

NAENAE BOXING ACADEMY

MAKING A REAL DIFFERENCE IN LIVES OF YOUTH

WITH BILLY GRAHAM

People who think the Naenae Boxing Academy is simply a place to learn how to box are missing the point entirely.

When the young Billy Graham met the legendary boxer Dick Dunn, it turned his whole life around, gave him purpose and belief in himself, the confidence to go out into the world.

Billy has never forgotten those lessons, which is why the face of Dick Dunn greets you when you arrive at the Academy.

Boxing is the mechanism Billy uses to provide the young (often troubled) men who cross his threshold with values, confidence, respect for others, team work, motivation, time management and leadership skills.

"They are skills that will set them up well to confront the challenges and opportunities that will come their way," says, Outward Bound Trust Chief Executive Trevor Taylor.

Opportunities like sponsoring young men with leadership qualities to an Outward Bound course.

The latest two, Jarrod Westrupp and Tim Brown got into the ring recently, not to spar, but to stand up and address their



peers, in front of their sponsors, about their experiences at Anakiwa in the Marlborough Sounds.

"Outward Bound – a life changing experience" – Jarrod Westrupp (left) and Tim Brown with Billy Graham. "We need more Youth Mentors like Billy Graham," says Outward Bound CEO Trevor Taylor.



Back row (left to right): **They made it possible...** Trevor Taylor (CEO Outward Bound Trust), Billy Graham, Ian Rogers (Marketing Manager Outward Bound) Dianne Leyten (Outward Bound), Michelle Laurenson (Lottery Grants Board, representing Wellington/Wairarapa region) and Graeme Ambler (Donations Manager, Pub Charity) **For them...** Jarrod and Tim with some of the other senior leadership of Billy's boys.

They told of confronting their biggest fears, taking on new and difficult physical challenges, "solo" living off their own wits for three nights, team building, learning to mix with people from all walks of life.

"For me it was life-changing," summed up Jarrod.

The recognition "the only thing between myself and greatness is me," was how Tim put it.

Trevor Taylor said the "two boys from Naenae" left a big impression on the Course.

"We loved having you. You had a crack at everything and when the going got tough, the tough got going."

Over 2,000 New Zealanders a year from all walks of life go through Outward Bound courses.

The boys also thanked sincerely their sponsors: Outward Bound Trust, The Lottery Grants Board, Pub Charity and of course, their mentor Billy Graham and the Naenae Boxing Academy Trust.