



Pakuranga Intermediate School

43-49 Reeves Road, Pakuranga, Auckland
Tel: 09 576 1860 Fax: 09 576 1865 E-mail: office@pakurangaint.school.nz
www.pakurangaint.school.nz

3 March 2014

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

I have been Principal of Pakuranga Intermediate for the past 14 years and have known Tu Edwards for the past eight years. Tu is held in extremely high regard by schools and community groups in the Howick Pakuranga area. His work with young people is exceptional. His skills in coaching whether it is rugby coaching, family coaching or life coaching are remarkable.

The social skills programme alongside his rugby coaching in several of our lower Pakuranga schools has nurtured many of our young people through their teenage years. The respect which the students have for him indicates what a remarkable man he is. During the past eight years no programme has had as much social impact on our students as the Sporting Edge programme.

Tu came to us in 2005 and offered to bring to the school a Rugby Coaching Program that he had been working on at a local Primary School with his son and other sporting people. During this time Coach Tu had a full time Sales position elsewhere. His programme of dedicated 'Life Skill' coaching sessions alongside normal Rugby coaching, improved the leadership and performance of the teams, upgraded the students' behaviour on and off the field, reduced the truancy rate in the school, and significantly improved behaviour.

The impact of Sporting Edge Programs during 2005 was so effective we encouraged Tu to take up a position as the Truancy Officer for the Howick Pakuranga area. Alongside his work as Truancy Officer he continued to develop his idea of a positive programme that engages marginal students through their passion for sport.

Over 60 students a year have benefited from the Rugby/Life Skills programme which has run for 3hrs per week over a 7 week period followed by 10 hours per week for four weeks leading up to and during the Tournament. We have been very fortunate that Tu has managed to integrate the Life skills programme with his Truancy work.

We are a small decile 4 intermediate that has many students from low income families who are in high need. Being a Decile 4 school we miss out on opportunities that low decile schools get in terms of increased government grants and miss out on the extra community support that high decile intermediates get. We would gladly offer office facilities and administrative support to the Sporting Edge Trust should it be required at a later date.

The skills and attributes which Tu has which are the keys to his success are his high level of sporting skill particularly in rugby, his deep commitment to see a project or programme through, his deep empathy with people and their situation, a high level of integrity, his humility and his passion, his strong organisational ability, his highly effective management skills and the obvious enjoyment of what he does. Our hope is that the benefits our students have had from Sporting Edge programmes will be available to everyone in our community and that our marginal students in particular will continue to benefit from these programmes in the future.

Stuart Myers
Principal

5 March 2014

Edgewater College

Letter of Support for Sporting Edge Trust

To whom it may concern

Principal Allan Vester
M.Soc.Sci.(Hons), Dip.Tchg., Dip.Ed.Man

I am pleased to be able to write in support of Sporting Edge Trust.

I have been Principal of Edgewater College for 18 years and I recognise the value of the Sporting Edge program for our students and the school.

Coach Tu came to us in 2007 and offered to bring to the school a rugby coaching programme that he had been working on at a local intermediate school. His programme of dedicated life skill coaching sessions, run in conjunction with existing rugby coaching, improved the leadership of the teams, improved student behavior on and off the field, and reduced truancy rates and detentions and suspensions.

In 2011 during restructuring of the national truancy programme under which Tu was a District Truancy Officer, we offered Tu a coaching position to provide a number of student support functions. These functions included the role of Whanau and Cultural Coordinator and the implementation of a Leadership Development and Behavioural Modification programme which utilised the Sporting Edge programmes he had developed.

There was no Ministry of Education funding for this role, even though it was of value to us, however we were able to fund a 2-year trial of the programmes in the school.

In 2013 we decided to take the Sporting Edge format in to the wider community and Coach Tu was given the time and resources to develop and deliver the programmes. Consequently, Sporting Edge Trust was created.

In short, the school has made a considerable investment in the program because we could see the value of it. It is our hope that the partnership between Edgewater College and Sporting Edge Trust will enable:

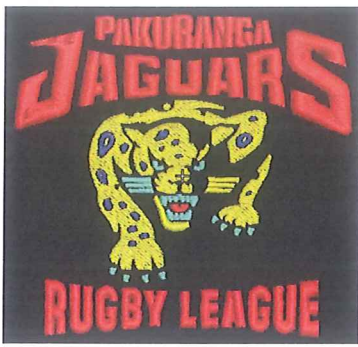
1. Time for appropriate funding to be put in place
2. The continued development of a program that is transferable and not totally reliant on Coach Tu's personal delivery
3. Edgewater College to minimise any overheads for the first 2 years to assist the Trust to start in the best way possible
4. Edgewater College (with a 5-year Education Review Office report cycle) to offer the administrative and financial management support needed for the Trust to have a healthy future

In return in 2014-2015 we expect:

1. A gradual transition of the Sporting Edge Trust as Coach Tu engages with the wider community and eventually goes nation-wide
2. Edgewater College to be the site for Sporting Edge Trust to modify and develop programmes
3. Edgewater College to be the training ground for the development of Sporting Edge Trust coaches

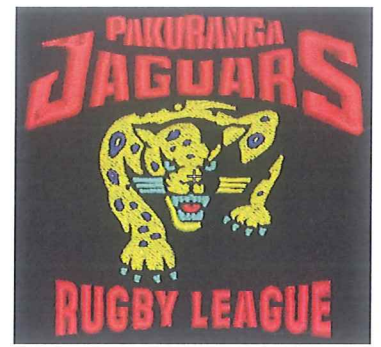

Allan J Vester
Principal





PAKURANGA RUGBY LEAGUE
COMMUNITY SPORTS CLUB (INC)
PO BOX 51225 PAKURANGA
PHONE/FAX: 5765419
MOBILE: 0297730019

www.myclub.co.nz/pakurangarugbyleague
Email: rawiniamana@vodafone.co.nz



March 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Pakuranga Rugby League club, I would like to acknowledge the great work Coach Tu and the Sporting Edge Programs have done in our club, community and local schools.

We have been working with coach Tu for the past 10 years supporting and encouraging our local Tamariki and their whanau as we do life as a community.

We have seen the difference between decision making of players that have been through the Sporting Edge Life Skills programs at either the Intermediate or College and those at our Club and in our community that have not been through these programs.

Coach Tu and Sporting Edge Programs must be given the chance to fine-tune, then delivery full time to our wider community. Those that need this positive program can often least afford to access it, and therefore we want to help obtain sustainable funding for Sporting Edge Trust so that these programs can go out into the wider community sooner than later.

The combination of engaging Marginal Students thru their passion for sport..... then helping these students and their families learn some skills which enable better decision making is such a simple yet effective concept, that we wish to embrace and promote.

Our hopes for the future is to run a series of coaching sessions with "My Notebook" for all our players so their personal decision making on and off the field can be strengthened, this will be followed by "Dad's and Lads" evenings for the same purpose in conjunction with up-skilling our Parents and Coaches in the art of "The Coach Approach".

We have predominantly Pacifica and Maori families who currently have to survive of the smell of an oily rag in the same way that our club does.

Therefore we strongly encourage any funding organisation that can help support “Sporting Edge Trust”, to please do so.

This will help strengthen other similar communities and address the growing gap between marginal students that are able to succeed and those that crash and burn due to poor decision making because they don't know what they don't know.

If you require further in formation please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards

**Rawinia Mana
Club Manager**



Pakuranga United Rugby Club (Inc.)

1 April 2014

To whom it may concern,

Over the past six years Pakuranga United Rugby Club has been the recipient of a number of students who have graduated from the Sporting Edge Programs that Edgewater College and Coach Tu have been running. A number of these ex-students have gone onto either play for our premier team, or higher honors at a representative level, tertiary education or employment with some of our club members.

Last year we incorporated the Sporting Edge Leadership Coaching Session into our Academy Program, which was very well received by all our students and those parent / coaches that were there.

The impact that Sporting Edge Programs has had on our club via students or coaching sessions has prompted us to get behind the programs and Sporting Edge Trust.

We believe the Sporting Edge LEAD Program in particular "My Notebook" component, is a unique and invaluable tool for all our players so as to strengthen their decision making on and off the field.

We would like to engage Sporting Edge "Life-Skills Coaching Sessions" into our Academy program as well as a series of Life Skill support coaching sessions for our Parents and Coaches.

We would support any applications made by SET for initial financial assistance with these programs giving us time to co-opt a commercial sponsor or user pays initiative once Sporting Edge Programs were well established as part of our necessities within our Rugby Programs.

We would have no hesitation in encouraging other Rugby Clubs or sporting organisations to utilize Sporting Edge Programs so as to strengthen their life-skill development and application which can aid in better decision making on and off the field, particularly helping young lads and their parents.

Yours sincerely

Pita Alatini
PURC Rugby Director