

WHAT WE ARE ALL ABOUT.

The Young Dads Group (or YDG) is a mentoring programme that aims to provide young dads with support and better links with the community.

The objectives are to:

- Promote a healthy and safe lifestyle.
- Learn about safety around their children.
- Engage with each other and have a sense of belonging.
- Provide activity-based mentoring for young dads and encourage them to become better fathers.

We want ALL young dads to develop better knowledge about parenthood, be more connected with each other and have positive older role models.

What do we do?

Mini Catch ups

We meet just to catch up and hang out weekly to see how everything's going. If any of us have any problems, we can bring it up there and we can get advice from the other young dads as well as support from the mentors. But mainly, it's about having a laugh and enjoying ourselves!

Major Events

We also hook up with the other groups that meet around Auckland every second month doing a major event. Sometimes it's the free events that are going on in Auckland, and sometimes we get to do something mean – like Go Karting, Paint Ball, Laser Strike or Ten Pin! But again, it's all about having fun! No matter what we do, we enjoy meeting up with each other and learning about stuff that relates to us.

Text Support

All mentees (young dads) can get the phone numbers of the mentors (the older dads) so that we can call or text them for support whenever! They're not gonna solve all our problems or anything, but they're choice to talk to 'cause they've been there as well and they know what it's like. They also know people that can help us out if we need it.

What do I do?

Keeping in Touch

We expect all mentees (young dads) to keep in touch with the navigator (Jonathan) who sends out newsletters to us monthly and also to our mentors who run our mini catch ups. So if we change our phone numbers, or move to another house, we just need to let someone know!

Commitment

We expect all mentees (young dads) to come to the mini catch ups at least 2 times a month. This way we know who is connected to us and who we should invite for the major events! Haha.

Check out our facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/youngdadsgroup>



Care of YDG

Navigator

Jonathan Hickman

Thrive Teen Parent Support Trust

773 New North Rd

Mt Albert

Auckland 1025 for more information contact Jonathan :

E: jonahan@thrive.org.nz

P: 021833672



THE PLACES WE CATCH-UP



GIFC is right beside the GI Pool
122 Elstree Ave,
Glen Innes



Thrive is based at YMCA,
right by Rocket Park!
713 New North Road,
Mt Albert

JUNE / JULY 2012

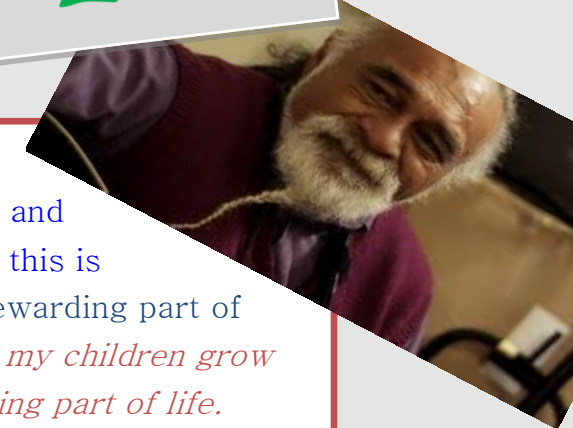
IN THIS EDITION: ~



THE SCRIPT IS THE YOUNG DADS GROUP NEWSLETTER!

tēnā koutou young DADS GROUP!

tahuti mai Tigi Ness
~Fishing event ~ Young
and Doing Okay interview
~



Just recently I caught up with Tigi Ness (Che Foo's Dad!) and asked him some questions that our dads put forward — this is what he had to korero.

1. What do you think is the most rewarding part of being a dad? *What I like best about being a dad is watching my children grow and being there with them. It is a most wonderful and fulfilling part of life.*
2. Did you have a lot of influence on your son's career? *I think I did influence Che in his earlier years. As a little child he grew up around my gigs and band practices. A good friend of mine brought Che to my gigs and put him on his shoulders so that he could see Dad onstage. When Bob Marley came to NZ in 1974 I took Che to meet him—Che was five years-old (just pre-school). That was a powerful influence on Che and Still is.*
3. Did your son ever feel like giving up, and what did you do about it? *When Che was down-and-out (big moment when his friends in Supergroove kicked him out because Che was getting too popular, and they got lawyers to stop him from saying anything about it) – I told him to keep his head up, and come and sing with dad. He did, and brought a young friend with him also (that young friend is today King Kapisi). I said to Che keep busy, but don't give up. He sure was down, those times.*
4. Did you ever give your children advice if so what was it? *To Che's siblings (1 brother and 1 sister) I still say to them "learn to live together in peace & harmony, from now till when you get old". In this world family is all you really have, even your own little family – if you're starting one.*

The Central crew meet at Thrive! Every second Wednesday at 6pm - 8pm
East Crew meet every second Wednesday at the Glen Innes Family Centre
same time... Where is ..? Have a look on the back page for the address's



Young & Doing O.K.

The messages we get from T.V and other areas of the media can give a negative view of young dads. In real life though, here in Aotearoa New Zealand that is not the case. I recently spoke to a young dad called Semi, he shared with me his story.

I had never met Semi before but he was a mate of a mate, so we had something in common, oh, he is a dad and I am a dad so we have something else in common! I had a short chat with Semi about being a young dad and asked him a couple of questions...



So far this Year YDGD have been fishing. The evening was a success and the young guys' seemed to catch more fish than the not so young guys' **WHATS UP WITH THAT!**

The event was an opportunity for all of us to get know each other a bit more. There were conversations and korero happening all night long between the mentees and mentors.

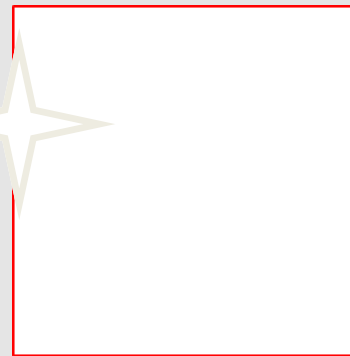
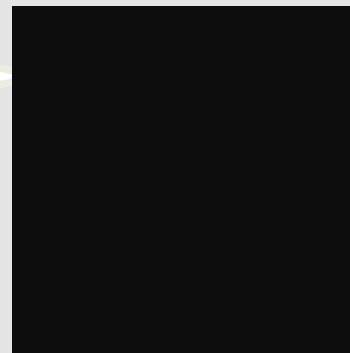
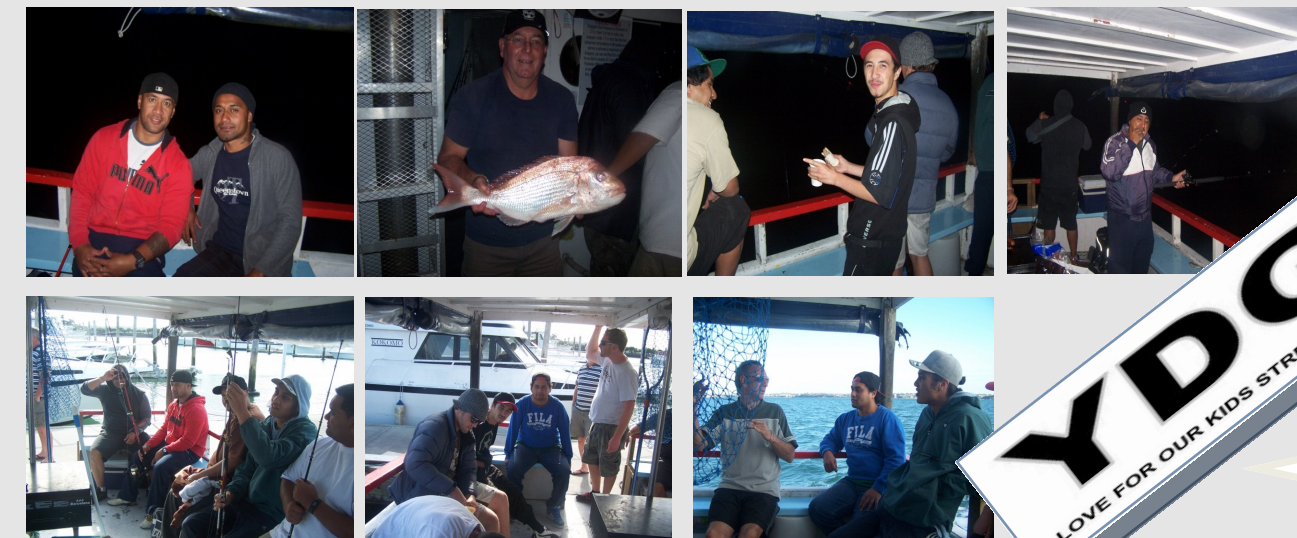


Our waka was named "M.V. Joy", our Skipper was awesome and We ran two competitions: Biggest fish and strangest catch.



The prize for 'biggest fish' was taken out by Mustang! Shot, it was a nice Snapper weighing 1.5kg and I'm sure it was reka kai-tasted beautiful.

Strangest catch was taken out by Hamuera with a Tuna (eel). Shot, Hamuera took it home for the smoker and I'm sure it tasted better that it looked, haha!



"What did you think when you were first told that you were going to be a Dad?"

"I was really happy...I was excited... when normally, I've got a lot of friends and when their girlfriends tell them they just gap it and don't want anything to do with it".

"When you became a Dad what changed for you?"

"Priorities aye, priorities big time...like going out but not as often and especially financially and just trying to provide better".

"What is the most rewarding part of being a Dad, for you?"

"Learning, learning things...watching her grow in a way, you know, so it's great".

"Who in your life would be surprised that you were able to make this change to being a Dad?"

"Yeah my family back in the islands because the last time I went there they were surprised to hear I'd had a child. So definitely my family back in the islands".



YDGD had a great night at the ANZAC Test. The boys didn't produce a win, however spirits were still high and the kaupapa of the event shone through. It was an opportunity for dads to get together, watch some footy and meet some guys whose situation is not that different than their own. Like all of our events it was an alcohol free event. Also an example that shows us we do had a great time, so another not need to get wasted to have a good time. Check out the pics!



Loads more pic on our Facebook page, like it and check it!