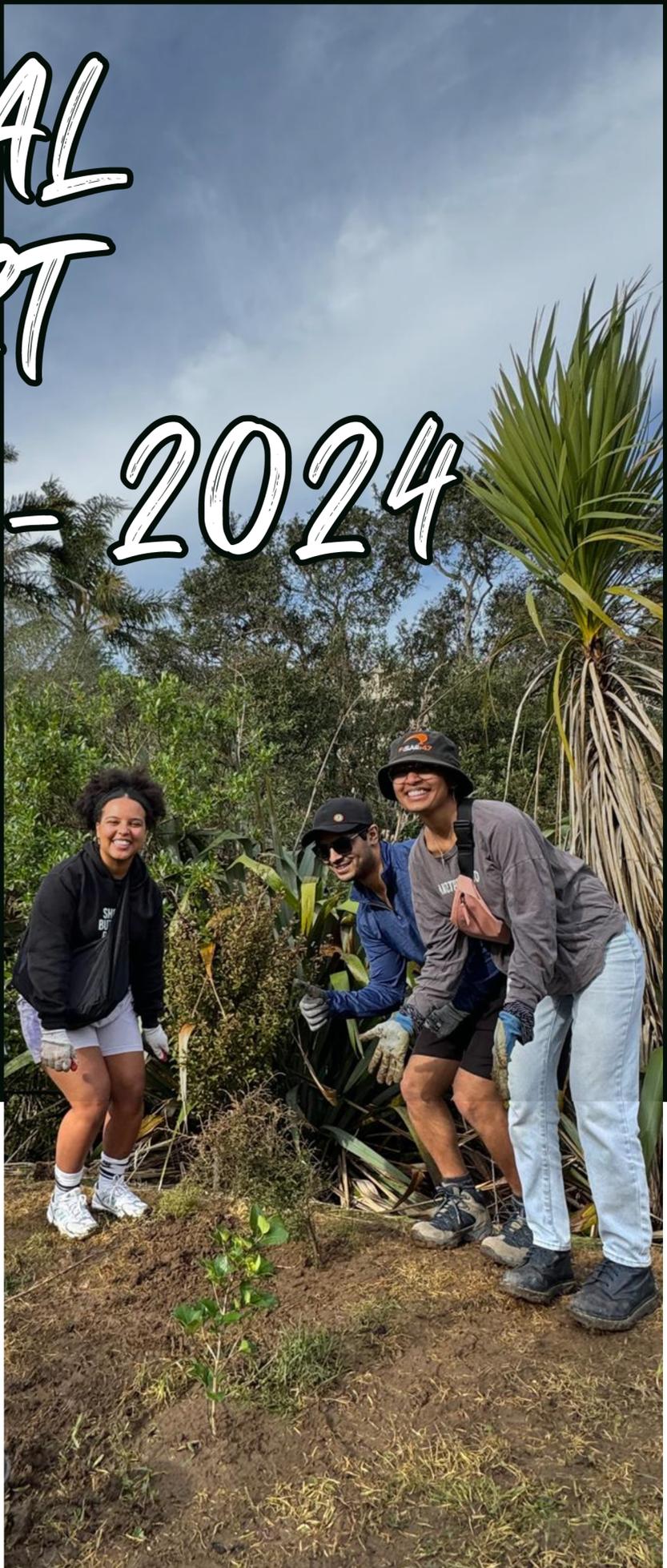


ANNUAL REPORT 2023 - 2024



TAKAPUNA NORTH
COMMUNITY TRUST



PUPUKE
BIRDSONG
PROJECT

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OUR STORY

In 2006, the Takapuna North Community Trust was born with a clear mission: to uplift the well-being of the communities of Hauraki Corner, Takapuna, Milford, Forrest Hill, Castor Bay, and Sunnynook.

Our primary focus? Fostering community pride and preserving our natural environment, te taiao.

We're committed to supporting a wide range of community members – families, new migrants, youth, seniors, local grassroots groups, and those living in densely populated areas.

In addition to our community work, we're passionate about environmental conservation. Through our Pupuke Birdsong Project, we're actively involved in restoring and conserving our local ecological taonga.

Our Vision

Creating connected communities, cherishing where we live, and fostering a shared love for the environment and each other.

Our Mission

Our mission is to enhance community pride and preserve a thriving natural environment by spearheading local sustainability and conservation initiatives.

We collaborate with and empower our community to partake in and benefit from these initiatives, ensuring a diverse and flourishing neighbourhood that we can all cherish and utilise.

Our Values

Collaboration

Inclusion

Kaitiakitanga

CHAIR'S STATEMENT

The 2023 – 24 financial year has been challenging at times for both the Board and team but the belief in the vision of the organisation and the value we can add to the community have kept us all moving forward and finishing the financial year in a much stronger position. As we look forward to the opportunities that exist in the changing environment, we can do so knowing that the organisation is well placed to adapt and respond.

As we use this opportunity to reflect back on the last twelve months, it is clear that this organisation relies on so many people so I want to thank everyone who has contributed.

Our community volunteers who give uncounted hours because they believe in what they do and they want to make a difference.

Past and current Board members who share their skills and give up their time to steer the organisation. We have had to say farewell to two people this year as they travel on a new path, so many thanks to Jill Schroder and Michael Gaunt.

Last, but by no means least, a huge thank you to the team who give so much every day and show up with passion and enthusiasm to support our community.

With a team like that, how can we do anything else but succeed?

Nāku noa, nā



Rachael Pates
Acting Chair

MANAGER'S STATEMENT

As I reflect on the past year, I'm grateful for the opportunities to innovate and try new approaches. In the face of changing and reduced funding, we have focused on delivering programmes that stay true to our goals of community development and environmental sustainability. I am extremely proud of what we have managed to achieve.

Our team's enthusiasm and positivity, coupled with the Board's encouragement and support, made this journey enjoyable and fruitful. Key successes include:

- Launching our Asian Community Liaison programme to engage our growing Asian community in conservation activities
- Developing the Ecological Halo programme to support conservation volunteers as kaitiaki for local parks and reserves
- Growing our corporate volunteering programme, which has boosted our work through hands-on support and funding

We also implemented a small number of pilots to assess their ongoing value and viability for our community. Not all succeeded, but we learned and adapted. Our strategic shift towards environmental initiatives resonated with funders and our community, validating our decision.

Looking ahead, we'll build on our environmental focus, particularly supporting communities as kaitiaki for local parks and reserves. Addressing flooding response and caring for the Wairau Estuary are also priorities.

I'm proud of our team's ability to stay relevant and impactful. This year's initiatives have shown our a positive influence on environmental outcomes. I'm excited about our upcoming projects and look forward to continuing our journey. Our successes would not have been possible without you, our committed volunteers and partners, and the trust placed in us by our funders. Thank you!

Ngā mihi,



Natasha Geo
Trust Manager

OUR YEAR IN REVIEW

2356

Volunteer hours -
contributing approximately \$62 000 of value

2008

Trees planted

36

Public park care events

13

Special interest group events

6

Corporate group events

14

School group events

66m3

Volume of rubbish removed from parks and reserves

19

Signature events (see highlights below)

178.1%

Increase in Facebook reach

70.8%

Increase in Instagram reach

OUR YEAR IN REVIEW

Celebrate with us
Te Iwa O
Matariki 2023
19 June - 14 July

TAKAPUNA NORTH COMMUNITY TRUST
PUPUKE BIRDSONG PROJECT
Devonport-Takapuna Local Board
www.takapunatrust.org.nz

COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER AWARDS 2022: BEST NEWSPAPER RUNNER-UP

The Rangitoto
Observer
Takapuna, Milford, Castor Bay, Forrest Hill and Sunnynook

Richard & Robert Milne
022 011 24 94
#1 SALES TEAM

DELIVERED FORTNIGHTLY Issue 73 - August 4, 2023 AN INDEPENDENT VOICE PREMIUM

Tree-chopping in park under investigation... p2 AT cans long-awaited Lake Rd upgrade... p7 Winter Lights bring warm glow to Takapuna... p8-9

Parents in a bind after childcare-centre axing

Parents of children attending a council-run childcare centre in Takapuna are scrambling to find alternatives after its funding was pulled.

The Devonport-Takapuna Local Board has opted not to fund the Kauri Kids Centre, next to Takapuna Pool and Leisure Centre, following a surprise Auckland Council decision to devolve responsibility for its 10 childcare centres around the city.

The local board said it was in no position to pick up the tab for the facility, which is licensed for 30 children. It is understood to be winding up in September.

Courtney Low, who has three children aged under five at the centre, told the Observer its affordability had been a "huge help" in allowing her to work part-time and its closure had scuppered her plans of returning to full-time employment.

To page 3

Hoops hopefuls hit the courts

Game on... Milford Primary School students (from left) Otto Haythornthwaite, Ryder Griffin, Caleb Buela, Lachlan Gibson and Hunter Duffin between rounds at a 3x3 basketball tournament for Year 5-8s held at Carmel College, organised by the Takapuna North Community Trust. Story, page 3



COST EFFECTIVE
SUSTAINABLE
LIVING EXPO

LET'S REUSE THINK DUCE USE

4TH NOVEMBER 2023
FORREST HILL SCHOOL,
50 FORREST HILL ROAD
10AM - 3PM

TAKAPUNA NORTH COMMUNITY TRUST

SEMINARS, WORKSHOPS & THRIFT SHOPPING

Free expo entry
Scan for the full programme & register for workshops



OUR YEAR IN REVIEW



THE RANGITOTO OBSERVER PAGE 8 APRIL 26, 2024

Second Pupukemoana proves popular

The second annual Discover Pupukemoana event drew more than 500 people to learn more about Lake Pupuke this month. Many took the chance to kayak on the lake or use the gear provided to go snorkelling. Often stayed ashore, enjoying workshops and stalls and the tropical surrounds. Tabitha Becroft, the environmental coordinator for event organisers Pupuke Birdsong Project, said even though the weather on 14 April was more unpredictable than for the inaugural event last year, it stayed fine enough for everyone to have a good time. The snorkelling tours and a weaving workshop, at which people made hakaake fish, proved the most popular activities, she said. Bilingual workshops on pests and plants were held in English and Chinese. Held in Killarney Park, the event was hosted to raise awareness of the importance of Lake Pupuke to the local ecosystem.

What a view... Ankit Marothiya (left) and Deepika Khadolia came from home in central Auckland to discover more about Lake Pupuke

Oranmore experience... Eric Webster helped attendees launch into kayaking on the lake

Team effort... Organisers and helpers, including from left) Pupuke Birdsong Project environmental coordinator Tabitha Becroft, chair Rachael Pates, volunteer David Morrison, Takapuna North Community Trust staff Mailee Hamray and Georgia Pringle, and trust manager Natasha Gino, with part-timo staffer Ben Zhang (rear), who took a bilingual session on pests and plants, and Asian community liaison and events coordinator Grace Samuelson

APRIL 26, 2024 THE RANGITOTO OBSERVER PAGE 9

Dads and daughters... Brian Wolfman (above) and five-year-old twin daughters Aria and Lexie arrived from Milford by bike, while David Anderson (top right) brought his two girls, Iris, aged 7 (left) and Stella, 8, from Devonport

Taking the plunge... A group of snorkellers is kitted out and given a briefing before exploring the depths

Key info... Healthy Waters biosecurity team members Belinda Stutzholme (above, left) and Madison Jones, offered advice. Right: Jeff Zhao brought 18-month-old daughter Chloe along from home in Hillcrest for the day



OUR YEAR IN REVIEW



MAY 10, 2024 THE RANGITOTO OBSERVER PAGE 21

Info for seniors... At an Age Concern meeting aimed at the Chinese community at the War Memorial Hall in Takapuna last month, Ben Zhang (right) talked about controlling weeds and rats

Environmentalists seek support of Chinese community

A local environmental organisation has been teaching workshops in Mandarin to further its outreach in the community and improve its pest-trapping efforts.

The Pupuke Birdsong Project had wanted to connect with the Chinese community for a while, but needed to find the right person to help it do so, environmental coordinator Tabitha Becroft said.

It found exactly that in Mandarin speaker Ben Zhang, who lived in Milford until recently.

Zhang has vast knowledge about gardening and pest control, Becroft said.

"It's quite rare to find someone like Ben who has so much knowledge and so much passion about the importance of the environment and gardens and, of course, is perfectly bilingual.

"I'm very aware that I know how to talk to people who've grown up in New Zealand, but that immigrant experience is very different and so that's why Ben is really good at bridging that cultural gap."

Zhang has his own gardening business and has previously taken environmental sessions for Auckland Council.

Becroft said for the predator-free movement to be truly effective everyone needs to take part. She had realised that the language barrier was stopping the organisation from reaching a large portion of the community.

The Mandarin-speaking community was targeted as Census data showed it was the largest non-English-speaking population.

Becroft said sessions started with lessons on gardening, with information about growing native plants, how to identify pest plants and how to get rid of them, moving on later to pest control.

Attracting people to come to a trapping workshop can be difficult, so the gardening context helps introduce the concept.

"It's getting that balance in a workshop so that people are interested enough to come and that we can get our message out."

Becroft said once people get a taste of pest trapping in their own gardens, they are more likely to become involved with trapping in public spaces such as reserves.

Sessions over March and April were held at Takapuna Library, funded through an Auckland Council grant.

Sessions focused on the seniors within the Chinese community were held at Age Concern, as part of a collaboration with its Asian Social Service Team. An average of 60 people attended the Age Concern workshops.

A group on Chinese social-media platform WeChat, which currently has over 1000 members, has been started so word of the workshops can be spread.

Becroft said that she would like to extend the programme in the future to the Korean community, who also make up a large portion of the North Shore population.



TREASURER'S REPORT

We finish the financial year with \$186,000 in cash assets thanks to some careful budgeting and a range of contributions from philanthropic organisations who supported our mahi. Whilst the core work of the Pupuke Birdsong Project was continued to be supported by Devonport-Takapuna Local Board, the team had to search elsewhere for funds to enable us to expand our community and environmental activation work following changes to the Local Board's funding model for this work.

The financial reserves that previous Board and staff had the foresight to accumulate, enabled us to support the continuation of key roles as our team secured new funding streams. We finish the year in a good position, building our position as the key environment and community focused organisation in this area.

Nā



Rachael Pates
Acting Chair

FINANCIAL REVIEW

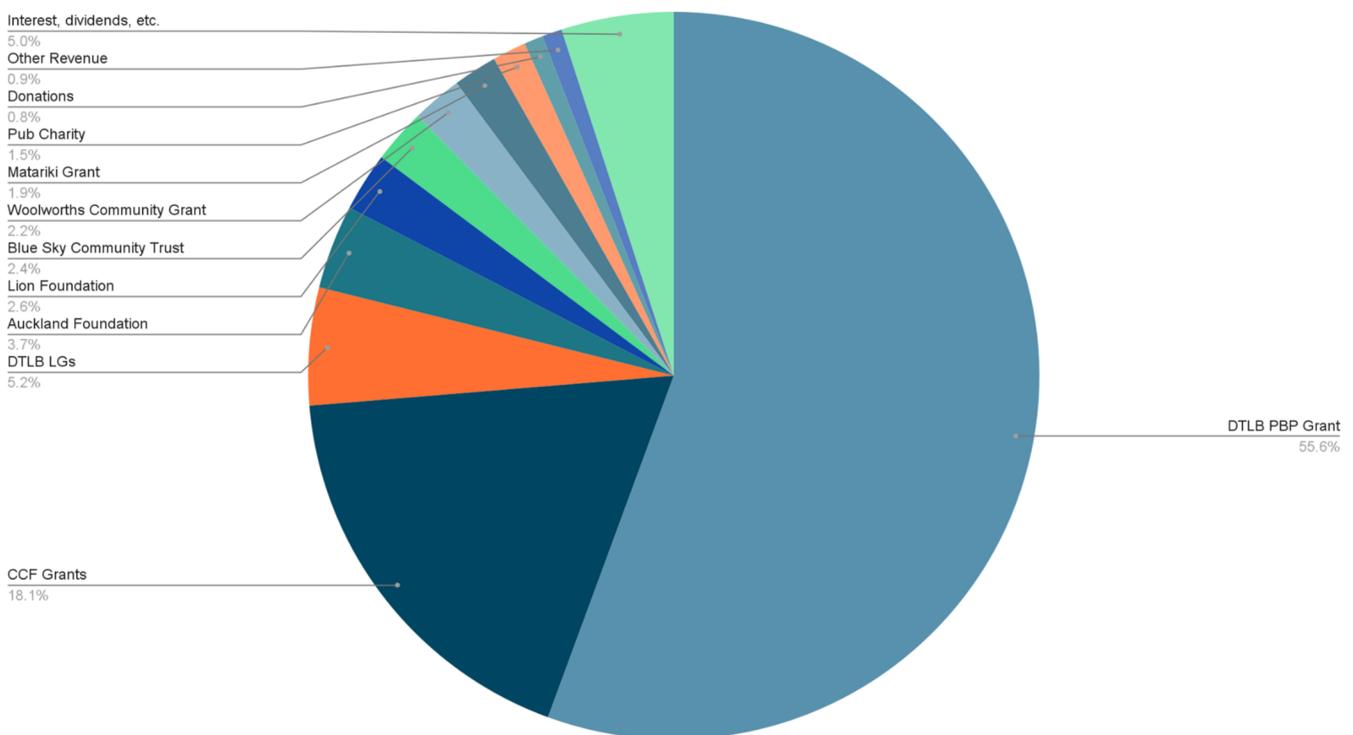
We believe we are on the right path with diversifying funding and have been successful in finding complementary funding streams to extend the scope of our work.

However, we still rely on and appreciate the ongoing support of our Local Board to enable us to continue to our work locally.

Our funding streams:

- **Contracts/Grants**
- **Interest, dividends, other investment revenue**
- **Donations**
- **Other revenue (sales of merchandise, equipment hire, etc.)**

2023 - 2024 Financial Year



OUR TEAM



Natasha Geo
Trust Manager



Tabitha Becroft
Environmental
Coordinator



Grace Samuelson
Communications/
Asian Community
Liaison



Maisie Ramsay
Ecological Halo
Advisor



Georgia Pringle
Environmental
Assistant



Lofty Ned
Te Taiao
Advisor



Jonathon Griffiths
Events Assistant

OUR BOARD



Jill Schroder
Chair



Rachael Pates
Acting Chair/
Treasurer



Barbara Morgan
Board Member



Neil Murray
Board Member



Hannah Lyness
Board Member



Gurdeep Talwar
Board Member



Michael Gaunt
Board Member

OUR SUPPORTERS



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