

# Cook for a cause: New Zealand

## QUEENSTOWN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS COMPLETE EPIC COOK FOR A CAUSE 40-HOUR FUNDRAISER

by SouthernPR June 12, 2017

Six thousand meals for families in need around New Zealand and more than \$14,000 raised for Syrian children displaced by war.

That was the end result for a group of young student leaders from Queenstown's Wakatipu High School who did themselves and their community proud with their innovative 40 Hour Famine fundraiser which finished today (Sunday June 11).

Tired but hugely proud of their achievements, the 19 students declared it "a wrap" earlier this morning as final meals were boxed up and transported for freezing and distribution to City Missions in Christchurch, Wellington and Auckland, as well as Queenstown's own Happiness House.



The clock is still ticking on donations through their Wakatipu High School World Vision Cook for a Cause fundraising page which will continue to take donations for another three or four weeks to support

World Vision's child-friendly spaces in refugee camps in Jordan.

But for now, the Year 11 to 13 students have headed home for some well-earned rest before school tomorrow.

Source: <https://www.southernpr.co.nz/queenstown-high-school-students-complete-epic-cook-cause-40-hour-fundraiser/>

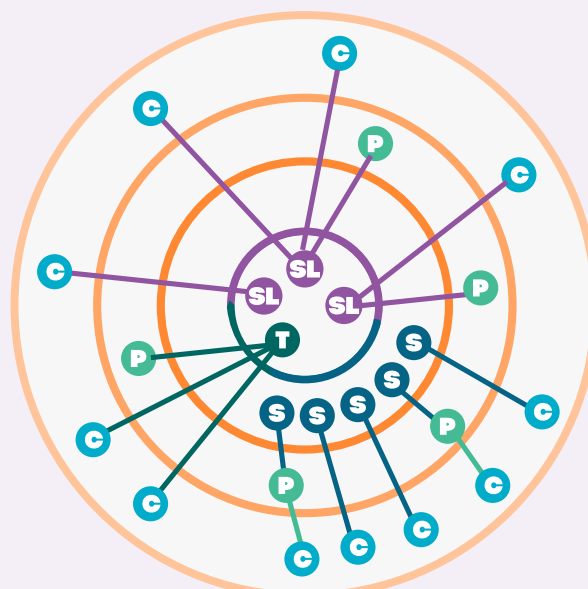
## BEHIND THE SCENES

Combining community service for New Zealanders in need with fundraising for Syrian refugees gave the Wakatipu High School community a social action to rally around. While the media presented a story of a smooth and successful 40 hours, getting to that point wasn't easy.

Behind the scenes, student leaders Beatrice Onions, Hugh Taylor and Zed Moore began their planning more than seven months before the event. With a target of June 2017, the students pitched their idea to their support teacher, Mrs Hearn, way back in November 2016.

Their idea was a cook-a-thon which would both raise funds for World Vision's 40 Hour Famine, by getting sponsored to cook for 40 hours, and combine this with a practical action of cooking meals for New Zealand-based charities. "I was blown away!" said teacher Mrs Hearn, "What an amazing idea!". *cont...*

## ACTION MODEL



### KEY

SL student leader

S student

T teacher

P parent

C community resource

Mrs Hearn was impressed with the idea and with the students' passion for it. But reality quickly set in: "Is this do-able? Is this something we can pull off?"

The students and teacher met to consider the practicalities of the proposal:

1. Do charities want the meals? Is there a need? Would this action be of benefit to the charities?
2. How will we get the meals there?
3. How will we make the meals with no budget?

Answering these questions became the focus for the first few months. Quickly charities in Christchurch, Wellington and Auckland said yes, they would love this. Next, the Big Chill trucking company answered the transportation question by agreeing to ship the meals from Queenstown free of charge.

This left the question of making the meals themselves and running the cook-a-thon. The team was able to leverage the resources of the very supportive wider community to get what they needed: someone's mum knew top chef Mark Gregory and he agreed to create the recipes and supervise the cooking; another parent was connected to Silver Fern Farms for the beef; local businesses were happy to support the local high school, including Coronet Peak ski field which let them use its kitchen because it hadn't opened yet for the winter season. Everything was donated through the generosity of local



Photo: Wakatipu High School

businesses, such as Packaging Plus who supplied all the packaging. "It was amazing how they valued what we were doing," says Mrs Hearn.

While everything was donated at no cost, getting the donations was time consuming. The students learned how to be persistent and market their ideas to companies. This meant stepping out of their comfort zones and making phone call after phone call. To add more pressure, some companies which had offered to provide items pulled out at the last minute, leaving the team hunting for replacements. "Whenever we came across a stumbling block, we were fortunate and the students worked really hard, and as a result we had somewhere else to get it from," says Mrs Hearn.

In early 2017, after months of phone calls and emails behind the scenes by a few core members, everything was ready to recruit students to participate in the cook-a-thon and launch the plan to the public. At this stage the group grew to 19 students, with smaller jobs delegated as necessary.

2017 zoomed by in a flurry of meetings and organisation. Suddenly it was the weekend of the cook-a-thon and 40 hours later, they had cooked 6000 meals for people in need in Aotearoa and also raised \$14,000 for refugee children from Syria.



For more information:  
<https://www.southernpr.co.nz/queenstown-high-school-students-complete-epic-cook-cause-40-hour-fundraiser/>  
 Photo: Wakatipu High School



## PLUSES

**Strengths**

- Community buy in
- Connections through parents and school
- Persistence
- Skilled student leaders
- Passionate
- Problem solvers

## MINUSES

**Threats**

- No budget to buy ingredients
- Nowhere to cook meals
- Distance to deliver meals
- Companies pull out

**Opportunities**

- Community cares about local issues

**Weaknesses**

- Only a few people involved in social action



Photo: Wakatipu High School

**Coronet Peak opens its kitchen for the 40 Hour Famine**

Coronet Peak opens its kitchen for students making 6000 meals for city missions in 40 hours

Watch: <https://www.tvnz.co.nz/one-news/new-zealand/coronet-peak-opens-its-kitchen-40-hour-famine>



Photo: Wakatipu High School

**TIPS FROM WAKATIPU HIGH SCHOOL**

1. Focus your social action around your passions and interests.
2. Don't compare your social action with what has been done in the past.
3. Everyone has strengths, so use these to assign jobs.
4. Tap into your community for support, distinctives, sponsorship.
5. Start your planning really early.
6. Make sure everyone has access to planning documents, rosters, emails, e.g. through a shared Google folder.
7. Schedule regular meetings, making them more frequent closer to the time, and hold special meetings for key aspects.
8. Get support from a teacher, your Principal, your school and the wider community.
9. Really sell what you are wanting to do, be persistent and follow up, especially if you interact with companies and organisations beyond the school.
10. Don't expect everything to go to plan! Use set-backs to develop problem solving skills.