the New Zealand entries into the ITC competition, and the final six were selected from over 4,000 students participating in the Trust's Lion Foundation Young Enterprise Scheme.

Robyn Borne, National Director of the Lion Foundation Young Enterprise Scheme, accompanied the students to Singapore and says what stood out was the approach the students took to the competition.

"The way they problem-solved and worked in a team was certainly a factor in their overall success," says Robyn.

It was no easy feat getting into the international competition. Young New Zealanders had a competitive pathway to the finals, with 80 students from around the country competing for a place on the teams to represent New Zealand in the international challenge.



LEADING IN THE OUTDOORS

Imagine tramping through the outdoors for 10 days in cold, windy and wet conditions, with no fire to keep you warm and limited food. This was the reality for Sam Scotts when he led a group of people through a 10-day Outward Bound winter course at Anakiwa in the Marlborough Sounds.

"Having to pitch a tent at midnight in strong winds was no easy feat," says Sam. "We had one fine day, and then it rained for the remainder of the camp."

Leadership, resilience and preparation are some of the skills it takes to become an outdoor leader, something 19-year-old Sam has worked hard to achieve through the Outdoor Leader Award.

A nationally recognised qualification run by the Mountain Safety Council (MSC), the Outdoor Leader Award gives young people like Sam the opportunity to organise and lead groups on day tramps and overnight camps.

To take part, Sam had to complete a river safety course, a first aid certificate and intensive training in risk management, leadership, outdoor skills, camp craft and instructional techniques.

He also volunteered for 32 hours of outdoor safety training and leadership with a local organisation and gained experience on day tramps and fixed camps.

"I now have a better understanding about the responsibilities of leading others safely through the outdoors," says Sam.

Along with Sam, Nicky James chose to do the Outdoor Leader Award earlier this year and says her self-confidence has improved.

"I increased my confidence and was able to share my skills with others, especially delivering presentations to members of my group," says Nicky.

"I'd recommend the training to any youth leader."

People who receive the Outdoor Leader Award gain recognition as leaders in the outdoors, assist in training others to develop their outdoor skills and promote safe outdoor standards.

Formed in 1965 in response to a growing concern about an increasing number of accidents in the bush and mountains, the aim of MSC is to enhance safety in outdoor adventure activities.

Since 1998, approximately 595 people have gained the Outdoor Leader Award, of whom 40 per cent are under 25 years of age.

For further information about the Outdoor Leader Award, contact Chris Tews, Programme Manager, phone 04 385 7162 or visit www.mountainsafety.org.nz.

From small town New Zealand to Japan

If you had told Olivia Lindstrom a year ago that she would have the opportunity to travel to Japan and learn about environmental issues, she would not have believed you.

Sixteen-year-old Olivia was one of only two young people in New Zealand selected to go on the Asian Youth Exchange Programme in Okinawa.

"I knew that only one boy and one girl from New Zealand would be chosen, and thought, wow, what are the odds?" says Olivia.

"I couldn't believe it when I got the phone call to say I was accepted to go on the exchange."

The Asian Youth Exchange is aimed at promoting the "innovative mind" of young people. A total of 77 young people from Australia, Singapore, Vietnam, Cambodia, China and other countries participate in the programme.

Okinawa is surrounded by nature-rich islands and coral reefs and is located at the centre of East Asia. It has 160 islands and a population over 1 million.

The theme of the exchange was focused on the environment, particularly water problems. Students discussed how science and technology can be used to resolve environmental issues.

One of the most important things Olivia learnt was the impact global warming has on our environment. She was amazed to see first hand the challenges we face in protecting our water.

"The environmental lessons were sobering," says Olivia.

"The bleaching of the coral due to increased sea temperatures was really evident and sad to see."

Throughout the three-week exchange, the participants met with expert scientists within the environmental field.



When Olivia returned to New Zealand, she shared with her peers and teachers the valuable lessons she learned and made it her mission to encourage others to do their bit for the environment.

"This is a world problem," says Olivia. "We are young adults, and it is time for us to take responsibility for our planet. If we don't, no one else will."

Olivia's interest in the environment started at a young age. While at primary school, she got involved in a local community group – Project Manu – to restore local bush land.

Olivia has a strong affiliation with her Ngā Raukawa culture and the spiritual importance of land to Māoridom.

"I feel privileged to live in a community that is proactive and respects the cultural and spiritual well-being of a local waterway, which in turn will protect the environmental interests of us all."

Olivia lives by her motto to provide a 'voice' on the future of the environment and believes "you have to be the change you want to see in the world".





THE CENTRE OF IT ALL

Juggling a busy school life and extracurricular activities is usually enough for the average student.

However, 17-year-old Charlotte Legge and her five friends have found the time to do all this, create a company and manage a website called *Eventcentral*.

Eventcentral is an online events calendar that provides teenagers with information about what is going on around the country, when and where. It promotes concerts, festivals and sports events and provides free giveaways, as well as links to other related sites.

Six Year 12 female students from Ngā Tawa Diocesan School in Marton created *Eventcentral*, which was born out of their company, Cable.

The idea to create a company first came about when the girls entered the Lion Foundation Young Enterprise Scheme (YES) through their school.

Charlotte Legge is the Managing Director of Cable and, with her friends' help, came up with an idea to create a one-stop

website for teenagers to access information.

"Our motto is to be the 'centre of it all'," says Charlotte.

"We saw a gap in the market for a one-stop site that displayed accurate information for teenagers about what events are happening around the country."

Teenagers make up to 20 per cent of New Zealand's population, and being teenagers themselves, the girls knew that *Eventcentral* would provide a much needed service.

Each member of Cable has a job to do, from marketing, sales production, right through to sorting out the finance. They all have their own job title and responsibilities: Brooke Cox – Communications Director, Tui Williams – Production Director, Sally Manthel – Sales Director, Stephanie Sanderson – Finance Director and Caroline Dekker – Marketing Director.

As Managing Director, Charlotte oversees all the work produced by the team and makes sure tasks are completed on time and to a high standard.

Charlotte's biggest challenge is finding the time to balance her school work and extracurricular activities as well as manage the website.

"Being at boarding school, I don't have easy access to transport and technology. I've used the holidays and weekends to set up lots of things," says Charlotte. "Having my mother as team mentor is great because I can ask questions."

McDonald's, Vodafone, Massey University and Whittaker's have bought advertising space on *Eventcentral* and have provided free giveaways.

Designed with young people in mind, *Eventcentral* is an attractive website. It's simple, easy to use and engaging.

The objective of YES is to promote an enterprise culture amongst New Zealand school students and allow students to experience real business before leaving school.

Over 8,000 people have visited the *Eventcentral* website and over 600 people have become members since it was created in August this year.

Early on in the development, Cable confirmed a partnership with website *eventfinder.co.nz* that allowed all of their events to interface with *Eventcentral*.

"This was very helpful because not only is *Eventfinder* an established website to be associated with, it meant a lot less work for us," says Charlotte.

UPDATE

Congratulations to girls from Cable who recently received the Excellence in Innovation Award at the Lion Foundation Young Enterprise National Finals in Wellington on 3 November.

Expect to see a lot more from these young women and *Eventcentral* in the future! www.eventcentral.co.nz.

Horowhenua Youth Voice

The Horowhenua District Council has created their first youth advisory group, called Horowhenua Youth Voice.



A group of 13 young people were selected to represent their age group, school and culture. They include Māori and Pacific students and a young person who works in the community.

They meet once a month and cater for young people between the ages of 13–19.

Karleigh O'Connor is a 15-year-old student from Waiopēhu College in Levin and is the Chairperson of Horowhenua Youth Voice.

We caught up with Karleigh and asked her to share her experience being a part of Horowhenua Youth Voice.

What inspired and motivated you to become involved in Horowhenua Youth Voice?

We were selected from our peers to be part of Horowhenua Youth Voice. It was something I was interested in and wanted to get involved.

I put my name forward to be the Chairperson because I was interested in taking up the challenge. As Chairperson, I'm learning that it's important not to be too pushy and to let everyone have a say.

What do you most enjoy about being a part of Horowhenua Youth Voice?

I like the opportunity of being able to express what young people my age want.

I've met lots of new people and have been able to give something back to our community.

The council and community are behind us, and we really appreciate their support.

What kind of stuff have you done since being a part of Horowhenua Youth Voice?

We've developed our own magazine called *Vanguard*, written by youth, for youth. It is delivered to all schools and the wider community.

It's a good feeling when I get stopped in the street by adults who say they've read our magazine.

About 200 teenagers attended the black and white dance we organised, which was pretty good.

We also organised an *Amazing Race* competition for students to participate in during their holidays. We had 48 people from the community join in and had lots of fun.

What kind of activities are you going to work on in the future?

There is a need for facilities for young people in Horowhenua, a better environment to hang out in. We are working on a futuristic project where we will try to develop more safe environments for young people.

WHAT'S HOT IN THE WORLD OF RESEARCH?

Does parental involvement in structured youth development programmes add value?

Research shows parents have the greatest influence on young people's lives, followed by peers, schools and the community.¹

Youth development research supports the importance of the integration between the settings and institutions in young people's lives. For example, parental involvement and interest in children's [mainstream] school activities are linked to better motivation, performance and successful school transitions.²

There is also a good body of research around the efficacy of family therapy for a range of risk behaviours, such as substance abuse and problems such as depression. However, worldwide, there is little research and few examples of the existence and value of parental involvement in youth development programmes (YDPs). Most parent education programmes in New Zealand are run independently or in parallel with the school or YDPs, rather than actively integrating parents in YDPs.

In theory, YDPs should be able to make a more effective and longer-lasting impact on a young person if they also involve their other environmental influences (such as family) so that they continue to benefit from these links after the programme has finished.

Youth workers and other adults who provide services to parents and their teenagers have a significant opportunity to facilitate and strengthen the relationship between parent and teen. Communication breakdown is a major cause of parent/teen conflict and is often the root of more serious problems such as depression, truancy, teenage pregnancy and drug/alcohol addiction.³

A study suggests that interventions aimed at improving relationships between at-risk youth and their parents and providing parent training would be highly worthwhile, particularly in the early adolescent years.⁴

Teenagers recognise their need for age-appropriate guidance and boundaries. They want dialogue with parents and other adults about the issues, choices and pathways facing them. Educators want engaged parents, and youth service providers want parents who support their agencies.

Research shows that both teenagers and their parents feel they don't spend enough time together.⁵ YDPs offer the opportunity to create time for constructive engagement.

One review of YDPs in the USA⁶ found at least three ways in which programmes successfully engaged the family: through parent skills training; parental involvement in programme implementation/activities; and in programme design and planning. However, deliberate attempts to involve parents often fall flat, and parents will sometimes need parenting support and/or relationship support themselves.

From a parent's perspective, some may have had negative experiences at school and may be reluctant to attend workshops and meetings; others may be facing overwhelming health, social, economic and job-related demands. Special effort may be needed to engage parents in YDPs.

Good assessment processes when young people start a YDP will identify the state of the parent-teen relationship, parenting and wider support needs, and any relationships outside the family that are key connections for the young person.

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1 McLaren, K. (2002). *Building Strength: A review of research on how to achieve good outcomes for young people in their families, peer groups, schools, careers and communities*. Wellington, New Zealand: Ministry of Youth Affairs.

2 Eccles, J & Gootman, J (eds). *Community Programs to Promote Youth Development*. National Academy Press, Washington DC, 2002, pp110–112; Biddulph, F, J & C. *The Complexity of Community and Family Influences on Children's Achievement in NZ: Best Evidence Synthesis*. Ministry of Education, June 2003.

3 Bamberg, Findley & Toumbourou, in Robinson, E. *Australian Family Relationships Clearinghouse, Briefing No. 1, 2006*.

4 Smart, D et al. (2003) *Patterns and precursors of adolescent antisocial behaviour: types, resiliency and environmental influences: Executive Summary of the second report*. Melbourne, Australia Institute of Family Studies and Crime Prevention Victoria.

5 *Youth '07: The Health & Wellbeing of Secondary School Students in New Zealand*. University of Auckland; *Work-Life Balance Survey 2006 – What are the benefits for families and communities?* New Zealand Department of Labour.

6 Catalano, R et al. *Positive Youth Development in the United States: Research Findings on Evaluations of Positive Youth Development Programs*. University of Washington, November 1998.

7 Tiffany, J & Young, S. *Involving Parents as Partners for Youth Development*. Practice Matters, August 2004. Act for Youth Upstate Center of Excellence, Cornell University, NY.

Lucrative win MYD award

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What does this mean for the practice of parental involvement in YDPs?

The key is flexibility, for example:⁷

- taking events and programmes to parents where they are
- demonstrating understanding and respect in tangible ways (such as convenient scheduling, refreshments, a friendly environment)
- allowing time for parental involvement efforts to develop
- developing parent-to-parent peer programmes, building resources and support networks
- creating opportunities for parent-teen interaction
- inviting parents to youth-led and youth-centred events that also meet parents' interests and need to understand their teen's perspective.

The power of informal approaches in particular (BBQs, sports events) should not be underestimated in making parents feel welcome, respected and engaged in youth development efforts. YDPs provide opportunities to involve extended family or significant non-parental adults (uncles, aunts, sports coaches mentors and so on). Family involvement is integral for many Māori and Pacific providers, in particular, although they may not consider this as a formal component of their programme.

The Ministry of Youth Development is currently exploring good-quality youth development opportunities that inspire, challenge and motivate young people. We would be interested in hearing from anyone involving parents of the young people in their programmes to profile this work in a future issue of 12 to 24. Please contact David Hanlon on 04 916 3647 or email david.hanlon001@myd.govt.nz.



Students from Columba College, Dunedin, proved they have what it takes to overcome challenges, by winning an award for commitment at the Lion Foundation Young Enterprise Awards.

A team of 15 young people from a group called Lucrative used socks to promote their message: "Dunedin Stadium... Get Over It!"

Public opinion on the building of a multi-purpose stadium in Dunedin was divided, and some locals went to great lengths to stop it being built.

However, Lucrative decided that, whatever people's opinions were, as young people, they wanted to promote the benefits of the stadium for the community and businesses of Otago.

"The most challenging part was marketing and selling the socks," says Lucrative Managing Director, Hayley Jenkins-McCaw.

Despite opposition by some locals, Lucrative didn't let this discourage them. They sold over 360 pairs of socks and received 183.65 per cent return on capital. For every pair of socks sold, a donation of 50 cents was made to the Stadium Trust.

"There are always people who will not support your product; therefore, you have to keep going and overcome such obstacles," says Hayley.

"I've learnt about the many realities of the world of business."

Over 600 companies entered the Lion Foundation Young Enterprise Scheme this year. Twenty-two regional teams competed for the top prizes at the awards dinner held in Wellington on 4 November.

Current and historical book review

Ready by 21 (**Karen Pittman, Forum for Youth Investment**)

"Now, more than ever, every young person needs to be ready for college, work and life." This is the call to action being made by Karen Pittman, CEO of the Forum for Youth Investment.

The Forum for Youth Investment, based in the USA, is calling for government, NGOs and service providers to "change the odds for children and youth by changing the way we do business so all young people are ready for college, work and life".

In order to carry this out, the Forum has developed *Ready by 21*, which brings together leaders from across a community and offers proven frameworks, tools and coaching to engage these leaders where they are – building on their current initiatives and resources – and equipping them to think and act differently to improve outcomes for children and young people.

Changing the way we do business means that we need to throw out old assumptions about how change happens and engage youth and adult change-makers with the ideas, resources and tools that help them.

"With organisational leaders working together, the objective is to help all those serving a community to make better use of resources, reduce overlap and fill the gaps. The result is better quality and better outcomes," says Karen.

While US-focused, there are fascinating diagrams and discussions on how *Ready by 21* has conceptualised youth policy and services challenges by using 'big picture' thinking, including using common language.

The research evidence paints a picture that too few young people have the developmental resources they need and that fragmentation of resources can create more problems than they solve. There are lessons and insights for the New Zealand youth development sector in this US material, available on www.forumforyouthinvestment.org.

Karen is co-founder, President and CEO of the Forum for Youth Investment and is a sociologist and recognised leader in youth development, and she has an impressive collection of honours and awards as one of the leading international figures in youth development.

Her publications are impressive, and the website www.forumforyouthinvestment.org will be of interest to all in the youth development sector.

All of the Foundation's publications are highly recommended for their strengths-based approach, the quality of their research synthesis and their user-friendly nature.

Youth in Perspective. A Study of Youth Services In New Zealand (**National Youth Council, Wellington, 1980**)

Youth in Perspective. A Study of Youth Services In New Zealand is the most comprehensive published survey of the background of youth services in New Zealand.

The book requests a focus on youth research, policy and services by using a "philosophical... practical direction" and also notes the lack (at the time) of "any policy of youth involvement in decision-making".

Developed by Geoff Woolford and Michael Law from the National Youth Council, it includes chapters on health, accommodation, leisure activity, religious youth groups, youth workers, and rural youth and education.

A decade after the book was published, the National Youth Council was dissolved and the Ministry of Youth Affairs established. However, in its distinctive red cover and weighing in at an impressive 345 pages, the book remains a milestone in the history of youth development in New Zealand.

This book is available in research libraries, second-hand bookshops and in the collections of some youth development practitioners. It is no longer available in print.

It is recommended as a useful study, particularly for those developing reading lists for the history of youth work and youth development in New Zealand.

An excellent developmental opportunity exists to give promising youth studies students a chapter from the 1980 volume and ask them to design how one would update the content and context.

Karen Pitman will be a keynote speaker at the Involve Conference in Wellington on 17–19 November 2010.

newzealand.govt.nz

Produced by:
Ministry of Youth Development
West Block, Charles Fergusson Building, PO Box 1556, Wellington
Phone (04) 916 3300 Fax (04) 918 0091
Email mydinfo@myd.govt.nz Website www.myd.govt.nz
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