
W H A K A P A K A R I

YOUTH TRUST



OUTDOOR PURSUITS PROGRAMME



THE WHAKAPAKARI TRUST invites young people affected by solvent, alcohol and drug abuse, and other at-risk youth to join in an **OUTDOOR PURSUITS PROGRAMME** on **GREAT BARRIER ISLAND**.

THE WHAKAPAKARI TRUST runs monthly survival courses on Great Barrier Island. Here, John Da Silva and his team, help young people to gain a fresh outlook and find a new direction in life, as they learn to cope, at one with nature in a wilderness situation.

FOR MANY YEARS camps have been running successfully. Hundreds of at-risk youth have found the Whakapakari experience to be the turning point of their lives.

For full information, contact:-

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TE ATATU SOUTH, AUCKLAND
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WHAKAPAKARI YOUTH PROGRAMME

We are an approved Charitable Trust. Our programme at Mangati Bay, Great Barrier Island, is one of personal growth, learning and shared adventure. It is designed for youth 14-20 years who have had problems with the law and within their families, particularly drug and solvent abusers. They need to have physical health adequate to handle the outdoor environment to rebuild self-esteem and confidence.

THE VENUE

This is at Mangati Bay, a mountainous native bush clad environment, three miles distance from the port of Whangaparapara on the South West Coast of Great Barrier Island. This Bay is very isolated, there being no roads, power or people in that area. A small fresh water stream flows out through a river flat to sea. The Bay itself is deep, with a smaller island protecting the entire area from the south. Fishing and hunting are excellent in this area, as is swimming and scuba diving, rock climbing and tramping.

ACCOMMODATION

Twenty-four youth are accommodated in 12 x 12 tents which are square models with a ratio of one Supervisor to six youth. There are two buildings in the area measuring 20 x 20, one which serves as a store shed, the other as a cookhouse. Outside, longdrop toilets exist.

TRANSPORTATION TO GREAT BARRIER ISLAND

This is provided by charter boat which leaves from the Panmure Wharf with sailing time approximately five hours to destination. The boat currently used is the Reo Moana.

STAFF

The staff of Co-ordinator and four Supervisors represent a wide diversity of backgrounds of experience and knowledge, each supporting one another as a Whanau. They are selected for their commitment, dedication and ability to guide and teach in an outdoor environment.

THE PROGRAMME

This is a Maori Outdoor Pursuit Programme Adventure based using the environment and outdoor activities to de-programme youth from drug abuse, develop self-esteem and learn skills, Maoritanga and gain confidence.

The environment itself brings about a great deal of stress which we use to our advantage to teach. The entire group, through environmental hardship, develop into a strong Whanau, encouraged via the Toko Toko sock, to stand and express their views as on a Marae. Although a Maori type programme, it is open to all races, various races having enjoyed the programme so far and the type of learning beneficial to all.

This programme is survival and also undertakes a project. Only essentials are taken along, youth having to help set nets daily for fresh fish and take part in goat and pig hunting which is the only way fresh meat is obtained. Also Maori breadmaking takes place daily.

PURPOSE OR AIM OF PROGRAMME

The aim of the programme is to create an environment which will endeavour to assist in students:-

- Increased self-confidence and trust in oneself.
- Greater mental and physical resiliency.
- An increased trust of adults and society.
- Greater problem solving ability.
- An increased respect for the rights and values of others.
- An increased feeling of community and belonging.
- Greater ability to communicate and co-operate with others.
- Appreciation of the natural world and a respect for the environment.
- A lessening of resistance to valid authority.
- A feeling of hope and optimism.
- A feeling of respect and care for oneself.
- A basic understanding of Maoritanga.

PROCESS

The aim of the programme is pursued through these following process elements.

CHALLENGE

Students are constantly presented with the opportunity to, in fact are obliged to, deal with various forms of stress and challenge.

The stress comes in all shapes and sizes so to speak:-

- (a) Environmental: Weather, terrain, long days, darkness, etc.
- (b) Technical: Having to learn skills to accomplish goals.
- (c) Social: Being obliged to live co-operatively in a small intense group setting.
- (d) Physiological: Having to deal with fears, doubts and questions.

Some elements of stress are natural and some are created by instructors. In all cases, stress should ultimately be understandable, it should be able to be reduced by students either on their own or with the help of other students or staff. Instructor's sensitivity to a student's stress tolerance and his/her stress reduction capabilities is the key to maximising this process.

RESPONSIBILITY

Students will be constantly placed into positions of having to assume responsibility. Often done by circumstance, such as cooking meals while out in the field. If they fail to light the fire as instructed earlier, or do not co-operate together in preparation, they suffer the consequences of the meal or lack of it. Another simple example is the erecting of tents. "If I do not put up my tent, I will get wet" if they take short cuts or fail to do something which they are responsible for, they suffer the consequences. Nature is a fair teacher, gives true marks. They are thus impelled into making decisions and must learn to accept the consequences. To assume responsibility is a programme progression culminating with the urban experience.

GROUP MEMBERSHIP

Being group structured, this plays an important part in the process of the programme. Each group becomes a unique bunch of people and if they are all strangers initially, the group will experience a journey which has a beginning (birth), middle and closure. All these stages have important characteristics and the staff will be aware of these. The closure of a group after four weeks of intense living is particularly important so as to foster an independence as they return to society.

Elements of group membership:-

1. Pride in a team as a whole, thus pride in belonging.
2. Group's responsibility for its actions.

DEPARTURE AND RETURN

Each programme starts with all students gathering at a Marae after 5.00 p.m., the night before departure. This allows everyone time to get to know one another. All concerned have dinner and stay the night together on the Marae before departure which is normally at about 8.30 a.m. the following morning. All parents or guardians or Social Workers are encouraged to join students at this time.

The above is repeated on return with all students encouraged to express their views and show the various talents they have accomplished. This normally finishes around 9.30 p.m. approximately. There is no overnight stay on return.

Whakapalari Youth Programme Committee accepts no responsibility for students once the boat arrives back at the Panmure Wharf.

PARCELS AND MAIL

No parcels are to be sent to applicants at Great Barrier Island. Mail to students is encouraged, the address being - Whakapalari Youth Programme, c/o John De Silva, Mangati Bay, Great Barrier Island.

Should you wish any further information please enquire to - Mr or Mrs De Silva, 37 Royal View Road, Te Atatu South, Auckland 8. Phone 834-7096, Auckland.

AFTER THE COURSE

From other similar courses run overseas, experience indicates that a large part of a student's successful re-entry into the urban community is greatly dependant on the kind of placement and care a student receives upon graduation from the programme. The programme is only the foundation or stepping stone to continued changed behaviour. Thus a student's needs after the course will be an added challenge for the liaison person. However, the long term value of good aftercare can mean continued progress and success, rather than continued dependence on the Social Welfare System.

Even though many of the gains are difficult to evaluate, a simple straight forward evaluation will be attempted.

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"WE ARE THE WHANAU OF MANGATI BAY"



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MANGATI BAY, WHANGAPARAPARA
GREAT BARRIER ISLAND**