

# the **Epic** effect

## **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.*

This quarterly newsletter is designed to help share our story with our community and our supporters.



**SUPPORTERS  
SUPPORT US  
SUPPORT YOUTH  
IN CENTRAL HAWKE'S BAY**

## **Financial Update**

Our budget for 2026 has a \$105,000 shortfall, this is primarily due to the loss of previous Ministry of Youth Development funding that is no longer available.

We are hoping to boost our regular supporters, our current regular supporters contribute \$40,000/year. We are aiming to double this in 2026 and are looking for new regular supporters, a regular contribution of \$20 per week will raise \$1,040/year. (we would need 100 new supporters)

Would you consider becoming a regular supporter and contributing to the Epic Effect in Central Hawke's Bay?

## **Play:**

Want to get involved, talk to Penny about volunteering with us. [penny.epic@extra.co.nz](mailto:penny.epic@extra.co.nz)

## **Pray:**

The young people currently involved with Epic, that they would know they are valued, loved, and capable of reaching their potential.

Wisdom for our staff and volunteers as they walk alongside young people facing increasingly complex challenges.

Safety and growth during camps, mentoring relationships, outdoor adventures, and weekly programmes.

## **Pay:**

This quarter we are hoping to lift our regular supporters by adding 25 new regulars to our team! Could this be you?

EPIC MINISTRIES 02-0780-0006226-00

CODE: Supporter Ref: Your Name



# Epic



Kia ora, my name's Ari, the high school youth worker and I'm finally back! After being away for all of Term 1 on my honeymoon (I just got married!), my very first week back jumped straight into Easter Camp. Honestly, I couldn't have asked for a better way to return.

I went into camp feeling a bit nervous. Being away for a whole term, I wasn't sure how things would feel or what had changed. But within about 10 minutes of arriving, that all disappeared. I felt the love, the energy, and the strength of the community straight away. It was so encouraging to see not only familiar faces, but also the way our group has continued to grow and thrive.

This year, we took a group of 35 young people to Central Easter Camp at Waikanae El Rancho. We camped out, set up our tents, and created an awesome hangout space that quickly became the place to be. What was really special is that it wasn't just our group using it became a hub where young people from different youth groups came together, connected, and built friendships. Creating a space like that felt really significant, and it was awesome to see it come to life.

Throughout camp, one of the highlights was our "Vibe Igniters" led by Rita and Jireh. Before each main session, we gathered as a group for 30-45 minutes to connect, have fun, and prepare our hearts for

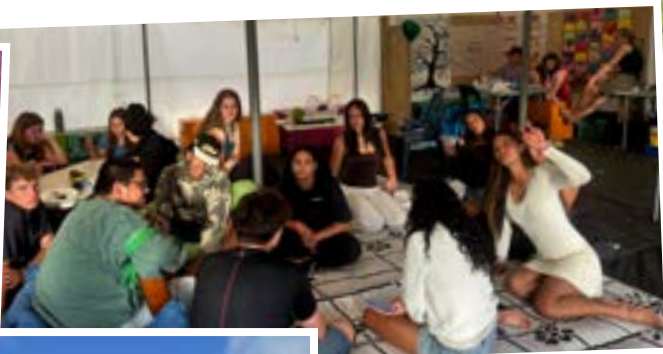
what was ahead. Then after the sessions, we came back together for group reflections talking through what the speaker shared and how it applied to our own lives. These moments created space for real conversations, deeper thinking, and meaningful growth.

There was also so much happening across camp—seminars, sports competitions, quizzes, and activities. One standout moment was our Epic Youth team winning the volleyball competition against 13 other youth groups! The excitement and team spirit around that was unreal.

More than anything though, what stood out was how God moved in the hearts of our young people. You could see a shift not just in how they engaged at camp, but in their confidence, their willingness to step out, and the way they are beginning to reach others. There's a growing boldness in sharing their faith, inviting friends, and being part of something bigger than themselves.

Coming out of camp, there's a real sense of excitement building especially as we look ahead to our upcoming youth service. The way our young people are leaning into worship, wanting to share messages, and stepping into leadership is something really special. It's not just about what happened at camp, but what's continuing to happen because of it.

We also want to take a moment to say a





huge thank you to everyone who made this possible. To those who contributed, donated, gave koha, or provided opportunities for us to fundraise thank you. Your generosity has made a real and lasting impact. A special thank you to our church community, whose support helped keep costs low and made camp accessible for so many of our young people. Without that support, many wouldn't have been able to attend. It truly means a lot, and we are incredibly grateful.

*Ngā Mihi*

*Ari aka Mrs Jackson*

## Easter Camp Reflections

Lucy shared that one of her highlights from Easter Camp was being able to hang out with others who also have a connection with faith. She really enjoyed the Sunday night session and taking part in activities like volleyball, which helped her feel more connected to others in the group.

Caleb highlighted the Sunday worship session as a key moment for him, along with enjoying activities such as speedball, GAGA ball, and the volleyball tournament. He felt that his faith was impacted while at camp, although he noticed that things felt like they returned to normal once he got home.

Hope reflected that while she enjoyed parts of Easter Camp, such as the Top Team chant offs, she didn't feel it had a strong impact on her faith journey. She also shared that she hasn't really continued things like reading her Bible since returning from camp.

Shayden shared that the worship session on the last night was a standout moment for him. He felt that Easter Camp helped strengthen and build his faith, and he valued the experience overall.

Overall, the young people reflected that Easter Camp was a fun

and meaningful experience, with many enjoying the opportunity to connect with others who share similar beliefs and some feeling encouraged in their faith journeys, with at least one young person saying they would "100% go again" because of the fun environment and the chance to connect with others who believe in God.

## Epic Programs

The programs run by Epic Ministries, and facilitated by Jireh and Rita, have had a strong and positive term across our intermediate, in-school, and high school spaces, including AmpD, Hauora, Echo, and Glow.

AmpD, our intermediate youth group, had a fun and engaging term focused on connection, teamwork, and enjoyment, starting with Hall Games, followed by a Sports Night, a highlight Easter Hunt held at Central Hawke's Bay College, and ending the term with another Hall Games session.

Our in-school programme, Hauora, has continued this year with sessions alternating each Friday between Ōtāne Primary School and Waipawa Primary School, providing a fun and supportive environment where students connect, participate in activities, and feel included each week.

Alongside this, Echo, our high school afterschool group for young men, runs every Thursday during the term and focuses on sport, connection, and personal growth, encouraging students to build friendships and interact with peers they may not usually spend time with.

Glow, our girls group, has also created a positive and supportive space where girls can connect, build confidence, and encourage one another.

Overall, these programmes have created strong opportunities for connection, growth, and fun across all age groups throughout the term.





# affected

Stories from past Epic participants reflecting on the impact their involvement with Epic has had on their lives.

## Introducing: Nathan Foot

### When were you involved with Epic?

*I was involved with epic from right back when Rock Solid (this program is now called AMP'D) was running right through till 2013*

*Youth group and all the events and camps i could make it to.*

### Where are you now?

*I am currently living in Havelock North with my wife Harriet and two boys Fergus (4) Tate (18months). I have been farming since I left school really and now fencing and building decks with a bit of casual farm work.*



Easter Camp 2012



Insomnia 2013

### What is favourite memory from your time with Epic?

*Easter Camp antics and the flamingo hunt*

### Why do you choose to support Epic now?

*I choose to support epic because ive benefited first hand when I couldn't afford to go to a camp and a supporter paid for me to go so im just paying it forward really. They run some great programs and provide a safe space for young people to hangout and keep them off the streets*

