

Thrive Newsletter July 2025



In 2018, Thrive Trust was gifted a Daihatsu Terios by Trustpower. This enabled the TrueNorth Mentor to travel out to the coastal schools providing in-school Mentoring support, with this little car gaining the reputation as the ‘thrive mobile’ amongst the tamariki. In the intervening years the Terios had faithfully covered many kilometres and was slowly becoming unreliable, with safety being the number one priority for staff.

A suitable replacement vehicle was sourced through Prescott Toyota; however, the funding application was not successful. This is where the good news story begins. With Thrive unable to purchase the vehicle, Ryan Prescott, CEO of Prescott Toyota, generously came through for us, with the Toyota Prius loaned to Thrive Trust for 12 months. Mr Prescott says “we didn’t want to see the great work being done by Thrive Ōtorohanga Youth Trust come to a halt simply because a safe and reliable vehicle wasn’t available to their team. Supporting organisations like Thrive, who are making a real difference in the community, is something we’re proud to be part of.”

The Prius will enable Mentor Brad Hamilton to continue connecting with all the young students and it will continue to play a pivotal role in maintaining the long-term sustainability of the TrueNorth programme. Alongside Prescott Toyota, The TrueNorth programme is sponsored by the Ōtorohanga District Council, and we, the Thrive Trust Board and staff members remain immensely grateful to the Council and Prescott Toyota for believing in the work we do.



Thrive Mentors have been busy since our last newsletter, connecting with students across the primary schools in the district and on the grounds of Ōtorohanga College. Activities each week include arts and crafts, fun on the sports field or group sessions with 2 to 3 students in some schools, to as many as 12 to 15 students in others. One-on-one mentoring with senior students can also be arranged upon request. Attending activities like mud runs or sporting events such as athletics or cross country remain a highlight for our Mentors, as they use the opportunity to build connection.



Our Mentor Jenny comments that with the boys “some days we’re just kicking the footy and encouraging good sportsmanship; other days they’re completing challenges like building a bridge from straws and sticky tape or playing Lego Creationary and building a car using the Lego provided, practicing patience and perseverance.”

The young girls enjoyed sessions making bracelets as they worked together with the Mentor. Keychains using Matariki colours were also made.





MPOWA continues, offering students well-being assistance once they sign out, via a text message or call. Targeted support is then set up, as each need is different. This makes MPOWA unique. We look forward to connecting with our young people once they have signed out, offering

well-being support and/or pastoral care conversations. The opportunity is also there for parents/caregivers to reach out, please feel free to contact Thrive for support or assistance.

The Lions Club of Ōtorohanga continue to sponsor the **‘Lions Reach Awards’** each term, with school students excelling in their chosen fields, spending a morning rock climbing at Harvest Rock. Many of our local schools have taken up the opportunity to celebrate students’ achievements in this way. If a school in your area has not yet registered to be part of this awards initiative, **please contact Julian at Harvest Rock.**



After-school rock climbing is available Tuesday to Thursdays from 3.30pm. On a cold winter’s day, it’s the perfect place to burn off some energy indoors and to learn a new skill! You can find the relevant information on our website - **www.thriveoto.co.nz** Thursdays is **‘late night climbing’**. **We’re open till 9pm.**

The **THRIVE holiday programme** will be running again in the July school holidays, with young people able to book in for rock climbing throughout the two weeks. Come in and enjoy time together in a fun environment. Thank you to the community for supporting us by making use of our facility. Once again, a reminder to our community that the **Harvest Rock climbing wall** can be booked out for children’s birthday parties, so please spread the word! Please contact Julian on 021 182 1203 to make a booking.

Our fundraising initiative – 100@\$10 – is where we invite people to donate \$10 a week towards the operating costs and to support new initiatives. We are looking for 100 donors. If you’d like to sign up, our banking details are below. Please use ‘100@\$10’ as a reference and let Peter know via email. Your donation receipt will be sent to you after 31 March.

Account Name **Thrive Otorohanga Youth Trust** Account Number 03 **1562 0055497 00**

A **HUGE** thank you to all those who have signed up already – we appreciate you!

We thank you, our funders, donors, local community members and friends of Thrive Trust. Without your continued faith in the work we do, we would not be able to operate. We remain grateful for your financial commitment. If you would like to discuss any matters relating to the Trust and the programmes we provide, please do not hesitate to contact me on 027 493 0117 or on email at **peter@thriveoto.co.nz**

Peter Coventry
CEO Thrive Ōtorohanga Youth Trust



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