



Rural Youth & Adult Literacy Trust

Literacy Tuition for Rural/Isolated Adults & Teenagers



Newsletter December 2021

Welcome to the December 2021 edition of RYALT's Newsletter.

It has been a busy year for the team at the Rural Youth and Adult Literacy Trust. Like people adjusting to the new normal under COVID and the adjustments it brings. RYALT has had its own balancing acts throughout the year.

The trust is pursuing constant system upgrades to make it easier for all the volunteers involved, in whatever capacity the volunteer is working.

There have also been several staff changes; the latest was with Miriama leaving to pursue new career opportunities in August. Bruce took on Miriama's responsibilities as the Community Coordinator. Bruce has been a volunteer coach for quite some time and brings marketing experience to the role.

Aroha, who worked as the Youth



Photo of Miriama

Project manager, left at the end of October. Then Ngareta, who was previously the Youth Project Manager, has temporarily taken on the role again of Youth Project Manager until the new year when she heads back to university for

further study. At that time, Jaz will become Youth Project Manager.

We send our best wishes to both Miriama and Aroha, hoping they will thrive in the future and confident that they will continue making a difference in the lives of those they meet and work with. Both did great work while with us, and RYALT is in a better place for their input. Miriama and Aroha will be missed as friends and colleagues.

A Fantastic Virtual October School Holiday programme

What a fantastic October school holiday programme was had by all involved!

We had some IT hiccups at the start. But along came our tech guru, Lydia

Richards shining her light, providing some much-needed support, sending the tech issues far away, never to appear again! Lydia (of Wheronet) volunteers her time regularly to RYALT.

It was an incredible ten days together, sharing positive vibes, learning experiences and student success! Both students and coaches enjoyed themselves throughout!

We want to thank all coaches for their much-valued time for participating in the virtual school holiday programme. You have all done an incredible job providing one-to-one support to students and keeping them learning!

In the following section, you can read a great story from the programme.



Students reap the rewards of a beneficial school holiday programme Here's why:

Being involved in the school holiday programme can be very constructive to our students, pushing them to new heights with their reading and writing skills.

Here's a story of just one student:

Lachlan Harford joined us for the literacy camp, a second year running. Next year will be an important year for Lachlan because he will be doing his NCEA Level 1. The literacy camp (an online virtual camp this year) was an excellent opportunity for



From Pexels, and by Julia M Cameron

Lachlan to improve his reading and writing skills in preparation. Lachlan was also able to build on

what he had learnt in last year's camp. This year's focus was to develop strategies to enable him to read complex or unfamiliar words. To do this, Lachlan worked on his phonetic decoding skills and learnt to recognise letter patterns in words. He also learnt common word endings and how they can be used to change verb forms.

For writing, Lachlan worked on structuring ideas and making points which can be used to form paragraphs. He practiced developing each point and illustrating them with examples. Creating and defining these points also helped Lachlan understand

the ideas presented in the texts we read during his lessons.

On the whole, Lachlan made significant improvements, especially in his reading. By the time camp was over, he could read a whole text. Moreover, the reading lessons got more challenging as we went along.

These motivated Lachlan to improve his reading and writing. On the strength of that, he has decided to continue tuition with RYALT during term time.

Written by: Chrissie Wardle

Community Ambassadors, just keep on, keeping on.

Despite Covid-19 causing disruptions, this hasn't placed a damper on our ambassadors. During these trying times, the ambassadors have been doing their utmost, connecting and building relationships within their communities. Thank you all so much for doing the best you possibly can.

Special mention to Ariana Baker for stepping out of her comfort zone and building her networks within her community. I am amazed by what you have been able to achieve since you started



Image from Pixabay

volunteering. You have shown some real dedication in this role.

Written by: Aroha Kukutai

Our support volunteers reach out to our community

Behind the scenes, we have a team of support volunteers busy undertaking many different tasks in support or promotional activities.

These include volunteers answering the incoming phone

calls like Jane and Abbi and outbound calling specialists like, Bijay, Alicia and Chris, who are getting the word of RYALT's literacy assistance programmes out to different organisations and

companies. The outbound calling specialists are supported by Andrew's database compilers, sourcing information from many sources for the outbound specialists to contact. And Gaby, our graphical designer who tirelessly changes word drafts into graphically attractive files and has been helping us since 2016, and Stephen, who has given us pro bono technical support with Salesforce since 2018.

Whether you are a Literacy Coach, a Community Ambassador, an inbound or outbound phone specialist, a graphic artist, a tech volunteer or a database genius, you are all doing a superb job assisting RYALT in reaching rural and isolated youth and adults who need literacy assistance.

RYALT acknowledges the great efforts that you are putting into the trust's work.

Resource for coaches: Flocabulary

RYALT has signed up to use Flocabulary www.flocabulary.com. So, if you have not heard about it, talk with Chrissie or Tim, the Adult and Youth Training Managers.

There are heaps of lessons that you can use with your student online.



Lessons cover a wide range of subjects. Subjects include Language Arts, which covered reading and writing, grammar, literature. Then there is maths, science and social studies, and vocabulary, which encompasses all sorts of word skills.

Take advantage of these great resources. All Literacy Coaches are welcome to integrate it into your lessons. Some coaches are already doing this, so join the coaches heading over to Flocabulary as an extra resource for your coaching.

It's time to meet up - 2022 Conference

We are planning a conference in the early part of 2022.

It will be a fun-filled time getting to meet other volunteers from RYALT. Including learning about what is happening and what the different parts of RYALT are doing.

The conference is in planning at

the moment. It will be online to make it easy for everyone to attend. We will let you know more at a later date.

If you would like something included in the conference as a discussion point or presentation, let Bruce know by email at bruce@adulthoodliteracy.ac.nz



Ways of Giving

If you like the Trust's work and think you know somebody who will help us out, here is one way to assist.

Payroll Giving

Payroll Giving is a way of helping RYALT. If you or any of your friends or whanau would like to give to RYALT from a payroll, here's how it works:

Your employer needs to offer payroll giving within their payroll system*.

RYALT is on the list of organisations for payroll giving. Inland Revenue manages this.

The information that you will need to give to your employer is:

1. RYALT's organisation name, which is the Rural Youth and Adult Literacy Trust.
2. Amount of the donation.
3. Pay period, or periods you wish to donate in.
4. RYALT's bank account number, which is 123023-0720450-00

As an employee, you will receive tax credits for donations made through payroll giving in your pay, which in essence is an immediate benefit for giving from a payroll.

* If the employer doesn't offer payroll giving, and you want to give, we have other methods of giving through being a Friend of RYALT or Sponsor a Student. Refer to our website.

Farewell Suzanne Sands

Suzanne first started her volunteering with RYALT back in 2015 when she undertook the coach training. And now she is bidding farewell to her literacy coach position, having made a difference to her students she has coached, Allan, Chris and Nanik.

We thank you, Suzanne, for the time that you have put into RYALT and the students for whom you have made a difference.

Office Closure

RYALT's office will be closed for the Christmas break from Monday 20th December and reopening Monday 17th January 2022.

If you need to contact the office, please phone and leave a message or send an email message directly to one of RYALT's staff members.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!

As 2021 has been a year like no other, it draws to an end; we would like to wish all our volunteers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We all look forward to 2022 as a year of freedom from lockdowns and a year where we can pursue the goals of the Rural Youth and Adult Literacy Trust unencumbered!

All the best for the festive season!

Photo by Estelle Swan