

# Ted Culley

Graeme Dingle Foundation Marlborough



Ted Culley has been instrumental in the development and growth of Graeme Dingle Foundation programmes from a local community, regional and national perspective in Marlborough.

Ted has been a long-term supporter of the Kiwi Can programme since he saw the direct impact it had on the lives of individual children taking part in the programme over ten years ago in Northland. Since then, he has been a huge advocate both within his company (Sanford - itself a long-time sponsor partner) and in communities across the country.

Ted's passion led him to championing the introduction of Kiwi Can in his home region of Marlborough. Ted's belief in Kiwi Can helped 'get it across the line' in a couple of local schools, and since those humble beginnings, the growth of Graeme Dingle Foundation programmes in Marlborough has been astronomical. Almost 60% of kids in Marlborough are now part of Kiwi Can every week.

Getting things started is one thing, but helping keep them going takes ongoing commitment – which Ted has in spades. Ted's been super-active in fundraising.

In 2013 Ted abseiled from a multi-tiered building and raised over \$10,000. In 2015 he jumped from a plane and raised over \$20,000, and in 2020 jumped even higher (20,000 ft), after losing 20kg in weight, and fundraised over \$30,000! As an individual, raising over \$60,000 for the cause – from over 250 donors – is potentially a Graeme Dingle Foundation record!

Ted's actions have also inspired others to take up the Graeme Dingle Foundation cause. Every year Ted's team (of 25-30 people, including Ted himself) volunteer their time at a food-stand at the local Havelock Mussel Festival and raise money for Graeme Dingle Foundation Marlborough (circa \$8,000 per year).

Other colleagues have fundraised by running marathons and abseiling from high places – and two even combined forces to kayak the Cook Strait, themselves raising over \$30,000!!

As if more was needed, Ted sponsors a 'Flying Dolphin Award' at Havelock School. Senior primary-aged students are invited to apply by demonstrating how they've incorporated Kiwi Can themes (of positive relationships, respect, integrity, and resilience) in their lives – whether at school, on the sports field or at home.

Ted personally sponsors a skydive for the award winner – to inspire them to keep stepping up to opportunities! Ted has sponsored this initiative every year since 2015.

Ted is an absolute believer in the value of Graeme Dingle Foundation programmes and is the best promotor and supporter an organisation could hope for.



**We want every child to know: What they have inside is greater than any obstacle.**