

15 Facts about Tim Tipene

1. Tim's birth was the outcome of rape. A fact Tim's mother reminded him of throughout his childhood. Tim never experienced a close relationship with his mother.
2. Tim's childhood was full of violence and abuse. He experienced physical, emotional and sexual abuse.
3. When Tim was an infant his mother married into a Maori family. The family legally adopted Tim as their own and he was raised in two cultures, NZ Maori and NZ European.
4. At school Tim was behind in his learning. He had to attend special classes for reading and for maths. He also had to see a speech therapist as he couldn't talk properly.
5. Tim's biological father spent much of his life in prison for crimes against women and children. When Tim was 8 his mother told him that he would grow up to be a monster and hurt women and children just like his father.
6. At the age of 16 Tim was kicked out of school. This was after Tim had asked the school for help in dealing with the violence and abuse at home.
7. When Tim was kicked out of school he was so behind in his learning that at 16 he couldn't say the alphabet from A-Z, he didn't know his times tables and he couldn't tell the time on analog clocks, (Clocks with hands).
8. As well as asking his school for help, Tim sought help from the Police and members of his family and community. No help was given. The Police were only interested in getting Tim to confess to local acts of petty crime.
9. Tim was shunned and rejected by his family. In the end his step father faced him with a knife. He said that Tim had never been a part of the family and that he never would be. He then threatened to kill Tim.
10. Frustrated at the lack of support for children and young people Tim decided to do something about it. In 1994 at the age of 22, without any formal qualifications, funding or support, Tim created the Warrior Kids programme to support Children with Empowerment, Self Control and Self Regulation.
11. Tim went on to provide Warrior Kids to communities and schools for over 20 years, changing the lives of thousands of children and their families.
12. With a love of writing Tim became an author. Currently he has had ten books published, five of which have won awards.
13. Tim started martial arts at the age of 12 and over 30 years accumulated a total of 12 Black Belt Dan ranks and various teaching titles. In 2013 Tim was inducted into the New Zealand Martial Arts Hall of Fame.
14. Tim has been a self-defence instructor for women, an advocate for adults with special needs and a facilitator of Anger Management and Living Without Violence programmes for men.
15. Tim overcame his violent and abusive childhood and broke the cycle. He now has his own family with two children, and his home is safe and full of love.

For more information visit www.timtipene.com