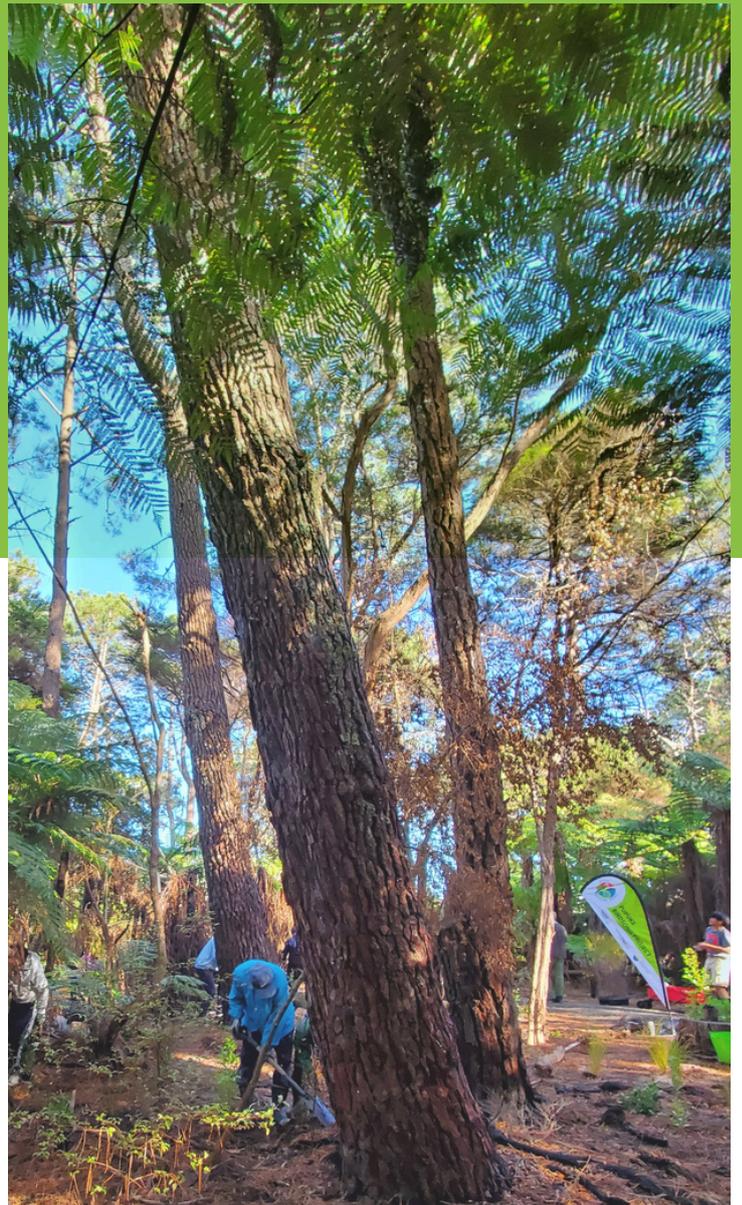


TAKAPUNA COMMUNITY FACILITIES TRUST

Annual report 2024-25



TAKAPUNA COMMUNITY
FACILITIES TRUST



PUPUKE
BIRDSONG
PROJECT

CONTENTS

Our story so far	2
Chair's statement	3
Manager's statement	4
Our year in review	5
Volunteers stories	7
Asian community outreach	10
Treasurer's report	11
Financial review	12
Our team	13
Our board	14
Our supporters	15

OUR STORY SO FAR

Since 2006, Takapuna Community Facilities Trust has worked to uplift the well-being of the communities of Hauraki Corner, Takapuna, Milford, Forrest Hill, Castor Bay, and Sunnynook.

We have evolved and are now working primarily as Pupuke Birdsong Project: building sustainability for community and preserving our natural environment, te taiao.

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

Our vision

Connected, caring communities united by a deep love for te taiao (the environment), where people and nature thrive together.

Our mission

To protect and restore our local environment through community-led conservation and sustainability initiatives. We empower volunteers and collaborate with diverse communities—including mana whenua and local Asian populations—to foster biodiversity, climate resilience, and a shared responsibility for the places we live.

Our values

- **Collaboration:** We work alongside volunteers, residents, and partner organisations to co-design and deliver practical conservation outcomes that build community pride and resilience.
- **Inclusion:** We actively welcome and value participation from all people—mana whenua, migrants—ensuring everyone sees themselves reflected in our work.
- **Sustainability:** As committed kaitiaki, we take action to care for ecosystems, restore habitats, and promote sustainable lifestyles that will benefit future generations.
- **Volunteering:** Volunteers are at the heart of our mahi. We recognise, support and celebrate their essential contribution to restoring biodiversity and building connected communities.

CHAIR'S STATEMENT

The 2024–25 year has been fantastic for Pupuke Birdsong Project. We have continued to strengthen our focus on sustainability, further building our profile as the conservation organisation for the northern half of the Devonport Takapuna Local Board area. At the same time, we have expanded our reach — with new areas of work bringing our focus, energy, and amazing volunteers into our reserves and community spaces across the area.

Making the change from staff member to Chair of the Board has been both interesting and rewarding. It has been a privilege to witness the dedication and capability of our staff, trustees, and volunteers from this new perspective, and to see the strength of our shared commitment to restoring the natural environment of our communities.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Rachael Pates, who so ably served as both Acting Chair and Treasurer for part of the year as the Board evolved. We also warmly welcome our new Trustees — Helen Donovan, who brings valuable accountancy skills to the Treasurer role, and Kahla Parkash, who contributes her legal expertise and passion for community conservation.

The 2024–25 year was also one of internal change and steady consolidation. With a clear organisational focus, our staff were able to deepen their work and deliver impressive outcomes across multiple projects. Staff transitions were navigated with great skill, thanks to the professionalism, strength, and commitment of Grace and Maisie. We were also pleased to welcome Liz, who joined the team to cover Natasha's maternity leave.

Our sincere thanks go to the Devonport–Takapuna Local Board and Auckland Council for their ongoing support — your partnership continues to make so much of our work possible. We also acknowledge our other generous funders and partners who share our vision and work alongside us to make it happen.

As we look ahead, Pupuke Birdsong Project remains committed to protecting and restoring our local biodiversity, empowering communities to take action, and ensuring the long-term sustainability of our natural spaces. It's been a year of progress and purpose, and I'm excited about the opportunities ahead.

Nāku noa, nā

Tabitha Becroft
Chair

MANAGER'S STATEMENT

When I applied for the Manager's role in March this year, I believed I was joining an organisation with a strong staff team, a diverse and capable board of trustees, and a clear vision for the future. That has proved absolutely true. Pupuke Birdsong Project is guided by a simple but powerful vision: people and place in harmony, each thriving because of the other. As we restore reserves across our area, we also restore ourselves—by spending time in nature, getting our hands in the soil, and working together towards a shared purpose.

Our volunteers continue to be the lifeblood of the organisation. From those who attend working bees to weed, plant, and clear rubbish, to those who quietly check and reset traps in all weathers, their dedication underpins everything we achieve. This year alone, volunteers contributed a record 3,201 hours—the equivalent of \$88,988 of labour at the Living Wage. We are deeply grateful for their time, commitment, and passion.

Among the highlights of the past year were:

- Strengthening partnerships with the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board and Auckland Council, and taking on new initiatives such as the Wairau Estuary Enhancement Project, the Community Flood Resilience Project and the Gold Clam Awareness Campaign. These projects not only improve the health and resilience of our waterways but also deepen our engagement with the local community.
- Expanding our Conservation and Asian Community Liaison programmes and seeing them work hand in hand.
- Hosting Discover Pupukemoana for the third year, introducing more people to the beauty and ecology of Lake Pupuke and its surrounds.

Looking ahead, we are excited to build even stronger connections with new communities, grow our volunteer base, and remain responsive to the evolving needs of both people and place.

Liz Ranger
Trust Manager
(Maternity cover)

OUR YEAR IN REVIEW



3,201 hours volunteered by members of the community



contributing approximately \$88,988 of value



26 park care events



80m³ of rubbish removed from reserves and parks



197 traps and bait stations active in the community



1,246 trees planted



55 workshops and community education days

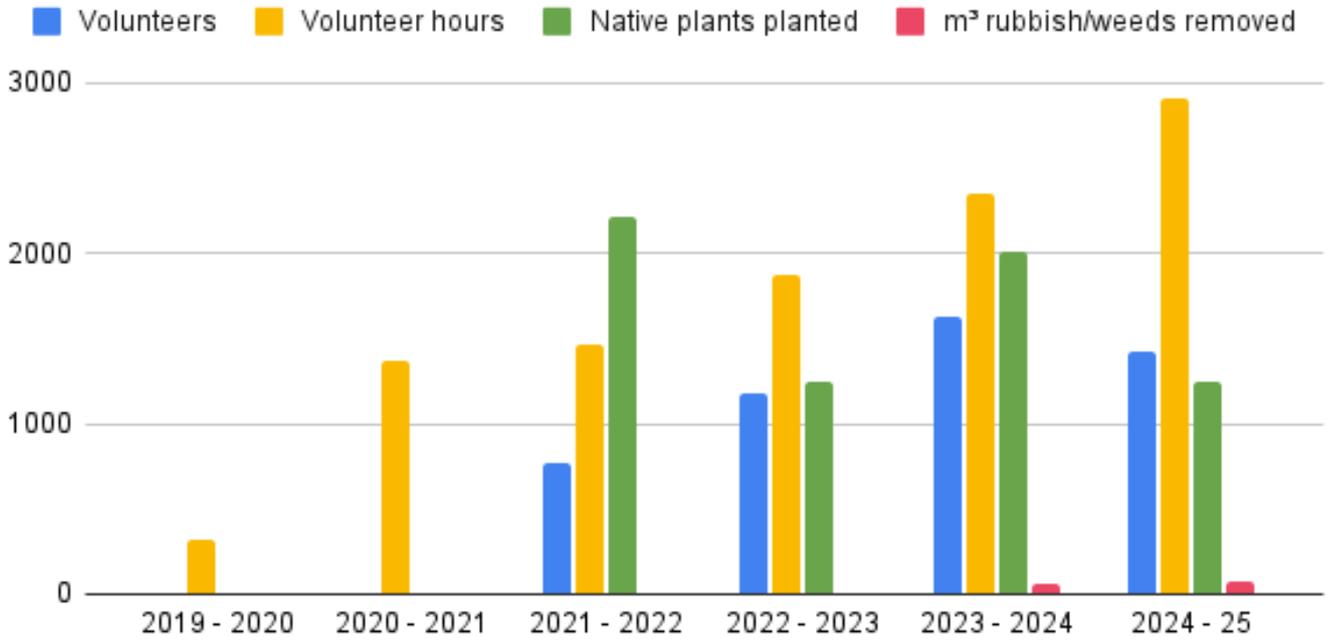


12 family guided walks and events

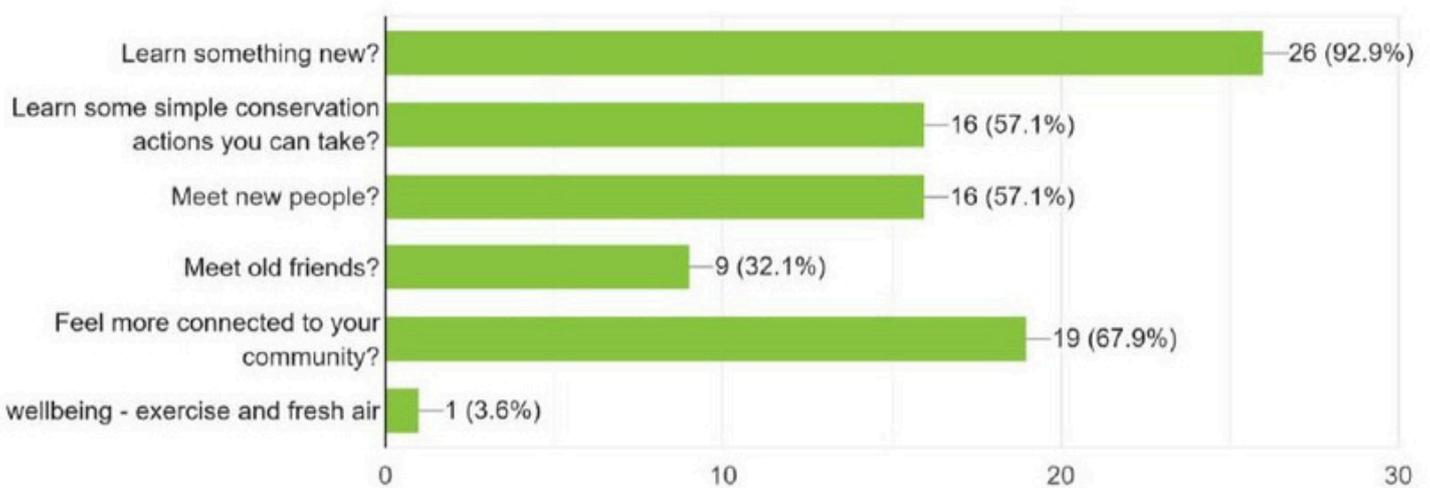


12 bilingual events, 326 participants

Key performance figures since 2020



What did participants say they got from attending our events?



'It was very well organised, in a gorgeous venue, very interesting commentary. I took two grandsons, 9 and 7 and they loved it: the exploring of the bush, the mixing with other kids.'

'Good for the soul.'

'Fun, interesting, and learn some about our native plants.'

'Come along! It's fun and great to do something to contribute to your community 😊'

'It's fun - you will meet some people, but don't wear your best shoes.'

'It's a great event with lovely people. You should come along to give back to the community and do something good for the environment because a little goes along way.'

'BRING GUMBOOTS!'

VOLUNTEER STORIES

John Cambridge

I grew up on the North Shore. I'm now 79 and retired. I have been involved with many conservation and restoration projects for over 15 years.

I build structures for many different groups: nesting boxes, trapping boxes and rat tunnels, etc. In recent years I've scaled this back, but taken pleasure in going along to working bees at Lyford. I still receive requests to build things but I feel I'm a bit passed it now. I feel I've played a small but useful role in conservation and restoration in NZ. Some of the work I've done has been very useful, some less useful. I haven't lost my enthusiasm but I've lost the ability to do large-scale projects. In recent years, I have mostly been fixing up things which have been damaged, repairing tools etc.

I have learned the value and the pleasure of community involvement. The key to success is voluntary community involvement.

Going on these volunteer working bees etc has opened my eyes to parts of Auckland that I wouldn't have noticed – and I was born here. They create an awareness of what's around you. That stimulates interest and you want to know more. Volunteering gets people on board and opens their eyes to what the heck is going on. I've noticed that a large number of people who come on these projects may have been born overseas. NZ is not yet home, but getting them out on projects give them a better feel for the land where we live.

It's very hard to make friends in NZ. We're the friendliest unfriendly nation in the world. Volunteering has increased my social contacts which is one of the attractions for me. But most of my volunteer work has been in my garage at home. I have quite a few skills and I've tried to bring them into the various projects I've been involved in.

What would I say to anyone thinking of volunteering? Just do it! Until you get involved you cannot have any idea of where it will lead you.



Melissa Hay

My name is Melissa Hay, I work in the community and run a small business.

When, how and why did you get involved in Pupuke Birdsong Project?

My husband and I used to walk through Sylvan and Kitchener Park and comment on the possum damage, and thought 'someone should do something about this'.

One of my clients talked to me about the Pupuke Birdsong Project and we decided to get involved. We have now been involved about five years and still enjoy the tasks.



What have you done whilst volunteering for the project?

We started off doing the possum trapping, then rat trapping. It was very successful initially and we now have the population of nasties under control. We then got more involved with some of the planting days and maintenance.

What have you learned? What have you enjoyed?

I have learned a lot about New Zealand Plants. I didn't realise the variety of plants in our different local bush. I enjoy meeting different people in the community.

Have you found there are other positive benefits for you?

We can do as much or as little as we like – and the trapping is only a short time commitment every few months. It's a great thing to do, to give-back to the local area and gives us the satisfaction of knowing we are trying to improve the local bush. It's awesome to see the bush improve. It is also great as we can network with local people.

What would you say to anyone thinking of volunteering / getting involved?

It's a nice thing to be able to do. To make the local area a little bit more attractive and the bush more viable. And hopefully, improving things a little bit for the next generations.

Lindsay Peak

Can you tell us a little about yourself?

I was raised on the North Shore, travelled and came back here in late 90s. I'm a keen outdoorsman and my career has been largely in the outdoor industry. Currently I'm the NZ Country Manager for The North Face and live locally.

When, how and why did you get involved in Pupuke Birdsong Project?

I first got involved with private trapping and found out about Pupuke Birdsong Project through an article in the local paper. Our house backs onto Northcroft Reserve, so I was keen to do something to improve the area. I am obsessed with Fiordland and go down there a lot for surfing and diving. The devastation caused by possums with large areas of dead beech trees in the Fiordland Forest is obvious. Whilst there, I usually do something to make it a better place – hunting possums and stoat trapping, and that has led me to step up my involvement here too. I wanted to do more. Being involved with Pupuke Birdsong Project has helped make it a more planned and structured approach.



What have you done whilst volunteering for the project?

Mostly I have been involved with pest control. My initial trapping involvement made me more aware of other things we can do especially pest weed control and rubbish clean ups. In Patuone Reserve we get a lot of rubbish flushed out from the Northcroft Reserve holding ponds during heavy rain. It's important that people do something, and I try and do my part. There's a bit to be done. Over the last five years we have seen improvements. Pests are down, and the native bird numbers are up. It all comes together when we have the different parts covered, with people trapping and baiting all around the Patuone Reserve area. We trap a dozen possums a year in central Takapuna, which is surprising, but just shows the need. I've found a Banded Rail (Moho pererū) which is rare in this area. It had been killed by a cat, but I've since seen some live ones. That's special in an urban area. Cats are a bigger problem than rats in this area.

What have you learned? What have you enjoyed?

I've enjoyed meeting like-minded people who want to do something to better the environment. You meet good people doing this. I've increased my trapping skills by learning how to make the trap more enticing to predators. It takes time, but it's rewarding to see birdlife coming back. I'm keen to keep doing what we're doing. I'll keep trapping down in Fiordland and rolling that out here on a much smaller scale. I've met all sorts of good people who want to help in the community.

What would you say to anyone thinking of volunteering / getting involved?

I encourage anyone to give it a go if they have an interest in conservation. It's always worthwhile and you get a lot of satisfaction from it. If there is a need in your local area, then get in contact with Pupuke Birdsong Project for advice.

ASIAN COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Our Asian Community Liaison builds links with some of the Asian communities in the area. We have delivered bilingual family events, guided walks and workshops focusing on conservation and small actions we can all take to increase the health and resilience of the environment around us. We continue to engage with different groups, and deliver bilingual educational events and volunteering opportunities.

Vita and Lenin

Can you tell us a little about yourselves?

Our family has been living in Auckland for nearly three years. Vita has been studying for her horticulture certification. We have one child who is in primary school.

When, how and why did you get involved in Pupuke Birdsong Project?

We got connected with the Pupuke Birdsong Project through participating in Chinese community events organized by We Meet.

What Pupuke Birdsong / Open & Connect events have you attended?

We've taken part in four activities: Nature's Guardians in Greville Reserve - there was also some rubbish picking; Discovering Sylvan Canopy - a session on native tree identification; Tidal Treasures & Fossil Forest - exploring rock pools at the beach, and Nature's Battlefront - a session on identifying pest plants and what to do with them, at William Souter reserve.

What have you learned? What have you enjoyed?

Our biggest gain has been learning about the local ecosystem, including native species, conservation methods, and relevant laws. The activities are quite fun.

Have you found other positive benefits for you?

The biggest positive benefit for Vita has been reinforcing the knowledge she learned back home and starting to connect and compare it with local knowledge and systems. She's gained a lot intellectually. Through our contact with Pupuke Birdsong Project we found out about Open & Connect, an organisation for new Chinese migrants. Now Vita is really involved, volunteering there.

What would you say to anyone thinking of getting involved with Pupuke Birdsong Project's events, workshops and activities?

Just join it.



TREASURER'S REPORT

We finished the financial year with \$162,000 in cash assets thanks to some careful budgeting and a range of contributions from philanthropic organisations who supported our mahi. Devonport-Takapuna Local Board continued to be the major sponsor of our core environmental protection work, ie. the Pupuke Birdsong Project. This combined with our increased contract work with Healthy Waters at Auckland Council, has been the bulk of our funding over the last year. On top of that, the team had managed to secure solid funding from a number of community sponsors for our community and environmental activation work.

The financial reserves that accumulated previously had enabled us to support the continuation of key roles as our team secured new funding streams. We finished the year in a strong position, building our role as the key facilitator of community-focussed environmental education and action.

Helen Donovan
Treasurer

FINANCIAL REVIEW

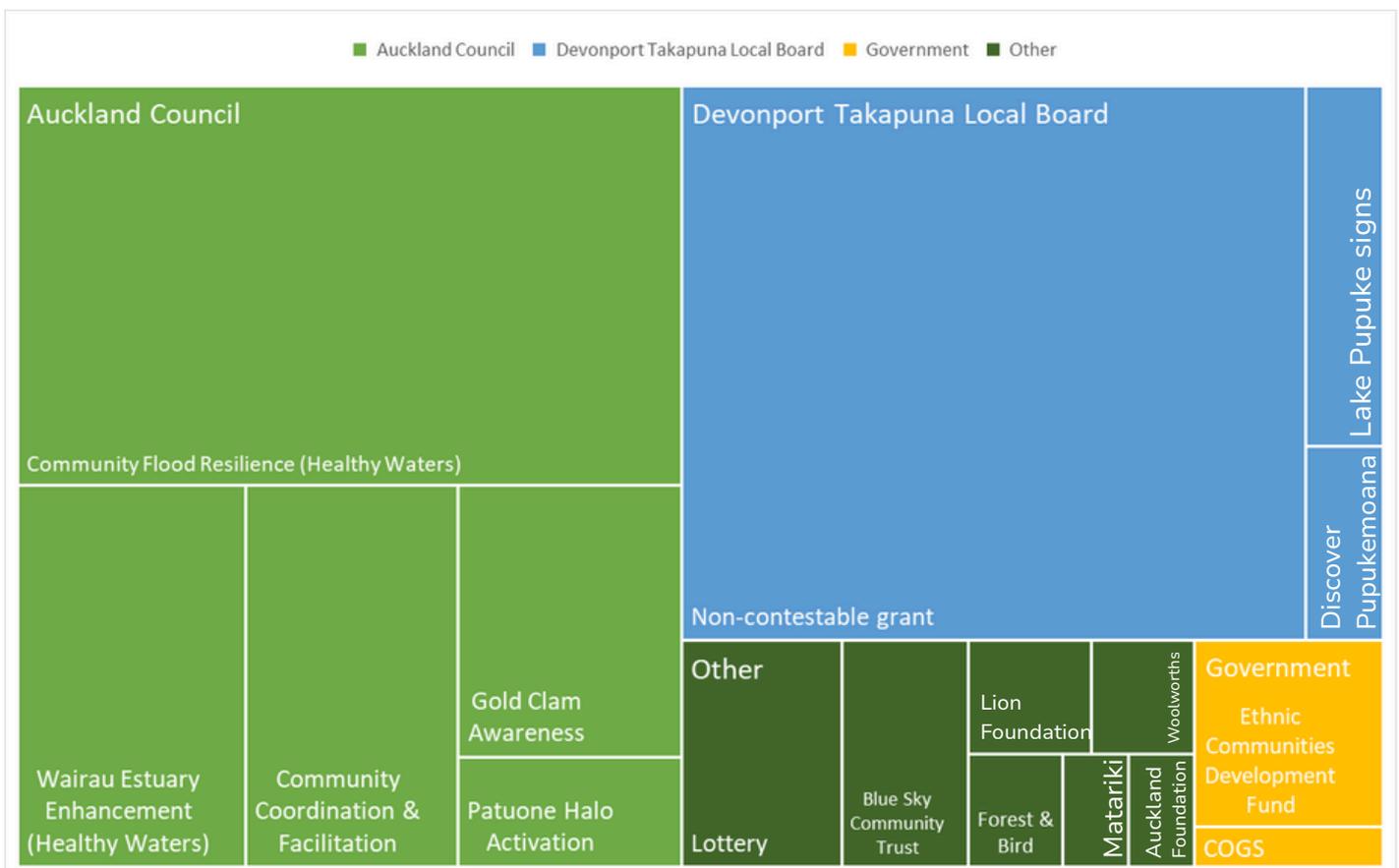
During 2024-25 we have worked hard to diversify our funding and income sources, and have had some success in this. However, we are very aware that our greatest supporters remain the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board and Auckland Council, both of which play a huge part in enabling us to continue our work.

Additional support has come from the Lottery, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry for Ethnic Communities, the Blue Sky Community Trust, Auckland Foundation, the Lion Foundation and Forest & Bird. We have also enjoyed working with some corporate supporters who have added their support. Thank you to all.

Our funding streams:

- Government contracts/grants \$244,713
- Interest, dividends, other investment revenue \$5,316
- Revenue from commercial activities \$10,745
- Donations, bequests and other general fundraising \$1,680
- Other revenue \$2,800

Sources of funding 2024-25



OUR TEAM



Natasha Geo
Trust Manager



Liz Ranger
Trust Manager
(Maternity cover)



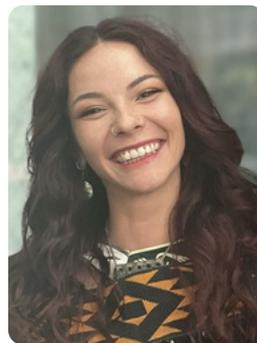
Grace Samuelson
Asian Community
Liaison



Maisie Ramsay
Environmental
Coordinator



Georgia Pringle
Environmental
Assistant



Muriwai Junger
Environmental
Assistant

OUR BOARD



Tabitha Becroft
Chair



Helen Donovan
Treasurer



Barbara Morgan
Board Member



Neil Murray
Board Member



Hannah Lyness
Board Member



Gurdeep Talwar
Board Member



Rachael Pates
Board Member



Kahla Parkash
Board Member

OUR SUPPORTERS

We offer our heartfelt gratitude to our dedicated supporters and funders. Your unwavering commitment makes our mahi possible, and has a profound impact on our initiatives, on the local community and on the environment. Your generosity is the cornerstone of our achievements, and we look forward to continuing this journey of making a positive difference together.



Lottery Grants Board
Te Puna Tahua
LOTTO FUNDS FOR YOUR COMMUNITY



Auckland Foundation



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