

COMMUNITY

Soundraise gives \$8000 to school

By ZOE GARDEN

Three Year 12 students from Ormiston Senior College have donated \$8000 worth of musical equipment to the performing arts department of a South Auckland school.

Aadi Golchha, Ashiv Govind and Clyde Fronda of the charity organisation Soundraise have continued their quest to provide low-decile schools with the equipment they need.

They surprised Mangere Central School on July 6 with drums, electric guitars, microphones and other instruments and items for their school band.

Their music teacher Demetrius Savai'inaea, says the students were very excited and expressed "surprised facial expressions".

One student, Willie, echoed this sentiment. "It was very exciting."

Another student, Maria, said she was incredibly happy they had new equipment.

"They're not used to getting stuff specifically for them,"



Music to the ears - from left to right, Clyde Fronda, Ashiv Govind and Aadi Golchha. Photo supplied

Demetrius says. "It's a whole different experience."

Soundraise received a \$2000 grant from the Auckland Airport. This, along with the support from their sponsors Musicworks, allowed them to purchase \$8000 dollars in musical equipment for a school.

"One of Auckland Airport's primary aims for the grant is to create new learning opportunities," Aadi says. "We met the target demographic."

Mangere Central School was chosen because of its closeness to Auckland Airport as part of the grant's aims is assisting schools within the local community. Theirs isn't the first school

Soundraise has aided as they provided Dawson Primary in Otara with 25 new ukuleles and introductory lessons.

They also won the Auckland Airport charity awards last year.

Aadi founded Soundraise when he was 16-years-old with the intention of providing disadvantaged children with equipment to learn and develop a passion for music. He has been in a band with Ashiv and Clyde for four years.

Music was a lifeline for him when he started a new primary school. He found his favourite activity was going into the music room during lunch to play a ukulele.

As he got older, he realised there was a disparity between the quality of the musical department at his own school and others in neighbouring areas.

"Not all schools have the funding to get the right equipment," Aadi says.

"A lack of instruments and items can impair children's ability to get into music."

Demetrius has been teaching at a variety of schools around Auckland.

He says that this is a recurring issue amongst low-decile schools.

"This will help them increase their skills as a band and as musicians."

The band members - Willie, Laga, Grace, Sione and Maria - have already begun practicing with their new instruments and gear with avid enthusiasm.

Soundraise's motto of 'Changing lives through music' is sailing smoothly in the right direction.

"We want to continue helping schools," Aadi says. "We already have our eye on a few."

News bites

ESTUARY ART REMAINS OPEN

The Estuary Art Exhibition remains open for the public to view at the Uxbridge Creative Centre until August 28. The Estuary Art and Ecology Award finalists attended a ceremony at the Malcolm Smith Gallery on July 3. There remains a variety of creative and eye-catching environmentally-themed artworks exhibited at Uxbridge by a range of talented artists. Additionally the public can vote for the People's Choice Award which is sponsored by the Rice Family Partnership with the winner announced next month.

PEOPLE'S CHOICE FOR ACCESSIBILITY

Companion driving service Driving Miss Daisy Howick has won plaudits in the 2021 People's Choice Accessible Business Awards. This year the awards attracted 70 nominations for businesses demonstrating that accessibility is good for business and good for people. There were around 10,000 votes. Driving Miss Daisy Howick & Bucklands Beach won in the category Accessible Built Environment including Public Transport.

QUICK DOLLAR FINED

A business in East Tamaki has been fined \$60,000 for toys deemed hazardous and breaking product safety standards. The Commerce Commission has brought three representative charges under the Fair Trading Act against the Quick Dollar. It said their toy products did not comply with the applicable product safety standard. More than 1300 children's toys sold were a choking hazard and contained accessible batteries.

TENNIS COURTS UPGRADE

The NZ Community Trust awarded a number of grants in the Auckland region in June. Among the recipients was the Howick Tennis Club which received a \$40,000 grant for the upgrade of courts. Among the 15 gaming venues that contributed to these grants were the Barrel Inn in Howick and Rib House in Flat Bush.



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