



Epic!

MINISTRIES
ANNUAL REPORT 2024



Epic Karakia

Father God,

We ask for your provision and protection today.

Bring us together with love, joy and respect,

May we leave a positive impression through our words and actions.

Give us courage to face the challenges that come our way,

And the grace to support those around us.

In the name of Jesus Christ

Amen

we are currently working with tangata whenua to get this karakia translated into Te Reo Māori



Epic

VISION:

To see a generation of young people empowered to reach their maximum potential, physically, socially, emotionally and spiritually so they can be contributors to a healthy community.

2024 A Year of Impact, Celebrating Our Rangatahi

As we wrap up another amazing year at Epic, we couldn't be more proud of what hundreds of young people across CHB have personally achieved, supported by our staff team, our volunteers and trainee leaders. From building meaningful and lasting connections, to stepping up as program and community leaders to discovering and growing in their own story, to overcoming personal challenges, this year celebrates a cohort of rangatahi being full of belonging, growth and success.

Several of our youth-led initiatives have been a real highlight. Whether it's organizing youth focused events, youth impact projects, or expressing generosity through community service, our rangatahi have shown just how they can achieve when they take the lead and have opportunities to express youth voice into real issues. They've been making a tangible influence, and it's been fantastic to witness.

This year, we have reached more young people than ever before, expanding our programs and partnerships to provide even more opportunities, such as with He Tāonga Tāmata, CHBD Council and Evolve Dance Group. Whether it was through mentoring activity programs, camps, wellbeing support, or LIT training programs, we've been able to meet our rangatahi where they are and offer the support they need

to thrive. We are always looking for ways to better serve the diverse needs of the youth we work with. We are thankful to St Andrews Church, that the brilliant foresight was there 20 years ago to set up a Charitable Youth Trust in order to resource and facilitate Youth Development practice and spiritual wellbeing for CHB young people. Adding to this the trust that Ministry of Youth Development, Eastern and Central Community Trust and Oranga Tamariki place in Epic, contracting our services to provide mentoring and leadership opportunities, build meaningful relationships and facilitate fun and exciting regular initiatives that youth love and look forward to.

Looking ahead, we are so excited for what's to come! To all of our rangatahi, mentors, staff, partners, and supporters—thank you for making this year one to remember. Together, we've achieved really good things, and we are absolutely confident that the journey ahead will be even more exciting with an enthusiastic and growing team.

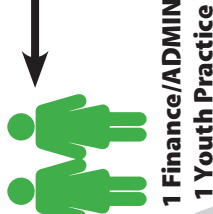
We hold our Epic vision close as we continue to dream big, support each other, and empower our rangatahi to become leaders of tomorrow.

*Penny Single and Jackie Lowry
Epic Co-Leaders*

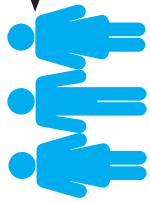




2 Co-Leaders
1 Finance/ADMIN
1 Youth Practice



3 Part time contracted Youth Workers



2 Gateway Students



Accountability ↔ Empowerment



46 Volunteers



REGULAR CORE INITIATIVES:



LIFT - 18 fortnightly
AMP'D - 19 fortnightly

LEADERSHIP

EVENTS

Events: (x2 Vans, Volunteers, 20+ youth)

- Amazing Race
- Kayak Trip
- Wellington Seniors Trip
- High School DISCO
- Primary neon DISCO
- Disc Golf
- Pool Party
- Ice Cream Olympics

Camps (overnight experiences + travel)

- Easter Camp 4 days
- Leaders Camp 3 days
- Festival for the Future 4 days

CONNECT

Connect (x1 Van, Volunteers, 10 youth)

- D's Farm x4
- Leaders Late night hangouts
- Hiko Trip
- LIFT Hang out
- Holiday Hangout

Connect Community (Youthworkers, Volunteers, Community partners)

- Can Drive
- CHBC Athletics
- William Pike Challenge Day
- Onga 7's
- Terrace William Pike Support
- Rippa Rugby
- The Carnival
- Pukehou Senior Camp
- Matariki
- Interschool Cross Country
- Ki-o-rahi Tournament
- Waipawa Street Carnival/BBQ
- Post-Cyclone Whanau Support

MENTORING

Mentoring Adventures

In School Courses

- Terrace Hauora
- Waipukurau Hauora
- Pukehou Hauora
- Otane Hauora
- CHBC Travellers
- CHBC Travellers+
- Explore
- Te Whakanekehangā (Gym program)

After School Programs

All of these contain trips as well

- Netball
- Mauri Ora
- Da Boyz
- 4DAYOUTH
- Leap Day Trips

CAMPS

- Leap Flemington Camp (4 days)
- Leap Taupo Camp (5 days)

Te Puawaitanga o nga Taiohi: Inspire Youth Council

- TEAM DRIVEN**
- Breakfast Club
 - Pink Shirt Day
 - Youth Week per term
 - Slip & Slide Day

WE'VE HAD A PRESENCE AT:

- Onga 7s
- Hatuma Half Marathon
- Christmas Market
- A&P Show
- Rippa Rugby
- Matariki
- Duck Day

REFLECTIONS FROM...

Hezekiah Jay Kwon Schaumkel

What are some fav memories for you being involved in Epic

I get to be myself all the time. And I know I am never judged because Epic is a safe place

What do you like about being involved in Epic programs and how does that make you feel?

Happy. I love to watch the next generation learn and explore more about themselves and everyday life

How has Epic supported you?

I had nothing to do and Penny and Ari from Epic have blessed me with duties within Epic such as Leap leader and Amp'd leader

Further comments

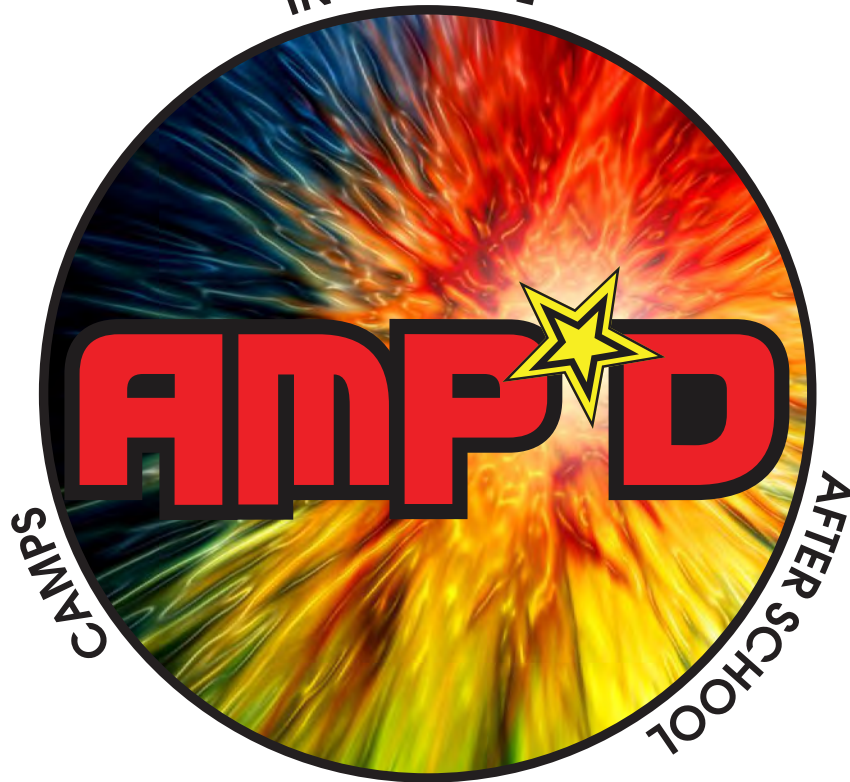
Thank you Penny and Ari for giving me a responsibility to watch over and look after their young ones



INTERMEDIATE

[epic]

IN SCHOOL



Who For: Youth years 6-8
Where: Epic Ministries Hall, ST Andrews St.
Time: Friday 6 - 8pm (fortnightly)

@epicministries_



INTERMEDIATE 2023



AMP*D is an intermediate youth group hosted after school every second Friday, primarily attended by youth from local primary schools in Central Hawkes Bay. This year, AMP*D has seen an exciting turnout as we continuously invite and welcome new youth to join us for our fun nights at Epic. The variety of planned activities ranges from indoor games and sports to photo challenges and wide man hunts in town. The youth enjoy all of these activities, and we receive positive feedback not only from the kids but also from their parents. As a result, AMP*D has developed a strong reputation in the community, and we plan to continue building upon it.

The leadership team for our AMP*D nights primarily consists of students from Central Hawkes Bay College. They provide invaluable assistance in organizing and facilitating our planned activities. Throughout the year, our leadership team continued to grow, positively impacting AMP*D by bringing fresh ideas, enthusiasm, and support to our events. Their involvement has been crucial in creating a welcoming and engaging atmosphere for all participants. By the end of the year, we had around 20 leaders, including some fantastic Epic staff members, actively helping with our youth nights.

Our first AMP*D nights during Term 1 aimed to introduce new youth and welcome back those who had already been involved. Activities included simple indoor games and sports, an old-school games-themed night, and an exciting wide game in town where youth were given clues to hunt down targets and complete various challenges. We also took a group to the Waipawa pools for a fun swim and some food. This term focused on building relationships among the youth and the new AMP*D leadership team. Throughout the term, we saw a gradual increase in participation, with more kids joining in the fun during our AMP*D nights.

Terms 2 and 3 for AMP*D were filled with engaging activities that were not only fun but also helped strengthen our community. Highlights included our Neon Disco, which

invited all youth from local primary schools, creating a vibrant night of dancing and enjoyment. With the Olympics happening, it was fitting to host an Olympics-Themed Night, encouraging teamwork through friendly competition while having loads of fun. We also organized a Newspaper Night, allowing youth to express their creativity by quickly answering questions and collaborating on articles, promoting teamwork and critical thinking. Additionally, our Hall/Sport Games provided fantastic opportunities to bond through physical activity. Overall, these events fostered an inclusive environment, and we received very positive feedback for all activities throughout both terms.

Term 4 for AMP*D was a fantastic conclusion to the year, filled with exciting activities that brought everyone together. We kicked off with Hall Games, fostering friendly competition and teamwork among youth. The Wide Game Photo Challenge added an adventurous twist, encouraging youth to explore and capture fun moments while working in teams. Our Ice Cream Olympics was a sweet highlight, combining delicious treats with friendly rivalry in a series of fun challenges. Finally, we wrapped up the year with a Water-Themed Night, featuring games and activities that embraced the summer spirit.

AMP*D has been an absolute blast in 2024, and while we're sad to see it come to an end along with our Year 8 youth leaving for high school, we're excited for the new chapter of fun and memorable moments that 2025 will bring. We eagerly welcome the incoming Year 6 youth, offering them the chance to dive into the lively chaos of AMP*D. This transition not only allows us to celebrate the achievements of our outgoing members but also opens the door for fresh faces to create lasting memories in our community.

Jireh



REFLECTIONS FROM...

Cushla Arihi Hapuku Te Nahu

What are some fav memories for you being involved in Epic

Going on the camps

What do you like about being involved in Epic programs and how does that make you feel?

Making new friends

How has Epic supported you?

I enjoy going, it's fun.



Hope Hopkins

What are some fav memories for you being involved in Epic

Having plenty of fun in the games that the kids get stuck into

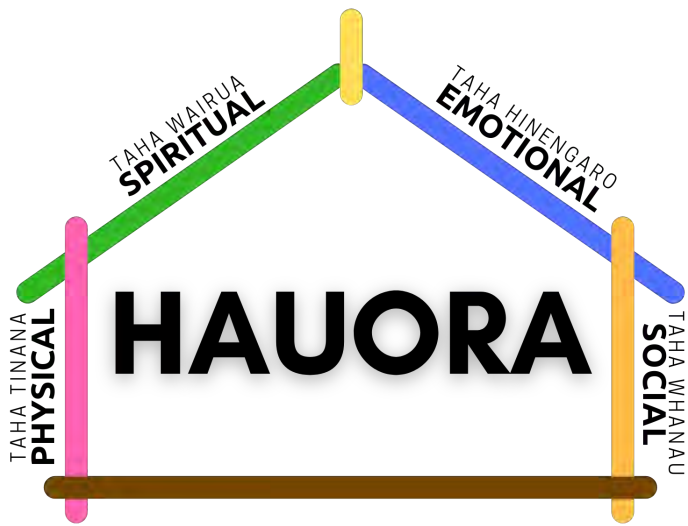
What do you like about being involved in Epic programs and how does that make you feel?

How I can be a role model for the youth

How has Epic supported you?

Yes they have supported me majorly over the time being I have helped out there and really made me feel seen when I have an opinion I felt that needed to be shared





The Hauora program is an in-school teaching experience for our intermediate students, focusing on well-being and the holistic model of Te Whare Tapa Whā. This program emphasizes the four cornerstones of well-being: taha tinana (physical), taha hinengaro (mental), taha whānau (family), and taha wairua (spiritual), helping students understand the importance of balance in their lives.

We began the program at local schools Terrace and Waipukurau Primary for the first two terms. As we reached the end of Term 2, we expanded to Pukehou and Otane Primary for another two terms. Each school participated in around nine sessions, with every session dedicated to discussing the idea of well-being and how to balance the body and mind with personal life challenges.

We were very fortunate to have help from two gateway students, Maia and Tiare, who attend Central Hawkes Bay College. They supported and facilitated some activities during Hauora and shared their past experiences related to the topics we discussed in our sessions. Their insights added depth to our conversations and made the sessions even more relatable for the students.

Additionally, the program included sessions on building healthy relationships, the importance of healthy diets and rest, understanding the significance of family support, which emphasizes the importance of connection and community. Creative activities like art and journaling allowed students to express their feelings and reflect on their personal journeys.

The feedback from students has been very positive. Many appreciated having a safe space to discuss challenges and learn coping strategies. At the end of session 9, students will also be able to keep work booklets for reference, allowing them to revisit discussions or situations that may arise in the future.

Overall, the Hauora program has successfully created an inclusive environment where students can thrive both personally and socially. By focusing on the principles of Te Whare Tapa Whā, we are fostering a culture of well-being that will benefit our students now and in the future. We look forward to continuing this journey and exploring even more ways to support our students' holistic health!



REFLECTIONS FROM...

Joanne Te Atua (Whanau)

How has Epic supported your young person/people?

Our grand daughter returned from a week at camp with a renewed vigor for outdoor activities with a willingness to participate more in a wider whanau setting

What are some highlights you have seen/heard from your youth/people being involved in Epic?

A highlight we had noticed on our grand daughters return was how she would take her little cousins under her wing, and to spend more time with them playing and encouraging them to "do their best" which is something she had little time for previous

What strengths have you noticed developed in/or changes seen in your young person/people while being part of Epic?

To be more hands on without being asked or nagged lol

To be more involved with those younger than herself

Further comments

Thank you very much EPIC for everything, it was an awesome experience for us all, and would recommend it to anyone

Aiorangi Bellamy

What are some fav memories for you being involved in Epic

I enjoyed going to Taupo with all my friends including Millie, Lucy, Shaelah, Cushla, and Marli. It was fun, the food was yum and the games, activities and trips were really fun.

What do you like about being involved in Epic programs and how does that make you feel?

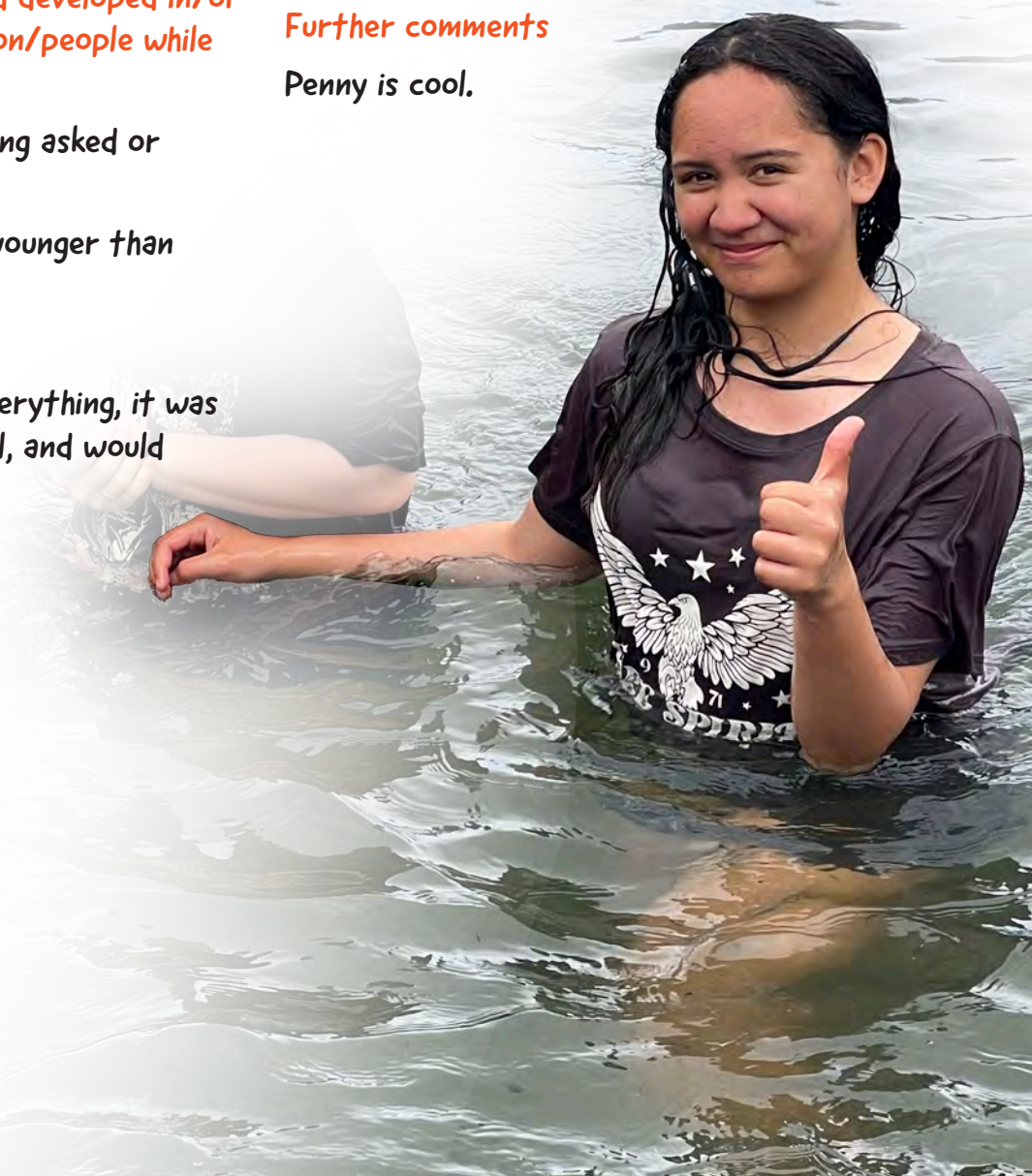
It's fun & Its cool because of the leaders. The leaders are fun and hangout with us. They all make me happy & excited. I

How has Epic supported you?

They have taught me things like my emotional, physical & social wellbeing.

Further comments

Penny is cool.



DA ROYZ

'The boys' group program is an intermediate-aged boys' group that is all about sports and fun activities. It has been a great opportunity, bringing together a small group of boys from local primary schools every Thursday after school. This program started not too long ago, and even though there weren't too many kids, the energy was high, and everyone had a great time.

Before starting our activities, we would have some afternoon tea, which sometimes included pizza or fish and chips along with fizzy drinks. This helped build friendships and set a positive tone for the day.

We enjoyed a variety of sports, mostly basketball, but we also played lawn bowls and went on some bike rides, encouraging teamwork, friendly competition, and a bit of adventurous exercise. The boys also seemed to enjoy playing table tennis and using the pool table, resulting in lots of laughs and fun.

One of the best moments was our drive up to Pukeora Lookout, where we enjoyed the beautiful views and treated ourselves to some ice cream. It was a perfect way to cool off on a hot day and unwind a bit after school.

We were also fortunate to have help from students at the local high school, who provided support and added energy throughout the program, making it even more enjoyable for everyone.

'The boys' group program was created to provide a supportive space where young men can build strong friendships, grow in character, and learn valuable life skills together. This group also revolves around our organization's values (Respect, encouragement, Participation, Growth and Aroha). Even though we began the program halfway through the year, I've found that the goals and ideas planned for the group were greatly succeeded throughout that time.

Overall, the boys group program has created a fun and welcoming space for all. With a mix of sports, food, biking, and exploring, the boys made great memories together. We can't wait to continue this journey and plan even more exciting activities in the future!

Jireh



REFLECTIONS FROM...

Ritchie Neemia

What are some fav memories for you being involved in Epic

My fav memories for being involved in Epic is the people and how encouraging and enthusiastic they can be. I also love the activities.

What do you like about being involved in Epic programs and how does that make you feel?

It makes me feel welcomed and joyful when seeing the Epic leaders

How has Epic supported you?

Epic has supported me by helping me find my voice and knowing my true self. I have adapted to step out of my comfort zone and learn about other people's opinions

Further comments

Epic is the best, I would highly recommend this programme :)



LEAP



This year, Leap Mentoring Camps has continued to grow, offering enriching outdoor experiences to young people aged 11 to 13. Across several locations, our camps and day programs have provided opportunities for personal growth, skill development, and meaningful connections through adventure-based learning.

Our first camp of the year was held at Churchview Accommodation on Murphy's Farm, where campers explored nature with a creek walk, cooked a hearty billy stew, spent time in the wool shed, and even tried their hand at grass sliding. These activities fostered teamwork, problem-solving, and independence—core values we aim to instill through our camps.

In the second school holidays, we shifted our focus to day trips. Highlights included a pizza-making competition, a game of bowls supported by David Whitney, and a rock climbing adventure led by David Tait from



Trackme NZ. These day trips not only provided fun and challenges but also allowed campers to try new activities and build confidence in different settings.

Our final camp of the year took place at Whakaipo Bay, where we expanded the adventure with a mix of exciting activities. The campers enjoyed swimming in Otumuheke Stream, a natural hot water stream, and took on the high ropes course at Rock'n Ropes. Kayaking in Acacia Bay was made possible thanks to funding from the Winter Olympics, which allowed us to purchase inflatable kayaks. The camp concluded with a refreshing swim at De Bretts, followed by an exciting day in Rotorua where campers experienced the Monster 4x4 off-road adventure and the Luge—always a camp favourite.





Despite the range of locations and activities, all of our camps share the same commitment to fostering resilience, communication, and teamwork among the youth we serve. Through these outdoor adventures, supported by our incredible mentors, campers not only have fun but also gain valuable life skills and self-confidence.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our high school mentors, who have been

an integral part of our success this year. Talia Pere, Jonah Schaumkel, Hezekiah Schaumkel, Melia Nielsen, James Ganley, Hamish Ganley, and Maria Eduardo have provided invaluable support to the Epic team, helping us run the camps smoothly and ensuring our young campers are well cared for. Their dedication and leadership have made a lasting impact on both the team and the campers.

We would also like to extend our gratitude to the providers who generously support our initiatives. Their contributions play a key role in enabling us to deliver high-quality, cost-effective programs. We deeply appreciate the expertise, time, and enthusiasm they invest in helping make these experiences accessible and impactful for our youth.



We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who has supported Leap Mentoring Camps this year, in particular Megan Dallimore PGG Wrightson Real Estate Sponsorship—your contributions have made all the difference. As we look ahead, we're excited for another year of growth, adventure, and impact. By continuing to nurture strong mentoring relationships and offering diverse learning experiences, we are committed to empowering the next generation to reach their full potential.

Penny Single



REFLECTIONS FROM...

Aimee Davis (Whanau)

How has Epic supported your young person/people?

It has helped his confidence a lot. Also, he has had a place to go to where I know he is supported and cared for. Through this, he has had the freedom a pre-teens wants but in a safe place.

What are some highlights you have seen/heard from your youth/people being involved in Epic?

The activities and camps have been spoken of lots. Also, Da Boyz group has provided a safe place with a great role model.

What strengths have you noticed developed in/or changes seen in your young person/people while being part of Epic?

In leadership roles at school he has stepped up, problem solved, communicated better and shown commitment to his roles. Ezra has also had a lot of opportunities to do things that we're unable to do currently.

Further comments

Thank you, especially to Jireh and Penny who have really supported my son this year. My daughter now can't wait to be a part of the Epic family when she's old enough.

This programme has financially provided what I could not always have done myself from my own pocket, and for that I am grateful for.

Ezra Kingi

What are some fav memories for you being involved in Epic

Da Boyz was good even though it was just a small group. I like food. I did Leap camps and Da Boyz my favourite thing at Leap was all the fun experiences.

What do you like about being involved in Epic programs and how does that make you feel?

Hanging out with my friends like Jarod, Denon & Drayus. I like hanging with our leaders

How has Epic supported you?

Jireh has supported my love of sports. A place to hang with my friends.



REFLECTIONS FROM...

Lucy Craig

What are some fav memories for you being involved in Epic

Definitely Leap, meeting new people, doing fun activities, trying new experiences and making heaps of memories.

What do you like about being involved in Epic programs and how does that make you feel?

I like being involved in Epic activities like Leap because it helps me grow as kid building new friendships and overcoming fears that I might have before I do the activities. It makes me feel like I can do those things and I have grown as a person.

How has Epic supported you?

Epic has supported me by challenging me with new activities so I can grow as a person also Epic has always been there since I was little and all the leaders are amazing and kind always ready to support me no matter what.

Further comments

Epic is an amazing organisation and has helped me grow as a person and a leader.

Jono Craig (Whanau)

How has Epic supported your young person/people?

My daughter Lucy, has really enjoyed finally being old enough to attend LEAP camp this year!

She has made great connections with students from other schools

What are some highlights you have seen/heard from your youth/people being involved in Epic?

Lucy loved the Monster 4WD activity.

Enjoyed staying out at Di's farm

What strengths have you noticed developed in/or changes seen in your young person/people while being part of Epic?

Building new friendships. Her leadership skills are growing. She is encouraged to care for those around her.

Further comments

Epic holds some pretty special memories for me and I'm stoked that my daughter gets to make some special memories with your team too. Thank you.



YOUTH PROGRAMS 2024



REFLECTIONS FROM...

Hamish Ganley

What are some fav memories for you being involved in Epic

FFTF, LIFT, Leap, Youth council, making the best toast(not done yet but it will)

What do you like about being involved in Epic programs and how does that make you feel?

Involved with the community, Growth, Aroha, Participation, Respect

How has Epic supported you?

Epic has supported my growth in the community.

Further comments

Toast making competition would be fun



Terehia Te whaiti

What are some fav memories for you being involved in Epic

My favourite memories I have had since I have been coming to Epic is a hard thing to say since everything we have done has been fun.

What do you like about being involved in Epic programs and how does that make you feel?

Coming to Mauri Ora has been a great way for me to be more social and just a fun time to hang out with my friends more out of school. I love that when I am with Ari I can be out of my comfort zone and still comfortable at the same time.

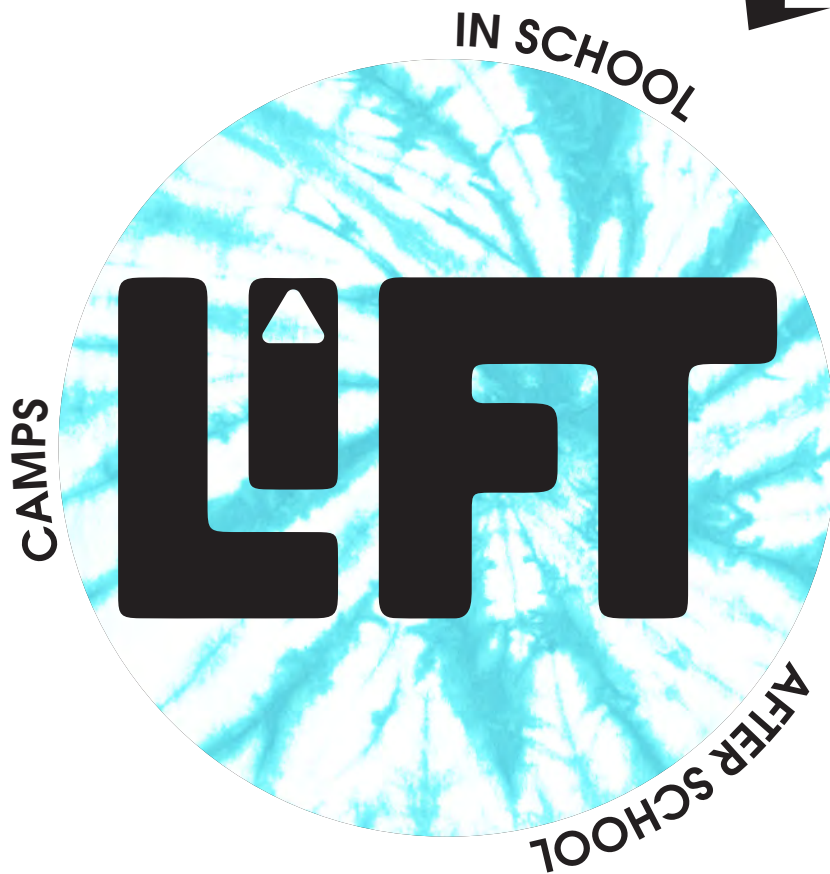
How has Epic supported you?

Epic has made me more comfortable doing the things I don't normally do.



HIGH SCHOOL

[epic]



Who For: Youth years 9-13

Where: Epic Ministries Hall, ST Andrews St.

Time: Friday 7 - 9pm (fortnightly)

@epicministries_



HIGH SCHOOL 2023

LiFT



connections and friendships that extend beyond LiFT. The sense of community we've built is truly heartwarming, making LiFT not just a program, but a family.

Embracing "Your Story":

This year at LiFT, we embraced the theme "Your Story," focusing on the power of personal narratives. While we've always aimed to understand and support our youth, we realise how important it was for them to know our stories too. Each night we introduced a new adult leader or youth leader, who shared their journey complete with experiences, challenges and triumphs. This initiative not only fostered deeper connections but also empowered our rangatahi to reflect on their own stories. Learning about diverse life experiences created a supportive environment where everyone felt encouraged to share, building a community grounded in faith and understanding. We loved hearing how Jesus has impacted and encouraged our leaders' lives and watching them share this love with your young people.

MasterChef and Sports Nights:

Our culinary skills were put to the test in a lively MasterChef competition! Youth teamed up to whip up delicious dishes, showcasing their creativity and teamwork. We also took our youth to the local college gym for an action-packed sports night! From dodgeball to volleyball, everyone showcased their athleticism and had a blast competing together.

Epic Disco:

We hosted our very first high school disco - an unforgettable night filled with high energy and lots of fun. With dance competitions and a performance from the Evolve Dance Club, the disco was a huge success, filled with laughter and connection. We can't wait to make it an annual tradition!

These fun nights not only provided a break from the routine but also allowed our rangatahi to bond, build friendships, and create lasting memories. Each event has been a testament to the vibrant community we've cultivated at LiFT

Here's to another wonderful year - Ari Henson

L.I.F.T- Living. In. Faith. Together

As we wrap up another amazing year, I'm thrilled to share the highlights from our high school youth group program, LiFT—Living In Faith Together! Meeting on alternate Friday nights from 6 PM to 8 PM, LiFT has become a vibrant space for our rangatahi to connect, learn, and grow.

Expanding Our Community Hub:

This year, we expanded our offerings with an after-school hangout space, transforming Friday nights into a community hub! Thanks to our incredible volunteers from St. Andrews and generous youth families, we've been able to serve delicious dinners to all who arrive early. From devilled sausages to mac n cheese, nachos, and American hot dogs, our meals have made Fridays something to look forward to.

Games and Bonding:

Before diving into our evening programs, we organise a variety of interactive games that got everyone moving and laughing. Whether it was volleyball, basketball, guitar hero, cards or table tennis, these activities have been a fantastic way for our youth to bond and break the ice. The after-school hangout has proven invaluable, fostering deeper



REFLECTIONS FROM...

Hannah Webster

What are some fav memories for you being involved in Epic

In 2023 definitely Rise Up. And the slip and slides and the youth weeks!

What do you like about being involved in Epic programs and how does that make you feel?

I feel appreciated and as though people want me around!

How has Epic supported you?

Literally in everything. Particularly my leadership and confidence

Further comments

Love yall

Rita Simiona Graham

What are some fav memories for you being involved in Epic

My most favourite memory was 2021 Insomnia night. I made so many new connections and friends through that activity, which helped me to be where I am today with Epic

What do you like about being involved in Epic programs and how does that make you feel?

I enjoy being a part of Epic because every program has a welcoming environment and also a place where I feel safe and heard

How has Epic supported you?

Epic has supported me all throughout my schooling life especially when I had first moved to Waipukurau 6 years ago, Epic had welcomed me and my brothers to their program which had encouraged us to make new friends and connections with the other youth that also go to Epic.



MAURI ORA



Creativity. Our artistic was expressed through cupcake decorating and candle-making sessions. Its always nice to create something and bring it home to share with family/ friends. We also painted on canvas and personalised our own tie dye clothing which was a hit!

Sports. We took advantage of the good weather and made sure to be outside whether it was spiking in volleyball or shooting hoops in basketball we had a great time. These sessions helped us build teamwork skills while having a blast.

One of the most rewarding aspects of Mauri Ora has been witnessing our youth support one another. Whether cheering each other on during sports or offering encouragement during creative projects. This supportive environment empowered everyone to step outside their comfort zones and try new things.

At the heart of Mauri Ora is a commitment to journey alongside our rangatahi in CHB Tamatea, guided by the holistic model of Te Whare Tapa Whā. Our aim is to nurture not just skills, but also the wairua (spirit) of each participant, fostering a sense of balance across their physical, emotional, mental, and relational well-being.

He waka eke noa.

We are all in this together / We got this, fam!

This whakataukī has several meanings, one of which is “a waka we are all in together” – we are all in this together – we rise together, fall together, work together, keep going together.

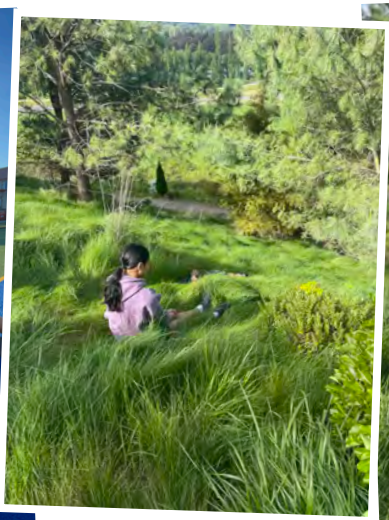
-Ari Henson



As the school year wraps up, we're excited to reflect on all the amazing experiences we've shared at Mauri Ora, our afterschool program. Meeting every Wednesday from 3:30 to 5 PM, our group of 8 high school students has made this year truly special. Our highlights at Mauri Ora were:

Adventures in nature, exploring the beautiful Lindsay Bush, Pukeora Hill and Pukekaihou Pā helped us connect with nature but also sparked our curiosity about the environment around us.

Hands on learning. Who knew changing a tyre could be so empowering? This year, we rolled up our sleeves and dove into the mechanics of cars. Our tyre-changing workshop was a hit, giving everyone a valuable life skill thank you Zak for coming in and sharing your knowledge with us.



REFLECTIONS FROM...

Isabelle Single-Forster

What are some fav memories for you being involved in Epic

my favourite memories would probably just be hanging with everyone and having some fun going and seeing cool places

What do you like about being involved in Epic programs and how does that make you feel?

I have enjoyed many things but mainly I have liked knowing that I have a group outside of Kura that I can go to and have fun but also that I have people that I can go to to talk to about things.

How has Epic supported you?

Epic has supported me in many ways but the main way and most helpful way would be helping me be a better youth.



Annebel Barnes

What are some fav memories for you being involved in Epic

I like turning up to the youth group programs

What do you like about being involved in Epic programs and how does that make you feel?

it makes me feel happy being able to join in and play games with other people

How has Epic supported you?

Epic has helped me develop in leadership roles and Epic gives me a space to hangout after school and a place to look forward to



Travellers



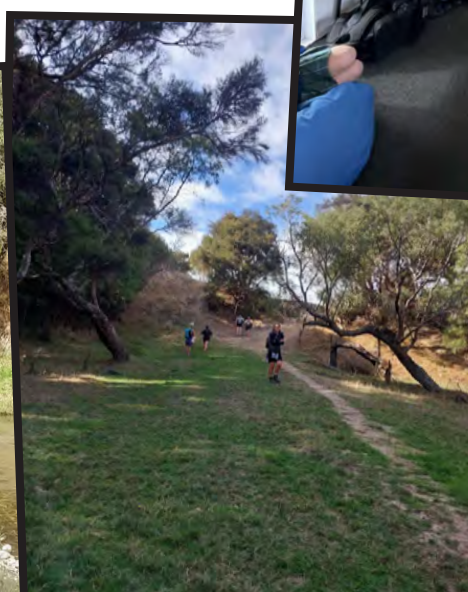
Travellers is a program we run at CHB College Youth Hub, focusing on building resilience, connectedness, self-esteem, and self-confidence among Year 9 students. Throughout the program, we explored core themes including “Life is a Journey,” “I’m Okay,” “Express Yourself,” “I Think Therefore I Am.” In total, we facilitated six groups across terms 1, 2, and 3, with two groups each term. In term 4, we reconnected with 20 Travellers participants for a focused 4-week group that centred on creating dream boards. This year, we had over 60 Year 9 students complete the program. Approximately 40% of the participants transitioned into the LIFT and other Epic programs, highlighting the program’s positive impact on their personal development.

We thoroughly enjoyed facilitating the Travellers program this year. Witnessing the youth connect with each other, engage in activities, and learn new ways to manage stress has been incredibly rewarding. We look forward to building on this success in the coming year.

Few words from Di

At the end of each term we endeavour to bring the kids out to our farm at Flemington. If the weather is fine, we do a walk through the creek and bush to our special place where the kids can run, slide, wade and play, and if time permits, light fires and cook up a Billy stew. It is always fun and rewarding to see the kids enjoy the outdoors. For many, it is their first time on a farm, so it awesome to see them gain confidence when challenging themselves to try new experiences.

-Ari Henson & Di Murphy



REFLECTIONS FROM...

Jayda-Leigh Wereta

What are some fav memories for you being involved in Epic

At Travellers we went to Di's farm and we made personalised candles and glitter slime! It was nice to take something home with us. We went in sacks and slid down the hill, I loved the group I was in the people made it really fun. Most of my friends I previously met at Ngaruru.

What do you like about being involved in Epic programs and how does that make you feel?

I like meeting new people and connecting with people that I haven't talked to at school before. It makes me feel happy and excited being involved. It makes me want to come to school knowing I have Travellers.

How has Epic supported you?

It has helped me more emotionally.

Further comments

Travellers should be a module at school, cause why not? I want more options for modules.



Explore

Explore is a program hosted at the youth hub for Year 9-10 girls at CHB College. During this mentoring program, the youth involved connect through a shared journey of reflection and discovery, focusing on their individual paths, passions, strengths, and values. The aim of Explore is to empower rangatahi to uncover their true potential, celebrate their uniqueness, and build their self-confidence.

We follow the Epic resource booklet 'Your Story,' and each page we can decorate and journal how ever we like. In the booklet it prompts us by setting personal goals,

identifying role models, navigating choices and challenges, understanding whakapapa and understanding our emotions/ feelings.

During Explore, we enjoyed sitting outside to chat and do icebreakers. At times, we also met in the school whare to play Māori games and engage in journaling activities.

As we continue to refine and enhance the Explore program, we remain committed to fostering a supportive space where rangatahi can thrive and develop a stronger sense of self.

-Ari Henson



REFLECTIONS FROM...

John Dalemar Mananes

What are some fav memories for you being involved in Epic

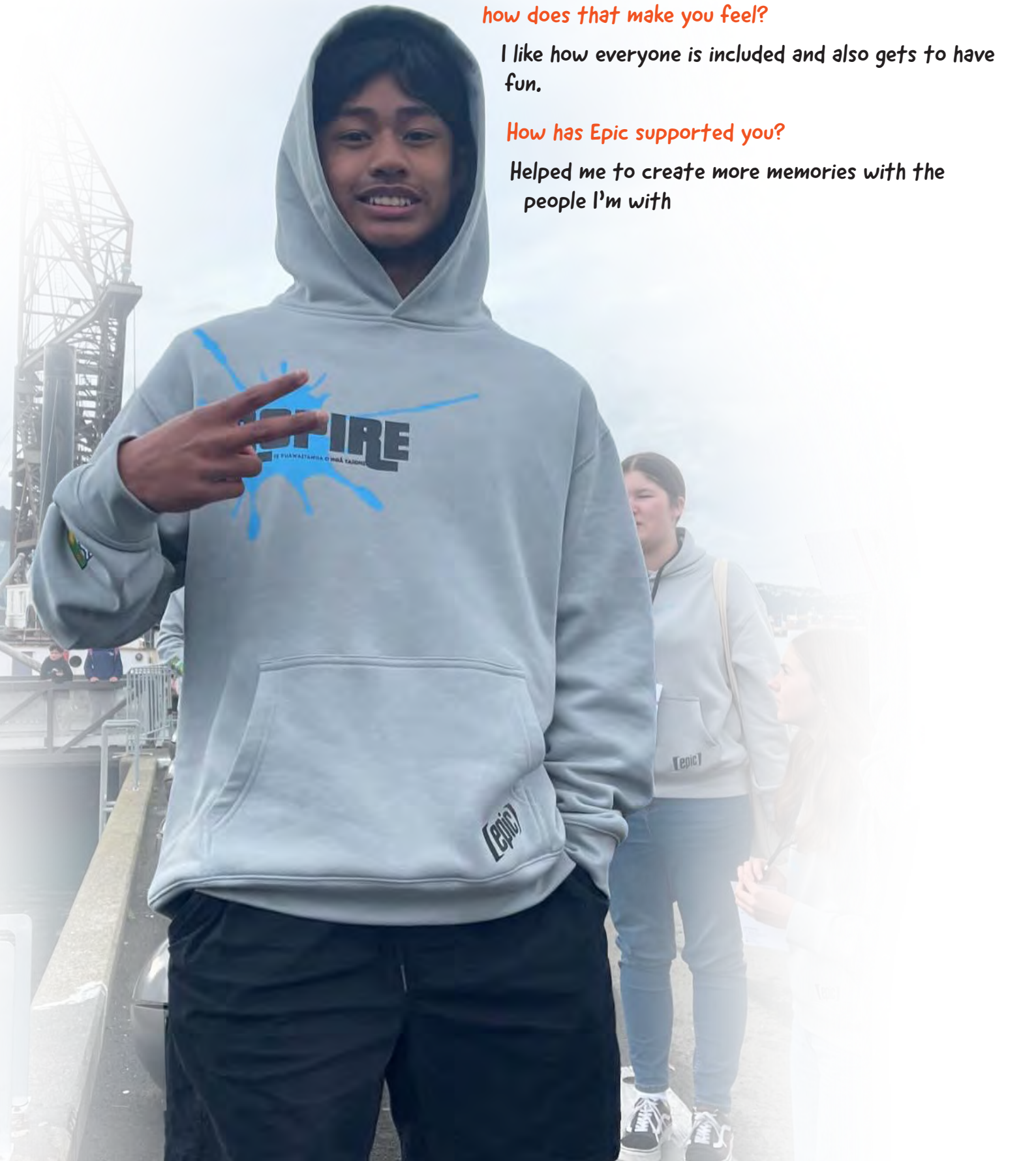
The whole FFTF, Youth weeks, Boys group

What do you like about being involved in Epic programs and how does that make you feel?

I like how everyone is included and also gets to have fun.

How has Epic supported you?

Helped me to create more memories with the people I'm with



Te Puawaitanga o Ngā Taiohi

YOUTH COUNCIL

The Youth Council is composed of 10 dedicated students: Rita Simiona and Hannah Webster, who are the lead representatives, supported by Lucas Perceval, Olivia McDonald, Hamish Ganley, Hezekiah Schaumkel, Libby Burne, Isaac Ellwood, Jafet Monegro, and John Dalemán Mananes.

As the Youth Worker at Epic Ministries, I, Ariana-Jean, facilitate meetings with the Youth Council and collaborate closely with council representatives Rita Simiona and Hannah Webster. Our primary objective is to amplify youth voices and help realise their visions and ideas. We are committed to supporting and addressing issues or proposals from young people in our community while fostering a safe and inclusive environment through the Youth Hub. The past year has been both exciting and productive, building on our mission to empower young people and promote community engagement. This annual report highlights our key achievements, activities, and future goals.

Engagement with Local Leaders

Our termly meetings with Mayor Alex and Deputy Mayor Kelly Annand have been pivotal. These interactions have inspired us to



explore new ideas and concepts, providing valuable insights and strengthening our connection with the wider community. They serve as a reminder that we are the voices of our generation.

Youth Weeks and Lunchtime Activities

Youth Weeks have been a major highlight this year. With the absence of phones in schools, we observed increased engagement from young people in our activities. This term's theme was "He aha te mea nui te ao? He tangata he tangata, he tangata!" – "What is the most important thing in the world? It is people, it is people, it is people!" We designed activities to promote inclusivity, teamwork, and mutual support, reinforcing the importance of community and connection.

Reflecting on last year's report, we focused on addressing bullying within our community. Our promotion and execution of Pink Shirt Day played a crucial role in raising awareness and creating a culture of kindness and respect. During Pink Shirt Day, we conducted various interactive events, such as role-playing scenarios and kindness challenges, to help students practice and reinforce positive behaviours. The success of Pink Shirt Day has inspired ongoing anti-bullying initiatives, and we remain committed to addressing bullying through regular educational programs, workshops, and support services.

Community Impact and Future Goals

Throughout the year, our initiatives have positively impacted the community. By fostering a sense of belonging and encouraging active participation, we have contributed to a more engaged and connected youth community. Our activities have provided opportunities for personal growth, leadership development, and community service.

Breakfast Club

In addition to our other activities, the Youth Council successfully ran the Breakfast Club every second Thursday from 8:00 to 9:00 AM at the Youth Hub during Terms 2 and 3. This initiative





was aimed at providing a welcoming start to the day for students and fostering a sense of community.

Each session featured a variety of breakfast options, including:

Spaghetti Toasties A warm and hearty choice that was popular among attendees.

Pancakes perfect for a morning treat.

Porridge A wholesome option to start the day off right.

To complement these meals, we also served very sugary Milos, which were a hit with the students and added a touch of sweetness to their morning. The Breakfast Club not only provided nutritious food but also created a friendly and supportive environment for students to socialise and engage with each other. It served as a valuable platform for fostering connections and building a sense of belonging within our school community.

Festival For the Future

One of the most exciting opportunities this year was attending the Festival For the Future (FFTF) in Wellington. A group of 18 youth and 5 adults represented our Council over four days. Highlights of this experience included:

Mayor's Lunch - We were honoured to attend a special lunch with various Youth Councils from across the country, providing a platform for networking and idea-sharing.

Inspiring Speakers - The event featured numerous speakers who shared their stories and empowered us with their experiences. The talks were both motivational and educational, offering new perspectives on youth engagement and leadership.

Learning and Networking - The festival allowed us to learn, have fun, and make new friends and connections, enriching our experience and broadening our horizons.

During our time in Wellington for the Festival For the Future (FFTF), we took advantage of the opportunity to engage in various



team-building and recreational activities. These experiences not only enriched our trip but also strengthened our group dynamics and provided a fun break from the festival's schedule. Some of the highlights included:

We held a very competitive pizza-making competition with Mayor Alex as our judge

We participated in an exhilarating experience at Cyber Ninja Punk in Lower Hutt, which featured high ropes and a spongy obstacle course. A visit to Te Papa the national museum, provided us with an opportunity to explore New Zealand's rich cultural and natural history. We spent some time shopping and exploring Cuba Street, this provided a great chance to unwind and enjoy Wellington's lively atmosphere.

These activities contributed significantly to the overall success of our trip, enhancing our teamwork, and creating lasting memories. They also provided valuable downtime and recreational fun, complementing the professional development gained at FFTF.

Goals:

Expanding Our Reach - We aim to involve more young people in our activities and continue engaging with local leaders to drive meaningful change. Mainly focusing on connecting with Te Aute College. We plan to introduce new activities and initiatives that address emerging issues and interests among the youth.

Strengthening Partnerships - We will seek to build and strengthen partnerships with other organisations and youth councils to enhance our impact and effectiveness.

Acknowledgements

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Mayor Alex, Deputy Mayor Kelly Annand, and Christine Renata for their continued support and inspiration. We also appreciate the dedication of our volunteers, the enthusiasm of the youth participants, and the community members who have supported our initiatives throughout the year.

This year has been marked by growth, engagement, and meaningful experiences. We look forward to building on our successes and continuing to make a positive impact in the year ahead.

Ariana-Jean Henson

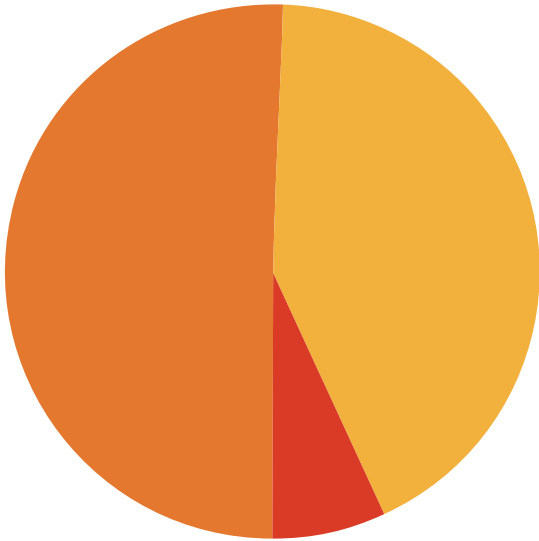
MINISTRY OF YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

2024 PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK SURVEY

The graphs below give an overview of the responses of 233 youth participants in Epic programs and initiatives this year.

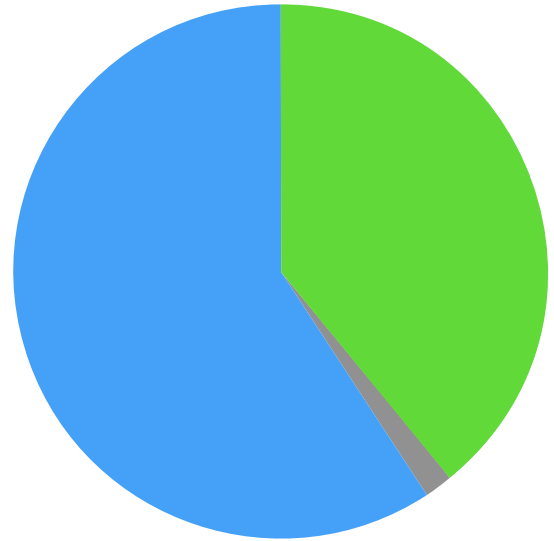
Overall, how happy were you with the programme?

Very Happy - 50.64% Happy - 42.49% Unsure - 6.87%

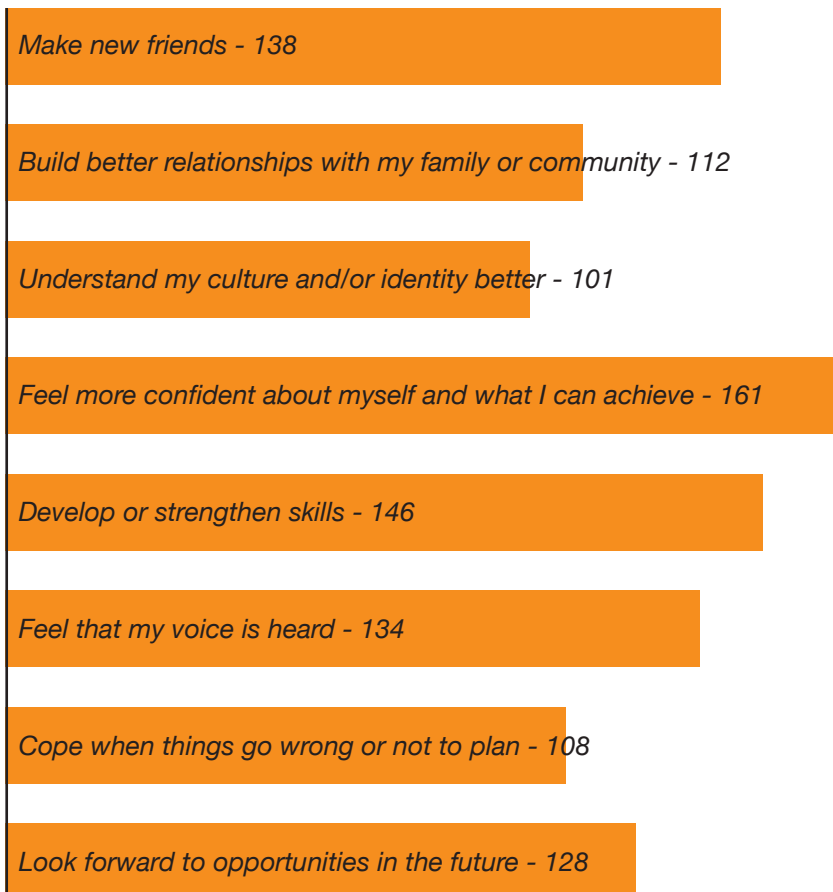


How happy were you with the staff/facilitators?

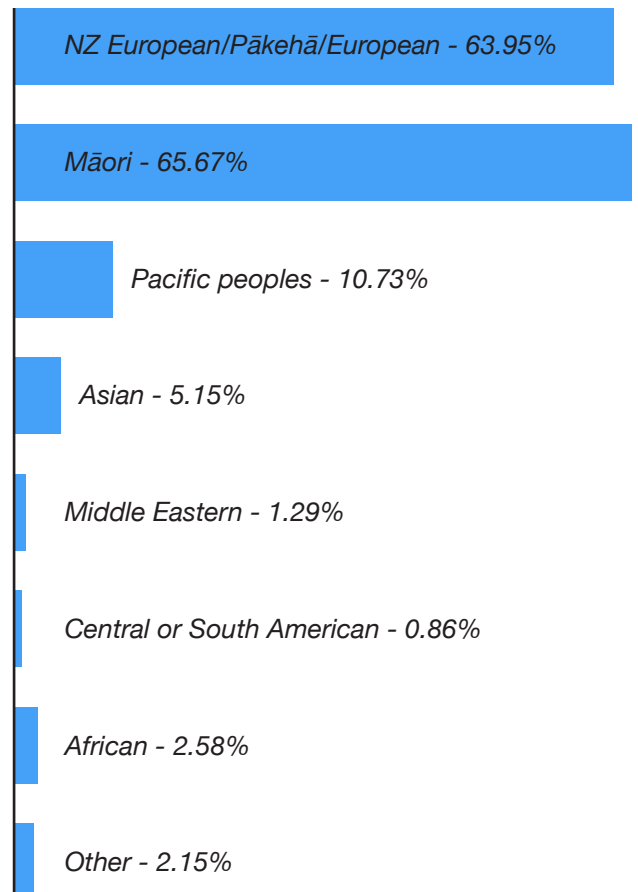
Very Happy - 59.23% Happy - 39.06% Unsure - 1.72%



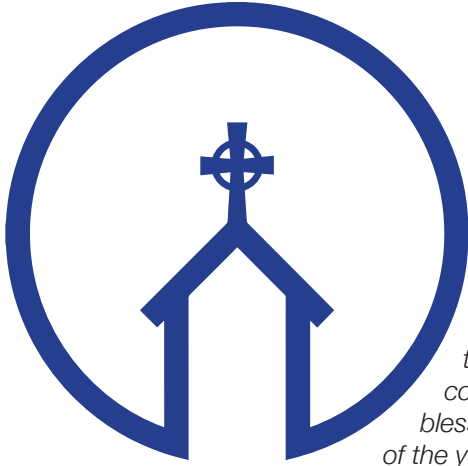
Participating in the programme has helped me to:



Which ethnic group (or groups) do you identify as?



A WORD FROM OUR COLLABORATIVE PARTNERS



Epic is nothing short of amazing! Sharing the offices with the Epic Team, gives the St Andrews staff a unique appreciation of what goes on in the background to running Epic. The heart and dedication the team have for the youth in Central Hawkes Bay and the community in general is to be commended. Our community is all the richer for their involvement and we are blessed as a church to be able to partner with Epic to make a difference in the lives of the young people they serve.

Evan & Sally Huggett, key leaders of St Andrews CHB.



**NEW ZEALAND
POLICE**
Ngā Pirihimana o Aotearoa

Kia ora, I am a Police Officer based in Hawkes Bay and Central Hawkes Bay. My position is a School Community Officer, which means I work in all the schools in CHB. This means from time to time I have the opportunity for me to work alongside the Team at Epic Ministries. I find the relationship between Police and the team at Epic is strong. It is one that's has been nurtured over many years with those strong connections still there today.

Their organisation is made up of a group of committed and hardworking people. They have a great mixture of youth and experience within team so they can effortlessly connect with the youth. They give tirelessly to the community taking every opportunity to engage with our rangatahi, at schools, and community groups and at events.

Epic's relationship with the CHB youth is excellent. Through the many different activities Epic run or are involved in allows them to engage with a wide range of youths. Some of the activities that the youth experience would not happen if it wasn't for Epic. That opportunity for our youth to experience new places, new activities and new friends is an important part of their development.

I am on several committees and there is always at least one staff member from Epic involved if not more. The staff are big contributors in the planning and development of all matters pertaining to youth in CHB.

I have said many times "CHB don't know how lucky they are to have the services of Epic Ministries."

*Che Lind
School Community Officer*



**CENTRAL
HAWKE'S BAY**
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Central Hawke's Bay District Council is proud to partner with EPIC Ministries, working alongside the amazing team to support youth development in Central Hawke's Bay. Thank you to the 2024 Youth Council members for working alongside us and providing a voice for youth in our community - you all bring such value and perspective that adds a richness to our work and decision making. The team at EPIC touch the lives of so many young people and their families - congratulations on another busy and successful year.

*Christine Renata
CHB District Council*

A WORD FROM OUR COLLABORATIVE PARTNERS

OTANE



EPIC HAUORA PROGRAMME IN SCHOOLS:

We feel so fortunate to have had EPIC in our school (Otane) during term 3 and 4 this year. Penny and her team bring an engaging and cool vibe to our classroom (year 7 & 8's). The kids in Rimu class absolutely love our "Epic" sessions. I love watching them, as their teacher, having so much fun playing games and completing the activities that they don't even realise they're learning! Penny and her team covered some tough topics with these pre-teens such as how to cope with stress, respond to challenging situations, make healthy habits and decisions, care for our emotional and mental health, foster healthy friendships, and explore our spiritual being/essence.

The way Penny and her team engage these young adolescents is truly inspirational. They hit just the right balance of relaxed/chill coupled with high expectations. The relationships they foster with our rangatahi are very genuine and effective. The fact that my students see them out and about at community events as well really helps them connect in meaningful ways with the EPIC team and the programme. I thank Penny and her team from the bottom of my heart for the mahi they have done with my class - it is truly appreciated.

Whaea Jen (Year 7 & 8 teacher) Otane School



Once again Central Hawke's Bay College has been fortunate to have the EPIC team as one of our partners over the 2024 school year. The involvement with our Travellers programme has seen them work with our Year 9 students, supporting their transition into College. They have often brightened our break times with an array of activities and experiences that engage all our rangatahi in such a caring and positive way. Thank you EPIC team, you are amazing and I can't wait until 2025 to see your involvement in our school for another year. Nāu te rourou, nāku te rourou, ka ora ai te iwi

Lance Christiansen- Principal CHB College



Thanks EPIC for another amazing year of service to our kura and community. It's always great to have your presence in our kura and our tamariki have enjoyed engaging in your Hauora programme this year. I love hearing the stories of fun, challenge and growth that come back from Leap camps. Highlights for me this year were your disco and carnival. We so appreciate the way you weave into our kura values of whakawhanaungatanga and aroha--he waka eke noa.

Matua Anaru - Principal The Terrace



epic supporters support us support youth in CHB

A note from the Treasurer....

As we approach the last few weeks of 2024 I reflect on the ebb and flow of the needs of rangatahi in our community, and the effective and responsive youth work that is required to address them across a wide variety of circumstances. Epic has long been appreciated for its ability to pivot and respond and this year as always has seen several opportunities to continue doing this. I admire that our team is able to step in and advocate for, support and cheerlead for the youth, as well as have a lot of fun alongside them! We have an awesome team of enthusiastic and dedicated staff and volunteers who work with hundreds of youth across CHB, facilitating programs and activities in school, after school and on camps.

Here's a snapshot of our income streams this year:-

- \$33,000 – A/P regular supporter donations
- \$31,000 – Other one-off donations
- \$21,600 – St Andrews Church support
- \$25,000 – Pastoral care gifts
- \$202,000 – MYD Contract (Admin/Facilitation/Program - mentoring)

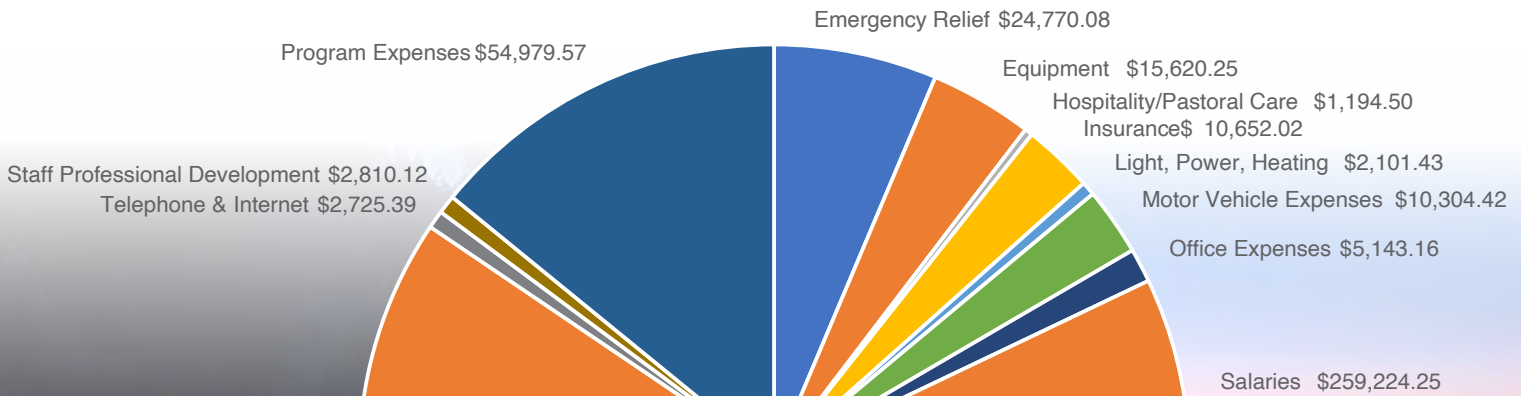
- \$30,000 – ECCT Rangatahi Champion funding
- \$15,170 – Oranga Tamariki (Travellers program)
- \$14,500 - Council Youth Development Contract (Inspire)
- \$79,250 – Grants (as below)
- \$17,500 – Interest – on advance paid contract funding, and operational reserves on term deposits
- \$6,400 – program income eg camp fees

Heartfelt thanks once more to MSD, MYD, Lottery Community Funding, Royston Health Trust, Eastern and Central Community Trust, CHBDC, Winifred Eliza May Estate, AB De Latour, COGS, Tasman Smith Charitable Trust, Hawkes Bay Foundation, John Holt Charitable Trust, Megan Dallimore PGG Wrightson Real Estate, Frimley Foundation, Rotary, St Andrews Church, Waipawa Cooperating Parish, CHB College Students Assoc, plus our regular AP supporters who continue to help fund Epic's work through generous giving

– we do not take your contributions for granted and make sure that every gifted dollar is making a difference.

Jackie – EPIC Co-Leader, Treasurer of the Trust

Expenses



2024 EPIC TEAM



Di Murphy
Youth Worker
High School



Jireh Schaumkel
Youth Worker
Intermediate



Rita Simiona
Intern
Intermediate



Ari Henson
Youth Worker
High School



Alex Ngarotata
Youth Worker
Intermediate
(Finished in March)



Tayla Morris
Registered Social Worker
High School
(Finished in May)



Jackie Lowry
Co-Leader
Administrator
027-3097156



Penny Single
Co-Leader
Youth Practice
027-6534176



Epic Trustees: Greg Frater (Chairman), Laurie Gordon (Secretary), Jackie Lowry, Jono Craig

EPIC is overseen by a small group of trustees (Jackie Lowry, Greg Frater, Laurie Gordon and Jono Craig). Penny Single (as Co-Leader of EPIC with Jackie) also attends Trust meetings. The Trustees are a governance body (like a school Board of Trustees) and are appointed by St. Andrew's Council. The work of the Trustees goes largely unacknowledged, so as chairperson I want to thank the Trustees for their time and effort over this year and past years. I have seen EPIC emerge from church youth groups such as Anne and I were involved with in the 1990s. It is now a mission organisation, serving the young people of CHB in a non-judgemental way alongside rather than within St. Andrews. We are very proud that EPIC has seen a generation of young people empowered to reach their maximum potential.

Greg Frater - Epic Chairperson

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