



This is Blue Light

Kids, Cops and
Communities

BLUELIGHT.CO.NZ |  /NZBLUELIGHT

Making a difference in the lives of New Zealanders

blue light

empowering youth

Blue Light started in 1984
with the Blue Light Discos!

Blue Light is now in 68
communities nation-wide
with sworn police officers,
staff and volunteers
in all locations.

By providing New Zealand youth with
positive events, programmes and
crime prevention strategies.

Programmes build genuine connection
between police and youth. They aim to
engage youth in a meaningful way and
provide lifestyle alternatives and
strategies to avoid becoming victims
of crime. Some examples include...

DRIVER LICENSING
PROGRAMMES

FUN NATIONAL
EVENTS

SPORTING EVENTS
& COMPETITIONS

AND...
SO MUCH
MORE!!!!

PROGRAMMES &
ACTIVITIES

- Kids gone Fishing
- PCT Fun Factor Competition
- ...
- ...
- ...

ENHANCING
COMMUNITY SAFETY AND BUILDING POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS
BETWEEN POLICE, YOUTH AND COMMUNITY

So that positive messaging
and behaviours can be taken
back into homes, schools and
communities of young people.

KIDS, COPS AND COMMUNITIES

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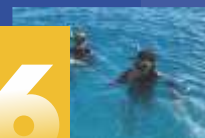
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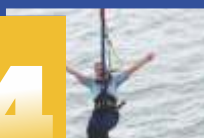
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Thank You!

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Blue Light NZ

Blue Light is a charity organisation that delivers and supports a multitude of youth programmes nationally and has been doing so for over 40 years.

Find Us

bluelight.co.nz
facebook.com/nzbluelight/

About Blue Light

01

Vision:

Every young person reaching their full potential in Aotearoa.

Mission:

“Empowering young people nationwide to be better New Zealanders through the provision of quality experiences.”

Ko Nga Uara - Values

Our values of Te Aroha, Te Whakapono, Ngā Ture and Kotahitanga are embedded in and woven through the actions we take to achieve successful outcomes for our tamariki and rangatahi, as by achieving success for them and their whānau, we achieve success as an organisation.

Aims:

- Deliver quality experiences for young people to develop their potential.
- Partner with communities.
- Deliver social services in the community.
- Enhance community safety.
- Build positive relationships between the police, young people, their whanau, and their community.
- Reduce youth crime through prevention.
- Support and grow branches throughout the country.



Our values also provide an ongoing cycle of evaluation and improvement that contributes to the achievement of our Kaupapa and our goals:



Te Aroha

Having regard for and accountability for each other.



Te Whakapono

Belief and confidence that we are doing the right thing.



Ngā Ture

Our actions are ethically and morally right, and we are honourable.



Kotahitanga

Unity with others and standing as one.



Introduction02



Blue Light is a registered charity that has been working in the community delivering successful programmes, activities, events and services since 1984.

In partnership with the New Zealand Police, we focused on what communities, children and young people tell us that they need and want to participate equitably, inclusively, positively and successfully in society.

Blue Light has over 70 branches around New Zealand that are working to remove barriers to positive participation and provide opportunities for young people in their communities with programmes and activities at both a national level, such as Life Skills and Leadership Camps, Youth driver licensing and B.L.A.S.T. At a local level, tailored programmes that meet the needs of young people include programmes such as school holiday programmes, tramps, waka ama and discos.

Blue Light's branches are largely staffed by civilian volunteers and police officers who carry out Blue Light activities over and above their normal police core duties and are passionate about all youth having access to quality experiences and opportunities.

Although the Police contribute their time and support to Blue Light, the two organisations operate totally independently.



Programmes:

- Life Skills Camps
- Youth Mentoring
- Leadership Programmes
- PCT Competition
- Kids Gone Fishin' Events
- Community Engagement Events
- Duke of Edinburgh's Hillary Award
- Streetsmart
- Blue EDGE
- Farm Safety
- Outdoor Education
- Youth Services
- Blue Light Bangers in Schools
- Activity Camps



National Programmes

Blue Light delivers a wide range of national programmes designed to inspire, challenge, and empower young people across Aotearoa. These initiatives are run in partnership with the New Zealand Police, Defence Force, community organisations, and other trusted partners.

From residential Life Skills Camps and large-scale Leadership programmes, to unique opportunities such as sailing voyages, fishing events, aviation experiences, and driver education, offers young people the chance to gain practical skills, build resilience, and connect positively with their communities.



03



Life Skills Camps

Blue Light's Life Skills Camp centre on a one-week residential learning camp in partnership with the New Zealand Defence Force. Blue Light runs up to 12 Life Skills Camps annually for youth between 14-17 years of age in conjunction with the NZ Defence Force's Youth Development Unit.

This state-of-the-art, adventure-related, experiential learning programme incorporates tried and tested methods from the Military, Police and civilian industry experts.

Outcomes include:

- Developing practical skills, teamwork, building self-confidence and respect.
- Developing teamwork skills, improving communication and undertaking physical activity.
- Gaining up to 4 x NCEA Level 1 credits and 9 x Level 2 credits.

The Life Skills camps have an intake of 30 students per camp, ensuring the Programme Leads opportunities to assess and support each student's individual needs and abilities. On completion of the camps, we work with referrers to provide support for the young person, linking to the future opportunities such as our leadership camp and other available programmes.

At the conclusion of Blue Light's Life Skills programme, a formal ceremony is held which is attended by Police, the Defence Force and Blue Light staff, with families encouraged to attend.



All young people receive a certificate celebrating their success awards are given for:

- Overall Excellence
- Overall Merit
- Peers' Choice

Blue Light uses a mixture of qualitative and quantitative feedback to evaluate outcomes for all camp participants. This data is anonymised to ensure participant privacy and to gain more candid responses. This includes:

- A Post - Camp survey.
- A consolidated Post - Camp Statistics Report.
- Youth Worker/Mentor Post - Camp Report.
- Pre - and Post - Camp attendance.

Leadership Camp

Our Leadership camps run by Blue Light staff and supported by Police, build on what was learnt during Blue Light's Life Skills Camps, offering participants the chance to further develop their skills in the areas of teamwork, leaderless tasks, problem-solving and communication. Students completing the Leadership camp can gain up to 12 Level One NCEA credits and 3 Level Two NCEA credits.

Research shows that activity-based education is an ideal vehicle to develop young people. Taking them away from the distractions of everyday life has proven effective in teaching them ways to both grow their skills and plan for their lives moving forward.



Take a Kid Flying

Take a Kid Flying is a collaborative programme with AOPA – the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association – giving young people the chance to experience flying who may not otherwise have had the opportunity.

Run by Blue Light branches across Aotearoa for over 10 years, the programme selects 30 deserving young people each year, supported by Police volunteers and whanau.

Alongside being a fun and memorable experience, Blue Light's Take a Kid Flying programme also plays an important role in raising awareness of the exciting and rewarding career opportunities available in aviation.





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- A Youth Worker/Mentor Post-Camp Report
- Pre- and Post-Camp attendance



PCT

The PCT is an event run each year with teams of intermediate-aged students participating in a variety of mental and physical challenges.

Each year, branches throughout New Zealand run local competitions to select their representatives to attend the National Finals held at Blue Light's National Youth Centre in Auckland, where one team wins the coveted National PCT Fear Factor Trophy and is crowned National Champions.

Teams are required to participate in a series of challenges, including the "police car push" as well as compete in the Police Competence Test (PCT) – the obstacle course used in the entry exams for new police recruits.

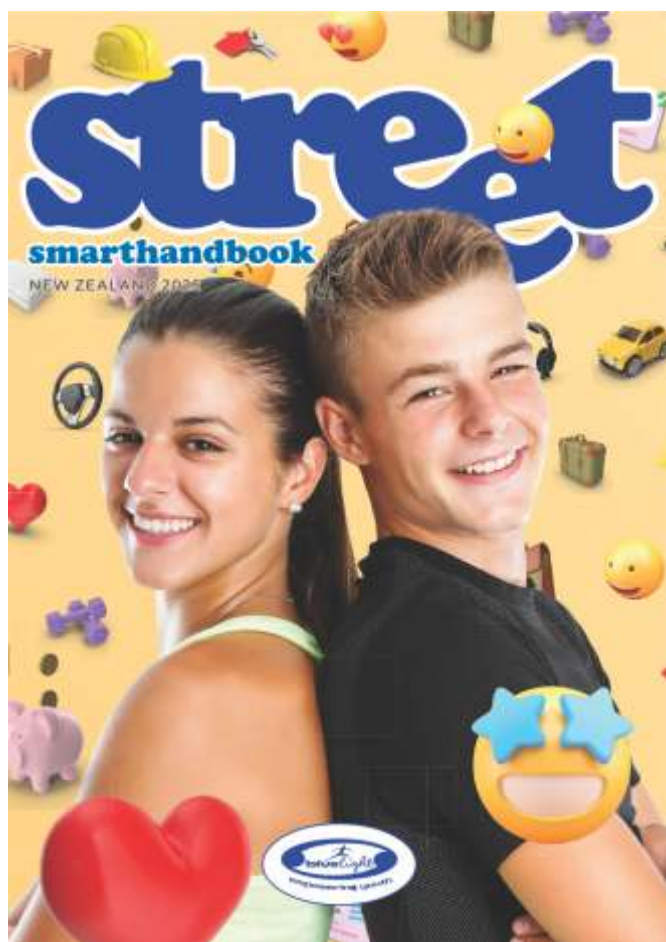


Kids Gone Fishin'

Blue Light, in partnership with TV fishing celebrity and Blue Light Patron Graeme Sinclair, runs a large number of 'Kids Gone Fishin' events around Aotearoa each year. These events bring young people and their whanau together for quality time and enhance communication through the vehicle of fishing.

These events also provide an opportunity for young people from disadvantaged backgrounds to experience fishing as a recreational sport and build positive police, youth and community relationships.

Events range in size from 50 to over 2,000 participants and family members.



Streetsmart Handbook

Blue Light has produced and distributed through schools and The Warehouse several informative resource guides for young people and their parents. These include: The 'Parents smart Handbook' and 'Streetsmart', designed to help parents with teenagers by giving them access to up-to-date information.

It's a great 'go-to guide' for parents needing a trusted resource/directory to find help with a whole range of issues facing our young people today.

The Kidsmart 'Guide To Life' is a handbook written specifically for year nine students and provides information and contacts for further help on a huge range of topics which may be of concern to young teens.

Proudly published by Countrywide Austral



Youth Navigator Driver Programme

The Blue Light Youth Navigator Driver Programme is designed to help support young people to get their driver licence and is especially designed for those young people who may not have access to the right support to do so. e.g. Lack of funds, a suitable vehicle or someone to teach them.

The Youth Navigator Driver Programme enables local communities to assist learner drivers to successfully navigate through the driver licensing system, right through to a full licence, removing any barriers that may have prevented them from achieving this in the past. Youth are referred from the police, schools, and community organisations.



Blue EDGE

Blue EDGE (**E**ducate, **D**evelop, **G**row, **E**mpower) is a proven programme of physical training, life skills development and career education to assist youth to realise their potential.

The programme aims to grow and develop the skills and attitudes that young people need in order to actively and positively participate in society.

Run by Blue Light with the support of local Police and community volunteers, this programme involves groups of 16-24 school-aged participants and is run over the course of a school term with two sessions per week.

As participants progress through the programme, they complete important life skills lessons such as making smart choices with respect to drugs and alcohol, asking for help, teamwork, leadership, career choices, peer pressure, as well as relationship building with family, community and police.

Leadership Sailing Voyage

Blue Light's Sailing Voyage Programme is tailored for young people aged 14 to 17 and is held in partnership with the NZ Sailing Trust. Young people get to sleep aboard, sail and explore the islands in the Hauraki Gulf while working as a team to navigate and sail a super-yacht.

Setting Sail

Blue Light hoists the sails and sets course on sailing voyages throughout the year. Young people get to sail on one of Sir Peter Blake's two round-the-world sailing vessels – Steinlager 2 or Lion NZ – providing a real-life experience of life on water.

Blue Light's voyages are not just about learning to sail; they also provide an experiential way to learn leadership, team building, problem-solving and communication skills. Exercises include learning about the history and environmental importance of the islands in the Hauraki Gulf.

A great opportunity to experience life on water and the islands of the Hauraki Gulf on board a round-the-world super-yacht.

On Board

While sailing, young people bunk aboard, working in teams to put into practice reading the weather, planning the destination, and taking part in all the roles required to sail the boat. They get to explore islands in the Hauraki Gulf, understand their unique history, and the important environmental role they play in protecting our native species.



The Duke of Edinburgh's Hillary Award

Blue Light works in partnership with the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Aotearoa New Zealand to deliver the programme to disadvantaged communities, rural secondary schools and in partnership with Refugee groups and the Police.

Blue Light has developed Whakapuawai, a marae-based version of this programme to meet the needs of Cultural Responsiveness within many of these communities.

The *Duke of Edinburgh Hillary Award* is provided in four parts, with young people doing physical activity, learning new skills, completing community service and doing overnight expeditions through forests and on the water.





Rainbows End Fun Days

Each year, Blue Light staff from around the country bring young people from their communities to New Zealand's premier tourist attraction, "Rainbow's End" for two days of action-packed entertainment.

Since the first event in the mid-90s, over 100,000 young people have had the opportunity to experience Rainbow's End with Police and Blue Light staff.

Through community sponsorship, Blue Light can offer this opportunity to young people from disadvantaged communities who otherwise could not afford such an experience.



Youth Mentoring Services

A Blue Light mentor can have a profound impact on the life of a young person in many different ways.

They provide support, guidance, navigation and inspiration and help them to discover their potential to achieve their goals, both short-term and long-term.

Research shows that having a mentor can re-engage a young person with school, relationships and the community. Mentoring also increases their chances of young people finishing school, or when older, getting into training or finding employment.

Mentoring has been proven to improve a mentee's overall well-being

Our Branches

04

1 Auckland

- Auckland (Central)
- Counties Manukau West
- Hibiscus Coast
- Howick
- Manurewa
- North Harbour
- North Rodney
- Papakura/Franklin
- Pukekohe
- South Kaipara
- Southside (Manukau)
- Tamaki
- Ōtara
- Waitākere

2 Bay of Plenty

- Edgecumbe
- Kawerau
- Matamata
- Matatā
- Murupara
- Ōpōtiki
- Rotorua
- Tauranga
- Waihi
- Whakatāne

3 Canterbury

- Canterbury
- Kaikōura
- South Canterbury
- Waimate

4 Chatham Islands

- Chatham Islands

5 Gisborne

- Gisborne

6 Hawke's Bay

- Hawke's Bay
- Waipukurau

7 Manawatu–Wanganui

- Bush (Pahiatua)
- Feilding
- Horowhenua (Levin)
- Manawatu (Palmerston North)
- Whanganui

8 Marlborough

- Marlborough
- Nelson

9 Northland

- Dargaville
- Kaitia
- Kawakawa
- Kerikeri
- Mid North (Kaikohe)
- Whangārei

10 Otago

- Balclutha
- Central Lakes
- Dunedin
- Oamaru

11 Southland

- Gore
- Invercargill
- Te Anau

12 Taranaki

- Central Taranaki
- South Taranaki
- Taranaki

13 Waikato

- Cambridge
- Hamilton
- North Waikato
- Ōtorohanga
- Paeroa
- Taupō
- Te Awamutu
- Te Kuiti
- Thames
- Tokoroa
- Tūrangi
- Whangamatā

14 Wellington

- Hutt Valley
- Wairarapa
- Wellington

15 West Coast

- Greymouth





Blue Light has over 70 branches operating around New Zealand. Each local branch is led by a serving Police Officer and supported by passionate local volunteers.

Local branches decide what events and programmes to run in their area to meet the needs of the young people in their communities. Each branch is able to tailor its activities to reflect local priorities and opportunities, ensuring they stay relevant and engaging.

All work carried out through Blue Light branches is delivered under a Youth Development Framework. This framework provides structure and guidance, helping to ensure that every programme supports positive growth, builds skills, and strengthens connections for young people.



Branch staff and volunteers strive to provide opportunities for young people while removing the barriers to participation.



Areas we Focus On

- Connecting young people to whānau, peers, schools, and communities.
- Strengths-based approach.
- Building strong relationships.



Programmes and Activities

- Youth-centred participation.
- Trolley Derbys.
- Outdoor education and training, i.e. canoeing, boating, tramping and rock climbing.
- Driver Licensing programmes.
- Drug and alcohol programmes.
- Employment transition programmes.
- After school and holiday programmes.
- Mindfulness activity programmes.
- Alternative education programmes.
- Waka ama programmes.





Branch Activity

Local branches run their own localised programmes and activities to target local youth issues in their local area.

Local Blue Light branches run their own tailored programmes and activities, designed to meet the needs of young people in their communities. Each branch works closely with local schools, iwi, community groups, and police to identify the challenges and opportunities specific to their area. This ensures that activities remain relevant, inclusive, and impactful.





05



North Harbour Blue Light: 30 Years of Empowering Youth on the Shore



North Harbour
Blue Light

Empowering young lives, North Harbour Blue Light has been operating on Auckland's North Shore for over 30 years, providing transformative programmes and support to children and teenagers. Our Committee comprises experienced NZ Police Officers from Youth Aid, School Education and Community Policing, along with community members from Oranga Tamariki, Heart 4 Youth and former Police staff. North Harbour also employs a dedicated Branch Coordinator to design programmes, foster school and community relationships, seek funding and manage administration. This role eases pressure on NZ Police members, allowing them to focus on face-to-face engagement with young people.

Our Branch meets monthly to plan positive change for local youth. We provide events and programmes throughout the year, promoted via social media and a bimonthly newsletter. These tools celebrate youth achievements, share updates, gain community support and thank sponsors.

We also align with national Blue Light events including Rainbows End Fun days, Activity Camps, Life Skills Camps, Leadership Camps, Sailing Voyages, Take a Kid Flying, Take a Kid Fishin' and touring events such as Discos and Inflatable Obstacle Courses. Students have also taken part in the 'Blue Light International Youth Experience', travelling to Sydney, Hong Kong and Scotland. We refer young people to Driver Licensing and mentoring programmes run by National Blue Light.

A key programme is B.L.A.S.T (Blue Light Alternative Strategies for Teenagers), running locally for over 10 years. Based in a school with up to 20 at-risk students, NZ Police staff and volunteers work with the group for one school term, twice a week. Programmes are tailored to each cohort and include physical activities, resilience building, shared meals and weekly motivational speakers. Results include improved behaviour, school attendance, wellbeing and stronger relationships with Police and schools.

We also run 'Blue Light Days' in local primary schools, where Police showcase their role with interactive sessions, Police Dog visits, Eagle helicopter landings and on-stage demonstrations. Staff then play sports against senior students for the NHBL Trophy—usually won by the students with big celebrations.

A recent initiative is the 'Children in Care Christmas Celebration', run with Oranga Tamariki. This event provides a safe, fun environment for children in care and their caregivers to connect and spend quality time together. Police and OT staff attend to foster positive relationships with children who may have experienced challenges. North Harbour hopes to continue this collaboration.

North Harbour Blue Light is a trusted part of our community. We are passionate about empowering local youth and look forward to many more years of positive impact.



Whangārei Blue Light in Action



Whangārei
Blue Light



Whangārei Blue Light Ventures Inc takes advantage of a beautiful coastline stretching over 3,200km, offering numerous beaches, harbours, and islands to explore.

Whether it's a trip to Cape Reinga to visit the Lighthouse, see the Tasman Sea meet the Pacific Ocean, sandboarding down the Te Paki dunes, a camp at Waipu Beach, or a picnic at Orewa Beach on the way to a Blue Light activity or camp in Auckland or further afield. Our young people take part in Waka Ama, surfing, swimming, fishing, boat rides, snorkelling, kayaking, tramping and more! Whangārei boasts natural beauty, and when it's Blue Light, it's 10/10 FUN!

From CrossFit and boxing to scootering and skateboarding, it's about getting outdoors, mastering new skills, building resilience and confidence. It could be a surfboard, boogie board, scooter or skateboard you fall off – the most important lesson is to get back up and try again!

FOOD! SCRUMPTIOUS FOOD! When we get together with our young people, it's often about the kai (food). Preparing, eating and doing the dishes together is how we roll in Whangārei. An exception is our station breakfasts, where local police cook and serve breakfast before joining the youth. Breakfast starts with a Karakia (prayer), and usually a few games of chess follow.

We celebrate youth achievements, birthdays and Christmas. At times, young people have performed the haka as a gesture

of respect and thanks. Those attending police breakfasts are picked up from home, brought to the Whangārei Police Station for breakfast, then transported to school with a packed lunch. A key strategy in our success is consistency – removing barriers like transport and food insecurity.

Then it's DRIVE! DRIVE! DRIVE! We tap into opportunities offered through New Zealand Blue Light, including Life Skills and Leadership Camps and voyages on the 'Steinlager 2' or 'NZ Lion' yachts. We provide a sworn police officer as camp or voyage support and transport for Whangārei youth. No trip is complete without a Carl's Jr burger and shake on the way south! Travelling together, eating together, achieving together.

In recent years, we've focused on helping young people obtain their driver's licence – a vital step toward independence, employment and opportunity. In Whangārei, this centres on preparing youth for the Learner Licence theory test through the Blue Light Youth Driving Programme. It's become very popular, and we're proud to see so many young people engaging. We go the extra mile – especially for those with additional learning needs who might otherwise be left behind.

Whangārei, love it here!

Elevating Kawerau: From Challenge to Community Strength



Kawerau Blue
Light

Nestled beneath the watchful gaze of Mount Putauaki (Edgecumbe) and alongside the winding Tarawera River lies Kawerau, a town steeped in rich Māori heritage and born of industry.

Long before streets were paved and mills constructed, this land was, and remains, the traditional rohe (territory) of Ngāti Tūwharetoa ki Kawerau. The local iwi has an enduring connection to the geothermal springs, rivers, and whenua, with these natural taonga holding deep spiritual significance for generations.

Kawerau, as we know it today, emerged in 1953, purpose-built to support the booming Tasman Pulp and Paper Mill, once one of the largest and most advanced in the Southern Hemisphere. Designed by the New Zealand government and Fletcher Holdings, the town sprang to life virtually overnight to house the thousands of workers and their families drawn by the promise of industry.

For decades, the mill was the lifeblood of the town. But like many industrial centres, Kawerau felt the sting of change, global market shifts, automation, stricter environmental regulations, and job losses led to the mill's partial closure and a significant blow to the local economy.

With the decline of the traditional industry came new challenges. Unemployment, gang activity, family violence, and substance dependency began to take root. In recent years, the town has faced a rise in youth-involved violent crime, shaking the sense of safety for many families. Some were left too frightened to even leave their homes.

But from this darkness came light.

In response, Kawerau Blue Light acted. Determined to restore a sense of safety, connection, and hope, the team launched Elevate Kawerau, a powerful community-led event aimed at bringing whānau together and reminding everyone that they are not alone.

Elevate Kawerau was nothing short of inspiring. Volunteers turned out in force. Shy young people stepped onto the stage, many for the first time, their confidence blossoming with each note sung and step danced. Families beamed with pride. A diverse and enthusiastic audience embraced the Kaupapa with open hearts.

One of the standout features was the Matariki reflection wall, where attendees shared their hopes and memories, sparking beautiful moments of connection and storytelling. The visible presence and strong support of the New Zealand Police added an extra layer of reassurance for many, reinforcing the message that community safety is a shared commitment.

Of course, like any live event, there were a few hiccups, including last-minute performer withdrawals and the sudden loss of the event caterer. But the team's quick thinking and adaptability ensured the day continued seamlessly.

Looking ahead, Kawerau Blue Light plans to build on this success. Because when a community comes together, united by culture, resilience, and a desire for positive change, anything is possible.

In Kawerau, the spirit of elevation is here to stay.

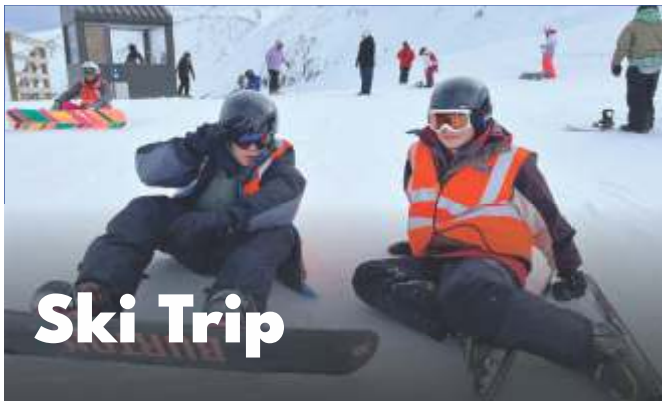




Some highlights of what we have been up to recently...



Canterbury
Blue Light



Ski Trip

We had a successful day up the mountain for eight young people from a local high school. The school were asked to select young people who would never have the chance to go skiing otherwise. This event offers a great opportunity to expose young people to a sport that can be very inaccessible for many. It is also a chance to build trust and confidence in the Police through the informal connections built up from a day spent up the mountain together.

Well Done Kids Camp

Our Well Done Kids Camps happen twice over the summer. We ask schools to refer students to us who they would love to celebrate – kids who have been doing well despite adversity and who are setting an example for others in their attitude or leadership. The 12 children referred then paddle themselves across the Harbour in our waka to get to the campground, pitch their own tents and spend two nights there. The camp exposes them to a lot of outdoor adventures that are usually brand-new experiences for them and often things that they would otherwise not have access to. As with all our events, the camp is a great opportunity to facilitate positive connections between the Police and the community, with all volunteers being Police staff. Some of the feedback from our last camp was:

"I really enjoyed the kayaking. I had never done that before. The whole atmosphere at camp was really good, and we were able to have good chats."

"I absolutely loved camp. It was fun to be with my friends. I'd never been coasteering and it was fun... We had many laughs. I loved the football game (the Kids won). I loved shooting the police car (with water pistols). I talked to people whom I wouldn't normally talk to at school."

"I really enjoyed the whole environment. Just hanging out, having fun. I enjoyed coasteering; it was a cool new experience. I enjoyed tripping over two policemen playing football."

At Blue Light Canterbury, we love facilitating these opportunities for young people to access things that they would otherwise miss out on, to challenge themselves in new environments and to have the chance to connect positively with adults who care about them, including Police staff. We know that all these things can contribute to young people thriving in adolescence. As well as this, we appreciate being able to offer this avenue of volunteering to our incredible volunteer base of Police staff.



Take a Kid Flying

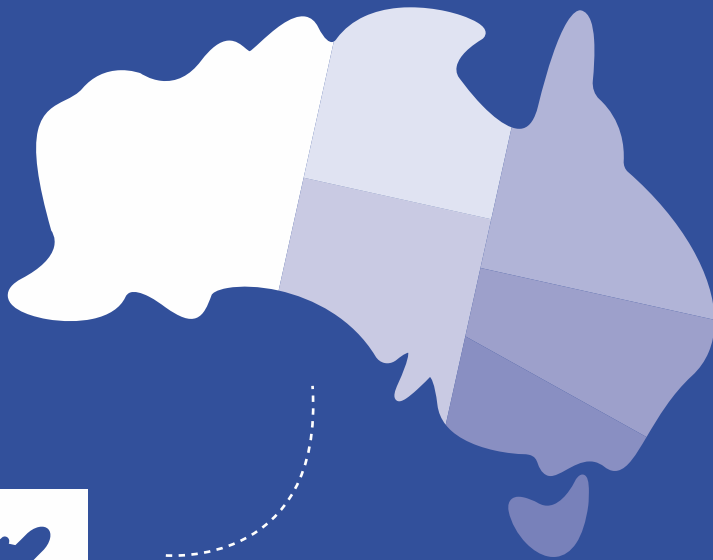
We had a great day out with a group of young people who were referred by their school. Our criteria were: “doing well despite adversity”, and we asked teachers to select young people who they knew would never have this opportunity otherwise. We spent the day at a nearby airfield, and a group of local pilots generously took participants up in their private aircraft. We thanked them with a shared barbecue lunch.

The event was an opportunity for positive interactions between the Police and the community and a chance to give young people access to experiences they would otherwise miss out on. It is such a memorable event for the young people who attend, and it is also a really special day for the pilots who love chatting with the kids while they fly; many even gave their passengers a turn on the controls.



PCT regional competition

Our PCT competition continues to run at capacity every year. We invite intermediate-aged teams from Canterbury to complete the Police PCT in the fastest time. While they wait their turn to try the course, they move through various “stations”. We collaborate with other agencies to offer these. There are team-building stations where kids are kept busy with Adventure-Based Learning games offered by Youth Alive Trust and Youth Town. We also collaborate with Fire and Emergency NZ and Hato Hone St John, who facilitate two stations to engage kids in learning more about the roles of these first responders. Other stations include: competing to see who the fastest sprinter of the day is, with the Laser Speed Test, and our Police station, where kids can try on a uniform, chat to a uniformed staff member and look through a patrol car. At the end of the session, everyone gathers to cheer on the top three teams in the finals and find out who will take home the trophy. To accommodate the high number of competing teams, we run this day in two sessions, so we have two winning teams each year.



Across the ditch

Blue Light has a proud history of empowering young people across New Zealand, but the movement doesn't stop at our shores. Across Australia, Blue Light and partner organisations are running programmes that build resilience, confidence, and stronger connections between police and youth.

From major cities to regional and remote communities, these initiatives reflect the same commitment to belonging, leadership, and positive pathways that drive our work here at home. The following stories highlight just some of the inspiring programmes across the ditch, proving that the Blue Light spirit of community and opportunity knows no borders.





06

Hooked on Mentoring



Blue Light
Queensland

In a powerful blend of mentorship and outdoor adventure, the Queensland Blue Lights Blue Lures Programme is making waves across Queensland—using fishing as a unique tool to engage, support, and empower young people.

Supported by QLD police officers, the programme goes beyond rods and reels. It fosters trust, life skills, and cultural connection, while creating meaningful relationships between youth and the officers who serve their communities.

At its core, Blue Lures is about diversion and prevention. It creates positive, informal opportunities for young people to interact with police in safe and inclusive environments—often out on the water's edge. These moments help break down barriers and build mutual understanding, especially for youth at risk of disengagement or criminal behaviour.

Participants learn not only how to fish responsibly, but also how to respect nature, work in teams, and embrace

healthier lifestyles. Many develop a newfound sense of belonging, surrounded by supportive mentors and peers.

What sets Blue Light apart is its ability to reach into regional and rural areas, ensuring youth in remote communities have equal access to the programme. The initiative travels to where young people are, ensuring no one misses out due to distance or disadvantage.

The programme also promotes environmental awareness, teaching young people about sustainable fishing practices and the importance of protecting waterways and marine life.

In a time when positive role models and safe spaces for youth are more crucial than ever, Blue Lures proves that sometimes, the best way to connect is with a fishing line and a little time by the water.

Grant Gamlen





From Participant to Police Liaison: Julieanne's Blue EDGE Journey

Queensland Blue Light is proud to support youth across the state through programmes that build resilience, confidence, and stronger community connections. One of our flagship initiatives, Blue EDGE, empowers students to push beyond their comfort zones through fitness, teamwork, and mentoring — all while strengthening relationships between police and young people.

A shining example of the programme's long-term impact is Julieanne (pictured). As a high school student and former Intensive English Centre (IEC) participant at Trinity Bay State High School, Julieanne took part in Blue EDGE — an experience that left a lasting impression.



Blue Light
Queensland

Inspired by the connection she formed with local police and the positive environment the program created, Julieanne went on to become a Police Liaison Officer, now proudly returning to Trinity Bay in uniform to support the very community that once empowered her.

Her journey shows the true power of early engagement, positive role models, and the life-changing opportunities made possible through Queensland Blue Light.

Blue Light is more than programmes — it's a pathway to belonging, leadership, and future possibilities.

PCYC NSW Blue Star Leadership Programme



PCYC NSW

The PCYC NSW Blue Star Leadership Programme is designed for young people aged 16–18, focusing on developing leadership skills through hands-on experiences. The programme progresses through three levels—Bronze, Silver, and Gold—each involving camps, volunteer work, and the achievement of *Duke of Edinburgh Awards*. Participants gain valuable skills and experiences, empowering them to become positive leaders in their communities.

Bronze Level marks the beginning of a young person's leadership journey. Participants attend three camps during school holidays and complete 40 hours of volunteer work at their local PCYC. They also earn First Aid & CPR certification and work towards the *Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award*.

At the Silver Level, participants build on their skills by attending three additional camps, volunteering at their local PCYC, and collaborating with club managers to develop and deliver a Bluestar Project. They also work towards the *Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award* and present their project at the final camp.

The Gold Level represents the final stage, where participants act as mentors for Bronze and Silver groups. Gold participants engage in personalised leadership activities and complete the *Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award*.

Across all stages, participants take part in workshops and experiences that enhance leadership abilities, build confidence, and equip them to become influential leaders within their communities.

Recently, the program saw 37 participants from 16 PCYC clubs across NSW successfully complete the program. With a 92% completion rate, 26 young people graduated from the Bronze Award level, seven from Silver, and four are

currently working towards Gold. Collectively, participants contributed 2,588 volunteer hours at their local clubs or PCYC events.

As part of an ongoing partnership and exchange programme with Blue Light New Zealand, PCYC NSW hosted 10 young leaders from New Zealand over four days at the final camp of the year. The program featured Indigenous Games, trivia challenges, morning PT sessions, raft building, leadership initiatives, bushwalking, "Minute to Win It" challenges, sailing, kayaking, stand-up paddleboarding, and campfire discussions.

This cultural exchange gave Māori youth valuable insights into Australian culture and the experiences of young people from different backgrounds. Through shared stories and open discussions, participants developed mutual respect and lasting friendships, further enriching their leadership journey.

One participant from PCYC Tamworth reflected:

"Bluestar has been a wonderful experience, and I have been fortunate enough to be going back for my third year in 2024. The programme has helped me gain even more confidence and respect for myself and others as I have had to overcome many challenges, both individually and as part of a group. It has allowed my leadership skills—such as decision-making, adaptability, communication, and many more—to grow."

Up to two Blue Star camps are being held annually, one has already taken place, and the other will run during the upcoming school holidays. With each camp, more young people will have the opportunity to challenge themselves, develop their skills, and create positive changes in their communities.





Annual Narrogin Police vs High School Hockey Match



PCYC Blue Light WA™



Christmas Gift Bag Appeal



PCYC Blue Light WA™

In just the second year of Blue Light WA's Christmas Gift Bag Appeal, an impressive 2,130 bags were successfully distributed to children and young people across WA, surpassing the previous year's total of 1,400 bags.

Since this initiative began in 2022, Blue Light WA™ has been committed to making Christmas special for all children and young people across WA, ensuring they have gifts to unwrap.

During the holiday season, Blue Light WA™ appealed to the community for donations and was overwhelmed by the outpouring of support. Individuals and businesses generously donated gifts in the form of toys and clothing, which were distributed far and wide.

Not only did our dedicated Units deliver countless gifts, but some also held Christmas Day events, providing breakfast and lunch to many excited young people.

The team from Warakurna Blue Light WA™ remarked, "The joy and excitement that lit up the faces of the children as they received the thoughtful gifts was truly heartwarming."

Another said, "The Blue Light WA™ donations have become a symbol of unity within our community, showcasing the power of collective generosity in making a positive impact."

We would like to sincerely thank Bishops Transport and Kalexpress for transporting the gifts across the state at no cost, playing a vital role in making this initiative possible.

After some pre-game taunting, the match kicked off. Reigning champions Team Police came out with energy, and the opening term was an arm wrestle. With luck, Constable Langridge managed a quick early goal against Team High School.

The first goal ignited the competition, spurring Team High School to step up. In the second quarter, the ball lived in their forward arc, putting Senior Constable Spencer under pressure in goals. The goalie put on a stellar performance, blocking every shot.

The pace stayed relentless through the third term, with both teams exchanging fierce plays. Still, Team Police held their ground and pushed forward against the high school students.

In a thrilling final quarter, key plays led to the winning goal by Teacher and ring-in for Team Police, Steven Durell.

Despite defeat, Team High School stayed in high spirits, enjoying every second against their rivals. Unforgettable moments included Senior Constable Johnson taking the field against his two children, which brought a few jibes, plus an apparent accidental trip of a student in the first quarter by none other than OIC Senior Sergeant Devine.

After the game, players and supporters gathered at the Hockey Club for a celebration with a sausage sizzle and refreshments. Awards were presented to the best sportsmen from both teams, with best-on-ground going to Steven Durell for his match-winning performance. The award was presented by Narrogin's own Bevan George, Olympian and hockey star.

For now, the Shield remains with Narrogin Police, proudly displayed at NSHS to fuel anticipation for next year's rematch. With many predicting Team Police won't maintain their streak. This year promises another exciting showdown.



York Blue Light WA™ ride for a reason



PCYC Blue
Light WA™

In a remarkable display of determination and community spirit, the team at York Blue Light WA™ Unit completed a 24-hour bike ride challenge, achieving an incredible fundraising total of \$10,550.

It was a fantastic community event, with Police Officers, community members, and Police from Northam and Beverly pedalling to kick the fundraising goals.

Riders spun their legs on stationary bikes in the historic Westpac Building along Avon Terrace, which provided the perfect location for the participants to ride, rest and recover whilst additional fundraising initiatives, including a Silent Auction and Cake Stall, took place.

York's Officer in Charge, Andy Galbraith, said, "The community support for the team was overwhelming. It was a pleasure to hear the positive comments about what the team were doing and how well they are thought of in the local community".

The funds raised will go towards the York Blue Light WA™ Unit and Police Legacy. For Blue Light WA™ York, this will fund a range of engaging activities for young people in the community.

One of the first initiatives made possible through the fundraising was a visit from Perth Wildcats player Greg Hire and his passionate team from a Stitch in Time (ASIT) to the York District High School as part of the Beyond Blue 'Be You' week.

Noorla Yo-Long Blue Light Adventure Camp



South Australia
Blue Light

What a big year it is for the comfort zone camp.

We are now two-thirds of the way through the U25GO grant-funded camp program, and the busiest part of the year is still to come! As of mid-August, through to the end of term 4 in early December, we are fully booked with groups coming through.

As many of you know, we run single-day activity sessions and 4-night camps at our twenty-acre site near Millicent in the lower southeast of South Australia. These camps are run in close liaison with the school staff, youth mentors or youth group staff to ensure that we can deliver targeted sessions that will benefit their cohorts the most, giving the staff useful development and relationship-building blocks back in the classroom.

While doing this, my staff and I are interacting with our young people to break down the barriers that exist between police and youth, allowing them to see that we truly only want the best for them, despite all of the negativity they encounter through family, peers and online.

To date, we have held 18 camps and 16 activity days, hosting over 750 youth. By the end of the year, we will have seen 31 camps and 36 activity days with a predicted total of 2,240 guests having experienced our comfort zone pushing activities. The program has not been without challenges, including smaller groups than predicted and

a higher demand for the camps (we originally planned for 20), rather than single days, resulting in an application to change the planned funding streams being accepted.

The effect of this will be the reduction of expected visitors from 3,000 to 2,240, and the linked issue with not spending the money quickly enough, who would have thought that to be a problem in this day and age? We are talking with the grant managers to see if we can extend into term 1 of next year to assist with this. The positive side of this change is that with more camps, we have longer interactions of a higher quality with more children, and I think we all know how formative good school camps are for kids.

But that is not all that is on our calendar! We have our annual Migrant Family Fun Day running in November, where, in partnership with South Australia Police, the Australian Federal Police (AFP) and the Survivors of Torture and Trauma Assistance and Rehabilitation Service (STTARS), we host over 100 people from the many migrant communities in the area in a relationship-building day of fun and food. We also invite other volunteer emergency services to help show the communities what they could do through volunteering as well.

Geoff Yates

Blue Light programme Manager



From One Small Disco to a concept that spread interstate and internationally

Blue Light's story began in 1976 in the eastern Melbourne suburb of Mooroolbark. Local police members had a simple but powerful idea – to create a safe, drug and alcohol-free disco where young people could have fun, feel included, and build positive relationships with police.

That first Blue Light Disco was an instant hit. Its popularity spread quickly across Victoria, with thousands of young people flocking to events each year. These discos became a rite of passage for generations – a place where music, friendship, and community came together.

Blue Light was formally established as a not-for-profit organisation and registered charity. The idea was so successful, it soon spread interstate and even overseas, becoming a recognised model for youth engagement.

Over time, Blue Light has evolved beyond just discos, developing a diverse range of programmes and activities designed for schools and communities. Our programmes are evidence-based, trauma-informed, and tailored to meet local needs – from classroom-based resilience



building to mentoring and sports. Each initiative is place-based, ensuring it reflects the unique strengths and challenges of the community it serves.

Our branch network across metropolitan, regional, and rural Victoria remains with local volunteers, police and emergency services members working side-by-side to deliver safe, engaging activities that foster connection, encourage personal growth, and strengthen community ties.

While the music and fashions may have changed, the heart of Blue Light remains the same: creating safe spaces, fostering connection, and inspiring young people to thrive. What began as one small community disco has grown into a movement that continues to empower the next generation to be their best selves, both in Victoria, in other Australian states and internationally.

In 2026, we are celebrating our 50th birthday! We are looking forward to what can be achieved in the next 50 years!

New CoRE program developed



Blue Light
Victoria

It's been a big year for Blue Light Victoria with our early intervention and prevention programme – CoRE (Connected, Resilient, Engaged).

Designed for young people aged 15–17, CoRE is delivered either to small groups of students facing challenges or to full classes undertaking the Victorian Pathways Certificate or Vocational Major. The aim – to build self-awareness, encourage positive social behaviours, and strengthen teamwork skills – all while fostering stronger relationships between students, their schools, and their communities.

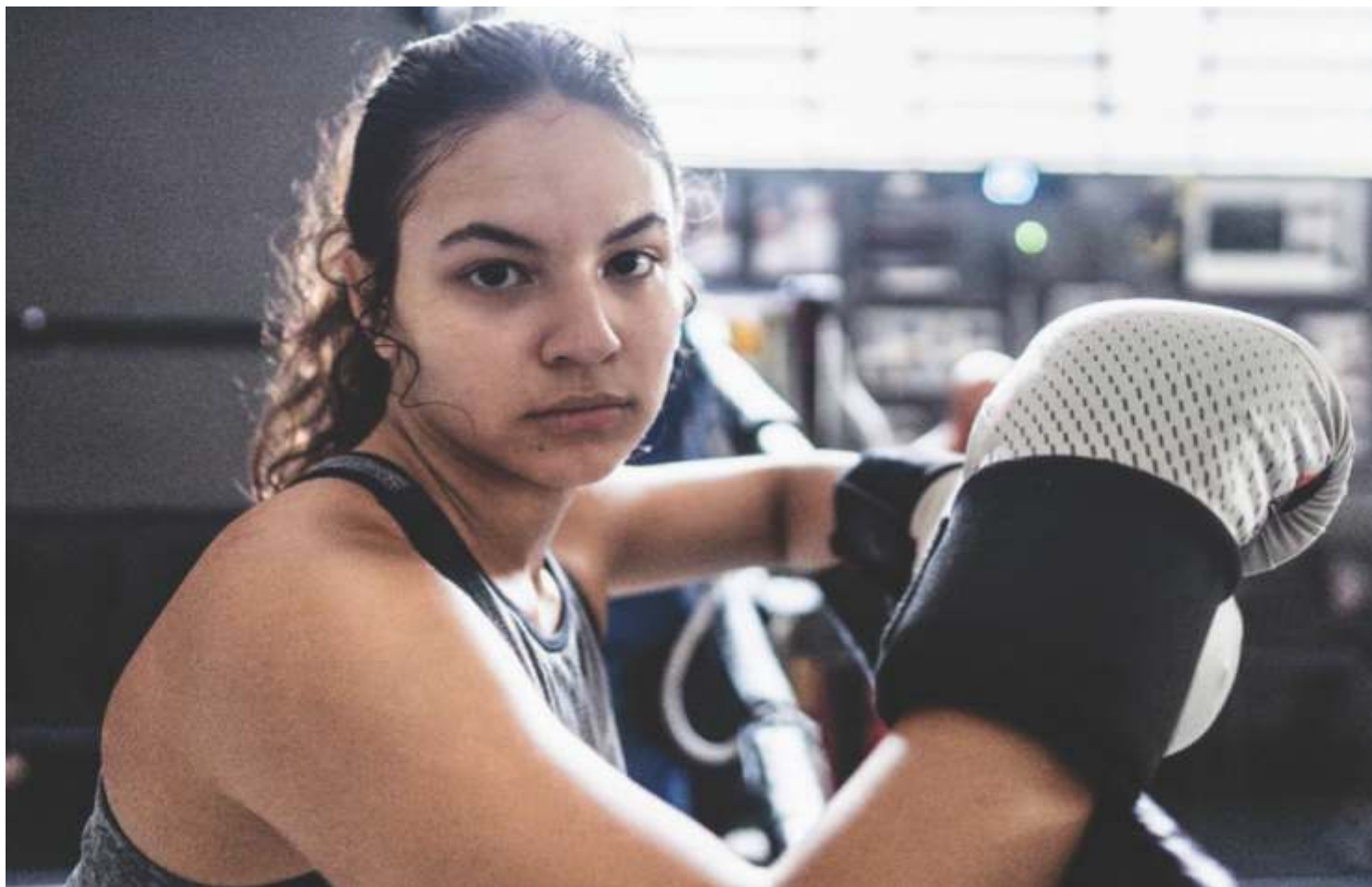
One of the programmes highlights is the Community Connection Day. This is where students step outside the classroom and into their local community, teaming up with organisations and volunteers to make a real difference. So far, participants have tended community gardens, assembled backpacks for children in crisis,

learnt from local cultural groups, and lent a hand in kitchens serving those in need.

By actively contributing to causes close to home, students see first-hand the power of giving back – and many leave inspired to continue volunteering beyond the program.

The impact has been clear. Feedback from schools, community partners, and the young people themselves shows growth in confidence, teamwork, and connection to their communities. Police and local organisations involved in the sessions also report stronger, more positive relationships with young people.

And we're just getting started. Last year we delivered 40 CoRE programmes across Victoria, each helping young people feel more connected, resilient, and ready to take on life's challenges – with the skills and support networks to thrive.





Nat's "Lightning Bolt" Moment



Blue Light
Victoria

Sometimes, one positive experience can change everything. For Nat, 15, that moment came through Blue Light Victoria's 1:1 programmes in Bendigo.

Originally developed by our Bendigo Branch, this programme works with vulnerable young people aged 10–17 who are involved in, or at risk of entering, the youth justice system. Whether facing criminal charges, engaging in anti-social behaviour, or struggling with direction, participants are matched with a police or emergency services role model, a dedicated fitness instructor, and the ongoing support of a Blue Light Victoria Program Lead.

Over eight structured one-on-one gym sessions – and with referrals coming from youth workers, parents, police, courts, schools, and community groups – the aim is simple: build confidence, encourage positive choices, and foster healthier relationships. Once completed, young people are

welcomed into weekly drop-in gym classes to keep the momentum going.

Nat was referred by Anglicare after multiple interactions with police and a growing disconnect from family and community. Paired with a 1:1 positive role model, Nat turned up to every fitness session – and then signed up for an extra three months in a group program. The change was remarkable: police contact dropped by over 90% during the program, and since graduating, Nat has had no further police involvement or court appearances.

Today, Nat is thriving. Staying connected with Blue Light, she secured paid work in a local hospitality venue and built a support network she can rely on.

Nat's advice for other young people thinking about joining?

"Do yourself a favour and get your lightning bolt moment!"



Blue Light in the Pacific

Blue Light is a well-recognised and firmly established brand in crime prevention, delivering programmes and initiatives across New Zealand. It maintains strong, ongoing partnerships with New Zealand Police and more than 70 Blue Light branches across New Zealand.

Following a presentation to the Pacific Chiefs of Police, there were requests for a partnership between Blue Light, the New Zealand Police, and Pacific Police Services to initiate a program aimed at enhancing safety and security throughout the Pacific region.

In partnership with the Pacific Police Crime Prevention programme and with the support of private donors and the Blue Light National Executive, Blue Light has committed to funding and progressing Blue Light in the Pacific.

In the Pacific region, the Blue Light programme extends its positive youth development and crime-prevention framework across diverse island nations.





07



NZ Blue Light and Defence Force Deliver Training the Trainers Workshop



Sharing Skills Across the Pacific: A Powerful Week with Fiji Police Blue Light

New Zealand Blue Light and the NZ Defence Force collaborated to deliver a three-day Train the Trainer Workshop to the Community Policing team in Suva, Fiji.

The workshop incorporated the BLAST programmes, Life Skills Camp and was supported by the Divisional Manager Community Policing West, Superintendent Lepani Liga and Lina, Community Liaison.

Both Lepani and Lina shared their experience from running a Training a Trainer programmes with Community Policing in Nadi and Lautoka. Secondly, they shared how they planned, developed and delivered five Youth Leadership Development Camps in the last year.

We worked with 40 Community Policing officers to develop their individual skills and talents and grow a team culture so they could facilitate sessions on youth leadership and life skills and build strong relationships with young people, their families and their community.

The focus of the Train the Trainer workshop was to upskill the Community Policing team to learn how to engage with young people and to develop, grow and

deliver their own community Youth programmes and activities to young people when they return to their respective Divisions.

The Community Policing Team was then taken through setting SMART Goals training to support their focus on developing youth goals with a focus on youth programmes, activities and camps. The team then created their own camp day-to-day schedule timetable to see what they would focus on at a youth camp

The Director for Community Policing said that this aligns perfectly with the vision of the Fiji Police Force for a safer Fiji, where young people are supported to make constructive choices and contribute positively to society.

We look forward to seeing the launch of new youth programmes, activities or camps within Suva and the outer regions led by Community Policing and the community.

Willie Iosia

NZ Blue Light Community and Branch Liaison

Spending a week in Lautoka, Fiji, for the Fiji Police Blue Light camp was an experience I'll never forget. Willie and I had the privilege of facilitating our B.L.A.S.T (Blue Light Alternative Strategy for Teenagers) programme for a group of incredible young people from across the western region of Fiji. The camp brought together youth from several different communities for a week of connection, learning, growth, and plenty of laughter.

Throughout the week, the young people took part in B.L.A.S.T, alongside workshops with the Fijian military, fire brigade, Red Cross, and anger management sessions. They also participated in community volunteer work and physical activities. It was inspiring to watch every single young person give 100% to the Kaupapa. From the get-go, they showed genuine curiosity, openness, and a willingness to engage.

BLAST had a noticeable impact, with leadership skills rising to the surface and young people stepping up in ways that impressed us all. What really stood out was their level of resilience. Compared to what we often see in New Zealand, the Fijian youth demonstrated a remarkable strength – likely tied to their strong cultural values and deep respect for religion, family, and community. Fiji's identity is grounded in

culture, faith, and loyalty to the country, and that pride was visible in everything they did.

The local Blue Light facilitators and police officers were incredibly well-organised and had built strong relationships with the young people before the camp had even begun. They were open to feedback, eager to learn, and clearly passionate about creating positive change. It was heartening to see the broader community and sponsors getting behind this initiative, recognising the long-term value in investing in their youth.

Following the camp, Willie and I remained in Lautoka to deliver B.L.A.S.T training to young people, police, and other youth workers. It was an exciting opportunity to help embed the programme within the Fijian community, ensuring its sustainability and growth beyond just one week. The potential here is massive – if nurtured, this camp has all the ingredients to become a cornerstone of youth development in Fiji.

It was an honour to share our Kaupapa and see how it resonated in a different cultural setting. Fiji Blue Light is on a powerful path, and we're proud to be part of it.

Nikita Marks

NZ Blue Light Programme Coordinator

THANK YOU 08

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Blue Light Āwhitu Youth Camp

‘Empowering Youth through Adventure’

Located within one hour of Auckland’s CBD, and bordering Auckland’s Āwhitu Regional Park and Manukau Harbour, Blue Light’s 72-bed Youth Camp is your ideal outdoor adventure facility. Utilise our fully trained instructors or choose self-led activities, and enjoy our fully catered service for your next youth camp, conference, wānanga, or staff training retreat.

Activities

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• Sand Boarding • Golf • Raft Building • Camp Skills
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Fully Catered – Fresh,
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72 Beds – Comfortable
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and Schools



Outdoor Activities – Adventure
Challenges Designed to Build Skills
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bluelightcamp@bluelight.co.nz

331 Hatton Road, Awhitu, 2684

Blue Light Youth Centre

Blue Light’s National Youth Centre, located in Papakura, Auckland, provides opportunities for all young people to grow and develop new skills. The centre features adventure challenges including High and Low Ropes, a Rock-climbing Wall, and an Abseiling Wall.

Activities

High Ropes • Low Ropes • Rock Climbing • Abseiling
• Confidence Course • Pump Track • Lanyards • Chicken Walk
• B.L.A.S.T Games • Bubble Soccer • Chariots



youthcentre@bluelight.co.nz

159 Dominion Road, Red Hill, 2110



This is Blue Light

Kids, Cops and
Communities



BLUELIGHT.CO.NZ |  /NZBLUELIGHT |  @NZBLUELIGHT

Blue Light Ventures Inc

P.O Box 102 199
North Shore
Auckland 0745
New Zealand

Contact

0800 Bluelight
0800 258 354
+64 9 475 9301
info@bluelight.co.nz

Āwhitu Youth Camp

bluelightcamp@bluelight.co.nz
331 Hatton Road,
Āwhitu, 2684

Blue Light Youth Centre

youthcentre@bluelight.co.nz
159 Dominion Road,
Red Hill, Auckland 2025