

HISTORY OF THE PRIMARY PROJECT

In July 2011 the Cross Over manager, Roy Kenneally, some Cross Over Staff, key staff and Principals from the schools that Cross Over worked with, took part in a three day Forum at Victory Village in Nelson. This low decile school had formed a partnership with a local key agency and had subsequently turned their community around. They practised a *family-centred, community-led* philosophy, highlighting the value of a productive partnership between a school and a local key agency. Also in July all of the Cross Over staff attended the three day National 24-7 Youth Work Training in Waitangi where they saw what could be achieved through a nationwide network.

For some time, Duane Major, a Pastor at South West Baptist Church and Co-Chair of West Spreydon Primary School Board of Trustees, had a dream of churches and schools working together for the good of the communities they were a part of. Combining what had been learned at the Nelson Forum, the 24-7YW training and Duane's dream, a logical step was to make the Church, a major community hub, the local key agency to partner with local schools. It was decided to call it "The Primary Project", abbreviated to TPP. The aim was to facilitate the thriving of local communities, children, and families through the partnership of two major community 'hubs' — schools and churches working better together. It was hoped that resources from within the community would be discovered and used for its own betterment. It was envisioned that this betterment would be seen in four shared and measurable outcomes of Students Achieving, Families Strengthened, Kids Enjoying Life, and Communities Woven.

Two key roles were set up, *School Community Liaison (SCL)* and *Activator (AC)*. The SCL is a person employed by the Church to foster mutually beneficial relationships between the school and the wider community so that the school and the local community are helped to 'work better together' for the betterment of the whole community. An Activator, later changed to Liaison Support (LS), is a person either employed by the Church or a volunteer, who helps the SCL in discovering and identifying community talent and encouraging and supporting the use of that talent in the school and wider community. Activators would be from within the local and/or school community who were already demonstrating evidence of initiating, influencing, and positive culture setting. In most cases these people were school mothers.

TPP was adopted with Cross Over Trust acting on behalf of SWBC. As this was a venture into new territory, it was proposed to run a two year Pilot in the two schools Cross Over already had a relationship with, Rowley Avenue and West Spreydon. Addington Primary School also wanted to come on board so was included in the Pilot which began in 2012 and finished at the end of 2013. During that time, Alan Aitken, a founding and managing trustee of CDN Trust and Director of Evermore Enterprises Ltd, was employed to find a way to make measurements so that a reproducible and sustainable model of TPP could be produced. By the end of 2013 he had done this so that every community project or event could be entered into a project sheet with before and after sections as well as space for Principal comments, highlights and stories,



Rowley Parent's Room
Opening



West Spreydon Coffee Cart



Addington Bounce Back