

## News Letter for 2018

Hi Everyone,

It seems like our feet hardly touched the ground this year with our new venture of the camps for ARONA (At risk of not achieving) young men. There was a plan to hold 3 camps but because of funding and personnel shortages, we only managed one in April and another in October. These camps were judged to be very successful by the students and teachers and the idea, moving forward, is to implement more of them around the country, starting probably in 2020. Plans are underway to apply for funding to not only run the Camps but to also employ staff to run them both in the Waikato and in the Far North.

We produced and posted out a booklet of student writing which is sent to all coaches and students and acts as a great motivator. Another is being putting together at the moment and will be posted out in March 2019.

Jo spent hours and days travelling around the country conducting trainings, all of which were greeted enthusiastically! A very successful hub has been started in Kerikeri, and is now working well.

Kristi Cabot, our Student Coach coordinator lives in Wanaka and she was able to join us for the camp in April and again for a week in November when we had the conference planned. Kristi bought her husband and 2 small children with her and it was great to be able to spend some time with her and the family.

### A message from Kristi,

Thank you. To our new coaches, thank you for all you did to become trained. To our current coaches, thank you for all you've done this year for your students. We truly could not provide literacy help without you.

#### Book Parcels

A few months ago we received a grant to provide high interest, easy-to-read books for our adult learners. We hope these will be motivational and provide our students with suitable reading materials. The books do not need to be returned - all books are theirs to keep. This was an idea/wish that was shared at last year's conference and we are so happy to see it fulfilled! The books will be posted out before Christmas.

#### If you don't currently have a student, or are able to take on an additional...

At this time we have a waiting list of students who need coaches. If you're able to take on a student (or additional student) please let me know. Even if you only have an hour or two a week available that is ok, it's better than having a student wait weeks or months. Thank you for considering this and let me know what I can do to get you matched!

A big thank you to everyone who helps us. By far the biggest number of volunteers are our coaches but there are quite a number of others who help to keep RYALT running. We have IT specialists, graphic artists, website specialists, blog writers, accounts people, data base designers, letter folders and envelope "stuffers", and many more all putting in whatever time they can spare to help us to do our small part to increase the literacy levels of New Zealanders, young and old.

A large but invisible group of contributors to our work, which we literally could not do without, are our funders. This year we had a great response from the Lions Clubs, (Coins for Kids) providing funding for the Camps and individual Clubs that supported with general donations. Also contributing to Camp funding was the Valder Ohinemuri Trust, which was very generous.

On the list providing funding for wages, and everything else we need for keeping the place functioning are Sky City (Hamilton and Auckland), Waikato District Council, ANZ Staff Foundation, Kelliher Trust, One Foundation, Norah Howell Trust, Gallagher Trust, COGS (Community Organisation Grants Scheme from all over NZ) WINZ, Lottery Community Grants and Trust Waikato.

We are very beholden to these generous organisations and the funding that enables us to keep going - and to others from whom we may not have received funding this year but that have supported RYALT in the past.

**HAVE A VERY HAPPY AND SAFE CHRISTMAS AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU ALL IN THE NEW YEAR**