



# An introduction to Edge Workshop

A programme for boys to develop life skills and develop greater self esteem



# WHAT IS EDGE WORKSHOP?

Edge Workshop is a programme for boys aimed at learning simple hands-on skills and through this the development of self esteem, resilience and better life skills.

It is a programme that is packed full of activities that boys enjoy most, like construction, adventure, small and engaging projects, fast and energetic games and as much boy against boy competition as possible.

Programmes are tailored to primary and intermediate boys aged 8-12 and we work within the school structure. The programme encompasses the needs of a small group of boys selected by the school to be involved. Specific outcomes can be raised by the school before the programme commences.

It is unique in that it is a flexible partnership programme hosted during regular school hours, either at lunch time or during class, with trained volunteers led by a paid BB facilitator.

In other words Edge Workshop is the perfect solution for boys who seem to be struggling with either the school curriculum, or external circumstances such as their home environment.





**HANDS ON LEARNING**

# WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF EDGE WORKSHOP?

We have found, through years of experience of working with boys, that they respond positively to the learning of values and life skills.

**The target area is specifically boys who:**

- Engage better with kinaesthetic learning
- Have learning challenges
- Are disengaged from learning in school
- Have a need for creative experience
- Require literacy improvement
- Are generally disconnected from society due to social difficulties

**It is provided at no cost to parents or the school, it is 100% funded by BB and its partners.**



# WHAT ARE OUR GOALS?

## Edge workshop aims to:

- Positively impact boys with a well targeted programme
- Provide hands on experiences that build self esteem and life skills
- Allow boys to discover and use tools in a way that may not be available elsewhere
- Help boys achieve better outcomes at school and in their wider social environment
- Intervene in boys' lives early which will help avoid major problems in the future
- Support educators by intervening with challenging students and improving their class learning atmosphere

WE ARE MOBILE



# EDGE WORKSHOP – A WELL PROVEN INTERVENTION

**27** schools participated in Edge Workshop in 2023, with **671** boys individually reached and all positively impacted.

It is delivered locally at your school through any facilities available, or in an Edge Workshop mobile trailer brought onto school grounds, with the boys working outdoors.

We work across six regions of New Zealand

Auckland | Waikato | BOP | Canterbury | Dunedin | Central Otago

The feedback from principals and teachers is overwhelming and positive. They can objectively see a difference in behaviour from the start of a term and amazing progress and improved behaviour and learning outcomes.

Edge Workshop is now a very well established programme. It has been delivering in schools since 2010. Literally thousands of boys have passed through in that time, many considered at risk.



## QUOTES FROM SCHOOLS

Throughout your time at Otahuhu Primary School, you have consistently demonstrated your unwavering devotion to the well-being of our students. Your open-hearted approach and readiness to help with any issue, big or small, have created a warm and inviting atmosphere in which our children feel safe, respected, and valued. Our students have enjoyed weekly sessions each term learning new skills to develop their knowledge on.

**Meritiana Macshane – Deputy Principal Otahuhu Primary School**

The boys are very enthusiastic and are always at school and ready to start work on time on Tuesdays. They are eager to set up the room and ensure all the tools and resources are ready for their lesson. We have seen such an improvement in our students oral language and engagement and they are developing their mathematical skills as they measure and cut to make various things. We are very grateful to BB edge for providing this program at our school and we look forward to continuing our relationship with them.

**Julie Paul – Principal Holy Cross Catholic School**

**EDGE**  
**WORKSHOP**  
DELIVERED IN SCHOOLS BY BB



**BOYS  
EXPERIENCE  
INDIVIDUAL SUCCESS**

## Numbers required for a programme

Edge Workshop requires a minimum of 6 students per session to be viable, this is usually supplemented by a volunteer from the school to assist with delivery. The standard Edge Workshop programme runs for 8 weeks of the school term.

Once the minimum threshold is agreed with the school, the school can select the boys to be involved, or have teacher referrals (eg - after parent teacher meetings where concerns are raised), or ask for volunteers from the classroom itself.

The frequency and size of each programme is established in partnership with the school - however the small numbers are vital to the programme being successful and inclusive. The boys really value and respond to one on one time with male role models.

## Who Runs Edge Workshop

The programme is delivered by BB New Zealand, previously known as Boys Brigade, using trained volunteers but each programme is also led by a paid BB facilitator. While BB New Zealand has a Christian background and this is integral to the wider movement, the Edge Workshop facilitators are sensitive to the multicultural and diverse religious backgrounds students come from. Values based discussions are part of the curriculum and these are aligned with the value objectives of the school. The main themes are Discipline, Integrity, Respect, and Tenacity. (D.I.R.T.)

# NEXT STEPS - TO FIND OUT MORE

## In the first instance talk to

Mike Brewer

National Director

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Phone 0274 967 537

We can then organise a meeting at your school.

