



Kaipātiki
Project

share in nature's revival

TE PŪRONGO Ā-TAU
Annual Report 2023

RĀRANGI ŪPOKO

Contents

- 3** TE ĀKO
Our Story
- 4** TĒNĀ KOUTOU NĀ TE TOIHĀU
ME TE TUMUAKI
Greetings from the Chair
and the Manager
- 6** E WHAKANUI ANA I TE 25 TAU
Celebrating 25 Years
- 8** TO MĀTOU PĀNGA
Our Impact
- 10** NGĀ WHAKAHAERE ME NGĀ TAUTOKO
Operations & Support
- 12** WHAKAHOU TĀIAO
Regenerative Environments
- 18** WHAKAUKATANGA
Sustainable Living
- 22** NGĀ WHAKAPĀPĀ
Communications & Engagement

NGĀ MIHI MAIOHA

TE AKO

Our Story

Ko Taropehu te maunga
Ko Oruamo te awa
Ko Te Hau Kapua te takiwā
Ko Pākaurua te rohe
Ko Te Rōpu Kaipātiki
tamore mātou

Nō reira, tēnā koutou, tēnā
koutou, tēnā koutou katoa.

*This pepeha was kindly gifted to Kaipātiki Project
by Matua Pat Ruka.*

**Kaipātiki Project is an innovative
EcoHub, growing a sustainable future
for people and nature.**

Aotearoa is known for its unique and diverse ecosystems, but we are now facing loss of native species, habitat degradation, and the spread of invasive species. When Kaipātiki Project was formed in 1998, it was in response to these challenges playing out locally. We spearheaded volunteer conservation efforts, including growing native plants, predator control and habitat restoration.

Now, 25 years on and we are also facing the impacts of climate change - rising temperatures, rising tides, changing weather patterns, and more frequent extreme weather events.

Our community-led approach for Te Taiao continues to support renewed and regenerated ecosystems and communities. We nurture relationships and reciprocal connections to grow networks, exchange knowledge, engage with intent to strengthen an ecosystem of partnerships and collaboration that develops shared caring and responsibility for our local places.

Our programmes and projects include partnering with iwi kaitiaki, mataawaka Māori and with our local diverse communities to enable and empower everyone to participate in experiential learning and take action to regenerate our environment and live sustainably. Our culture and practice honours Te Tiriti o Waitangi, embracing Te Ao Māori and Mātauranga Māori alongside quality citizen science. Our collective work champions indigenous biodiversity, food resilience & soil integrity, zero waste and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

After 25 years, we bring much learning with us and our (new, sustainable) door is always open for you to come and share your learnings with all of us on the journey to a hopeful, sustainable and regenerative future.

TĒNĀ KOUTOU NĀ TE TOIHAU ME TE TUMUAKI

Greetings from the Chair and the Manager

Ehara taku toa i te toa takitahi engari he toa takitini.

Success is not the work of an individual, it is the work of many.

After 25 years, we can safely say Kaipātiki Project's impact – the difference we have made and continue to make – is the work of many.

It has been a privilege to work alongside mana whenua. Ngā mihi ki a koutou ki ngā Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau. Our collective activities are the result of volunteers – people, whānau & businesses who are freely choosing to contribute their time, ingenuity, skills, experience, knowledge, connections, ideas, energy, strategy, passion and vision – their mahi aroha. A huge thankyou to all volunteers past and present, it is a privilege to be working alongside you.

We believe that by working together, we can include everyone in creating the solutions that we all need to regenerate our environment and create a resilient, sustainable future.

What are some of our favourite stories from the past 25 years?

The story of the organisation's establishment is one of just getting stuck in, facing challenges, reflecting on how to have the most effective impact, and then acting for success. Our founder began 'weeding the bush', and drew large numbers of local volunteers to her energy and vision of a weed-free environment. Academics contributed to researching and observing the Kaipātiki stream catchment and we worked with North Shore City Council to establish a presence and support wider engagement through regular (photocopied!) newsletters documenting progress.

The proposal to bridge the beautiful estuary downstream was shocking at the time, and many opposed it through hearings on the basis of the environment impacts in the short and long-term. However, once the project was given the green light, a team regrouped, reflected and took the decision to start growing seedlings that could support the restoration of the riparian margins once the project was completed. This insightful approach shepherded in what is today a most successful enterprise, and the foundation of many of our learning and engagement programmes, run by a hugely committed volunteer team.

Kaipātiki Project is committed to regenerating – healing – the whenua. In asking 'what does our local environment

need?' it was clear there was an essential relationship between the actions of people in nature and the actions of people at home. Thus, our sustainable living programmes were born. In particular, the focus on food has seen us establish the gardens and the compost hubs where so many people grow food together, learn to grow their own food, and learn to create a closed loop for food waste. This strong foundation – literally the groundwork – has now seen new areas of growth to support a wider expression of ways to support sustainable living and food resilience.

What was needed then, is different from what is needed now, and from an energetic volunteer base, we have a strong team of staff employed who lead, enable and empower all the projects and people who are involved in regenerating our places today. Each one is impressive in the experience, insights, skills and qualifications they contribute, and collectively they are unstoppable! We take our hats off to this inspiring team of staff. What will be needed in the future will be different again, and we look forward to seeing the inspiring group who come forward to take on the challenges and opportunities that will emerge.

Our future-thinking strategic governance guardians, otherwise known as our board, all volunteer their time generously in formal meetings as well as in championing Kaipātiki Project and advocating for the environment in many ways. Your contribution is invaluable, and we salute your vision and the way you continue to guide the organisation to keep us safe and sustainable.

So, to the people of the future, we hope the first 25 years has established a solid foundation for what needs to come. We are inspired by your potential, we wish you all the very best and we thank you for your mahi aroha.

Charmaine Bailie, Chair
Janet Cole, Manager



CHARMAINE BAILIE
Chair



JANET COLE
Manager

Board Members



CERASELA STANCU
Deputy Chair



NIGEL GREEN
Board Member



JENNY CHILCOTT
Board Member



HILARY CHIDLOW
Board Member



BEN SHEERAN
Board Member



LOUISE YOUNG
Board Member



New Living Building EcoHub

Nestled on the edge of Eskdale Reserve, our EcoHub signifies our dedication to regenerating nature and sustainability. Beyond a workspace or classroom, it's a bridge to nature, seamlessly integrated with our nursery and botanical garden, offering a serene setting for learning and inspiration. Crucially, the EcoHub plays a pivotal role in supporting community-driven climate

action. In today's climate-conscious world, it stands as a beacon for sustainability education, empowering individuals to make green choices. It's a symbol of our corporate responsibility and commitment to community support in climate initiatives. We extend our gratitude to the Kaipātiki Local Board for their generous funding of the hub and for their unwavering support, which has played a vital role in making this dream a reality.

E WHAKANUI ANA I TE 25 TAU

Celebrating 25 Years



Jenny Christianson starts Kaipātiki Ecological Restoration Project (KERP) with neighbourhood support due to concerns about the new road and bridge impact.

1997



First shade house built, producing 2,000 plants.

1998



Launch of free composting programme Create Your Own Eden with North Shore City Council.

2002



Launch of Nature for Neighbourhoods to provide backyard biodiversity programme.

2005



Four community planting days across Eskdale Reserve Network.

2008



Introduction of bi-annual Nursery Bites native plant propagation course.

2009



Expand into the Hobsonville Point nursery site near Catalina Café, working with partners Kāinga Ora for the first time.

2011



Hobsonville Point nursery relocated to Engine Bay as first residents move in.

2013



Founding member of national Environment Hubs Aotearoa with seed funding from Ministry for the Environment.

2015



Sustainable Whanau Challenge

Introduction of the Sustainable Whanau Challenge online fun engagement during EcoFest North.

2015



Supported transition of Kaipātiki Restoration Network to Pest Free Kaipātiki Restoration Society as chair of Interim Steering Group and fundholder to supercharge pest and weed reduction.

2015-2017

Commencement of Waipapa stream regeneration and evolution of Stream Care Kaipātiki initiative.

2017



Kaipātiki Project

share in nature's revival

Launch of a new logo inspired by Puawānanga, alongside a refreshed strategy and website.

2019



Opening of the new EcoHub on Lauderdale Road with Living Building Challenge certification.

2022

1998

KERP becomes an Incorporated Society with a focus on Kaipātiki Stream restoration.



2000

KERP establishes a base at a vacant childcare centre on Lauderdale Road.



2004

Launch of the national Kēru Awhina project, planting fruiting natives and pest control.



2006

KERP renamed as Kaipātiki Project.



2008-2016

Community Planting Day coordinators training programme with Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei.



2011

Record-breaking planting year - 21,400 plants grown at Kaipātiki Project. Nursery output exceeds space available.



2013

Kaipātiki Project hosts first annual EcoFest North, a month-long festival across the North Shore.



2014

Kaipātiki Project partners with EcoMatters to launch Compost Collective with new Council.



2015

Initiation of Hands-on Ecology, an eight-week science and mātauranga restoration workshop series.



2019

Commencement of Te Ara Awataha community-led regeneration working with partners Eke Panuku for the first time, learning to deliver on the mana whenua framework Take Mauri Take Hono.



2020

Teaching Garden re-established and relocated due to building de-construction.



2023

EcoFest becomes a regional festival, partnering with the three other ecohubs in Tāmaki Makaurau.



TO MĀTOU PĀNGA

Our Impact

Our Culture, Practice & Values

Our Culture & Practice

- Honour Te Tiriti o Waitangi
- Embrace Te Ao Māori & Mātauranga Māori
- Seek authenticity of local place
- Act with transparency
- Lifelong learning for sustainability
- World class thinking and delivery
- Drive systemic change
- Team and volunteers' contribution valued & recognised

Our Values

Manaakitanga
Each of us seeks to encourage and uplift all those we welcome and work with.

Whanaungatanga
We nurture relationships and reciprocal connections that build belonging to community and place.

Kaitiakitanga
Developing shared caring for and responsibility to our local places.

Our Strategy

Operations & Support

Build capability of team & volunteers

Advocacy & opportunity for activation

Systems & processes that deepen our delivery impact

A resilient & viable enterprise that champions innovation

Regenerative Environments

Enable others to regenerate nature through:

- Growing networks
- Exchanging knowledge & providing stewardship
- Experiential learning & behaviour change

Champion:

- Indigenous biodiversity
- Quality citizen science

Sustainable Living

Champion:

- Food resilience & soil integrity
- Para kore Zero waste

Enable others to live sustainably through:

- Growing networks
- Exchanging knowledge & providing stewardship
- Experiential learning & behaviour change

Communications & Engagement

Trusted brand

Engagement that strengthens an ecosystem of partnerships & collaboration

Champion:

- Community-led initiatives
- Behaviour change learning opportunities for individuals, community & business

Our Impact

2023		2022	% change
40,045	eco-sourced, chemical-free native plants grown (89 species)	42,044	↓ 5%
145	nursery & teaching garden volunteers	129	↑ 12%
5,150	nursery & teaching garden volunteer hours	3,795	↑ 36%
193	bush restoration and planting days	111	↑ 74%
1,726	regeneration volunteers*	862	↑ 100%
5,384	regeneration volunteer hours	3,083	↑ 75%
12,930	kg of pest plants removed	9,560	↑ 35%
796	zero waste volunteer hours across 49 volunteers	343	↑ 132%
329	governance, intern & EcoHub support volunteer hours	500	↓ 34%
383	participants across 33 experiential learning workshops**	708	↓ 46%
3,419	Compost Collective workshop participants across 358 workshops	3,475	↓ 2%
270	tonnes of food & green waste diverted by Compost Collective	241	↑ 12%
10.8	tonnes of food & green waste diverted by Compost Hubs	6.4	↑ 69%
33,972	website visits*** (7,037 Facebook followers)	35,846	↓ 5%

* Note that these are volunteer visits, some maybe same volunteer on repeat visits.
** Our time this year was spent in community regeneration activity, incl. hands-on education, which affected a number of workshops we ran in the year.
*** New regional EcoFest website attracted additional 18,600 visitors, which is not included in this figure.

NGĀ WHAKAHAERE ME NGĀ TAUTOKO

Operations & Support

Operations & Support

Build capability of team & volunteers

Advocacy & opportunity for activation

Systems & processes that deepen our delivery impact

A resilient & viable enterprise that champions innovation

Maintaining financial resilience and fit-for-purpose operational systems sometimes is like putting down strong roots for forest giants and propagating more species at the same time - we need to do both to continue to have a healthy forest and sustain ourselves and those to come in the future.

The past year has seen a significant change in structure for the organisation, with a Lead Team established to grow more leadership and devolve responsibility further across Kaipātiki Project. We are supporting this to grow the resilience we need, while also aiming to create more opportunities for innovation and growing capacity and capability, through drawing on our diverse talents, skills and insights. Just as our forest needs diversity to thrive, our staff and volunteers span more than 10 different cultures and countries of origin, and a range of ages and abilities. We are moving to document this as we embrace our diversity as a strength. Our governance framework has also had a polish, revisiting our policies and procedures in preparation for reviewing the Constitution next year in response to the government's charities legislation, to ensure our organisation is future fit.

The Operations team are also our volunteer champions, supporting activities day in and day out with systems, hot drinks and refreshments, including way too generous portions of cake! We are your venue hosts, so if you're calling up or calling in, we are likely the ones you meet – Nau mai, haere mai. We also support Compost Collective web platform with admin, data collection, surveys and financial number crunching. We ensure the bills are paid, the Hub is clean and sparkling, and all supplies are topped up – you're welcome!

Financial systems and planning, risk management, health & safety, human resources are all integral parts of ensuring our team is safe, healthy and feel appreciated, and our suppliers and partners see we value their contributions. This year has been one of significant change – of venue, leadership and systems, so we're super proud of what's been achieved.



JOANNE KYRIAZOPOULOS
Funding & Impact Lead



SANDRA ATKINS
Operations Manager



SARAH COLIN
Finance & Operations Lead



ANNA SHAW
Operations & Engagement Administrator



NATAHMA JUDD
EcoHub Co-ordinator



MARK LUNGLEY
EcoHub Co-ordinator



IRINA ZGOBA
Cleaner

Aroha goes out to Sandra Atkins and Mark Lungley who left during the year. Ngā mihi nui for your amazing mahi.

Financial Sustainability

Kaipātiki Project's post-COVID recovery has been strong, and the organisation delivered another surplus in difficult times. Our previous work on diversifying income sources has contributed greatly to this ongoing financial resilience. Our focus on generating grants income is aligned with our twin focus to grow the quality of our impact measurement and reporting, which continues to result in an increase in grant income this year. Contract income has also increased, supported by a focus on meeting the varied requirements of customers and partners as the context they are operating in also continues to change. Donations and sponsorship have also seen sustainable growth.

We are proud to be able to add considerable value through

the goodwill and relationships we have developed across the communities we work in, to attract huge volunteer contribution, including significant business community contribution.

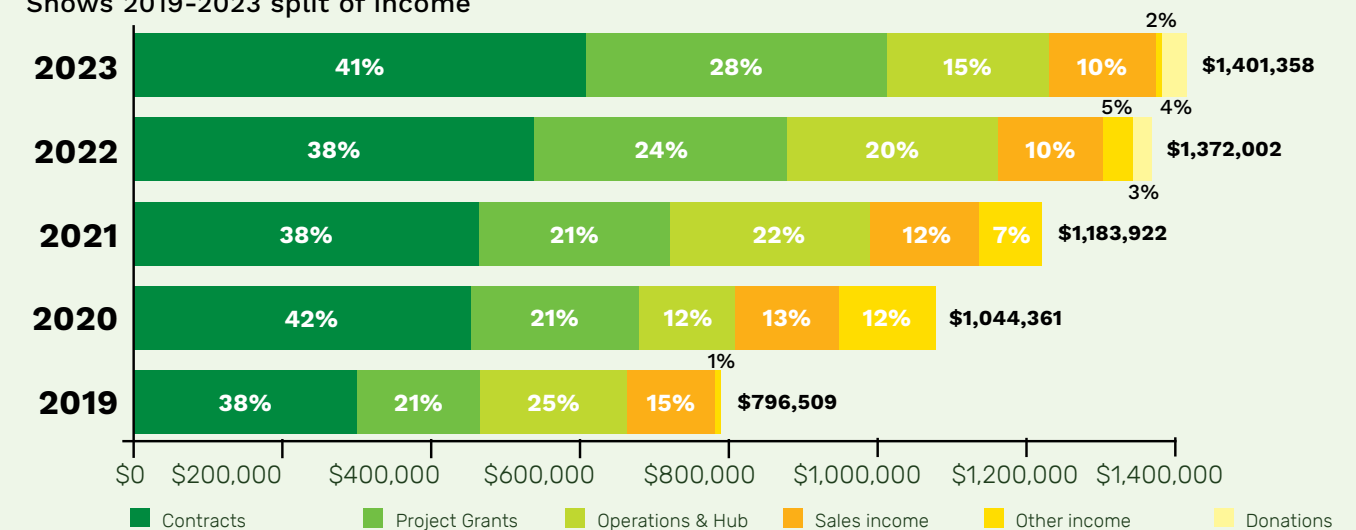
Nevertheless, we continue to look for efficiencies across our activities to make the most of every dollar contributed.

Looking forward, having laid such a solid foundation with sustainable year-on-year growth, we are confident Kaipātiki Project will continue to be in a good position to face future challenges and to build capacity and capability for the many emerging opportunities.

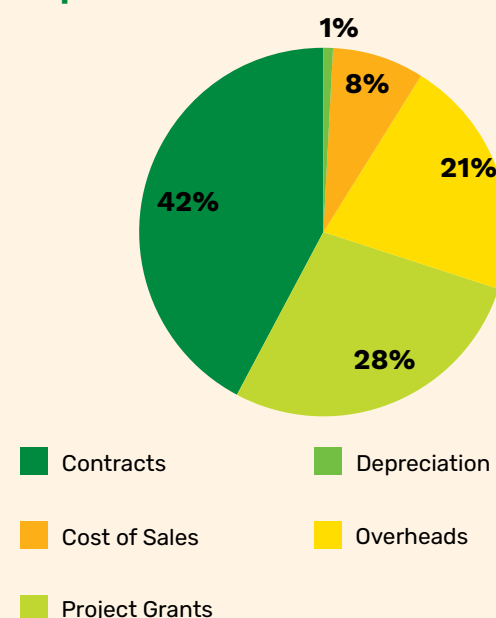
Our detailed annual audited finances are posted on Charities Services website at charities.govt.nz following the AGM.

Income Sustainability

Shows 2019-2023 split of income



Expenditure 2022/23



WHAKAHOU TAI AO

Regenerative Environments

Regenerative Environments

Enable others to regenerate nature through:

- Growing networks
- Exchanging knowledge & providing stewardship
- Experiential learning & behaviour change

Champion:

- Indigenous biodiversity
- Quality citizen science

Thriving ecosystems enhance climate and community resilience, absorbing greenhouse gases. Kaipātiki Project's regenerative environment programmes integrate ecology's best practices alongside Mātauranga Māori, taking a whole system approach to regenerate nature, which is vital to combat climate change, build gaps in our knowledge to protect indigenous species, and ensure a positive future for all.

We acknowledge during 2023, regions across the upper North Island experienced widespread catastrophic floods caused by heavy rainfall, with Tāmaki Makaurau significantly affected. Following months of moderate and heavy rain, we have all experienced the impact of climate degradation at some level. Our team continue to monitor the impact, and pivot activities when and where appropriate to help remediate damage and support native biodiversity regeneration in the projects and programmes we deliver in local streams, reserves, and wetlands. We outline the highlights in the following pages.



DEREK CRAIG
Regenerative
Environments Lead



NEIL HENDERSON
Kaiwhakahaere Taiao /
Restoration Activator



CRYSTAL ASTON
Nursery Assistant



MARIA VALKOVA
Restoration Group
Co-ordinator



JAIME CALVERT
Regeneration Team
Member



TAKUTAI MOANA WATTS
Kaiawhina Kaitiaki



TAMIA ERUERA-WATTS
Kaitiaki ō Ngāhere

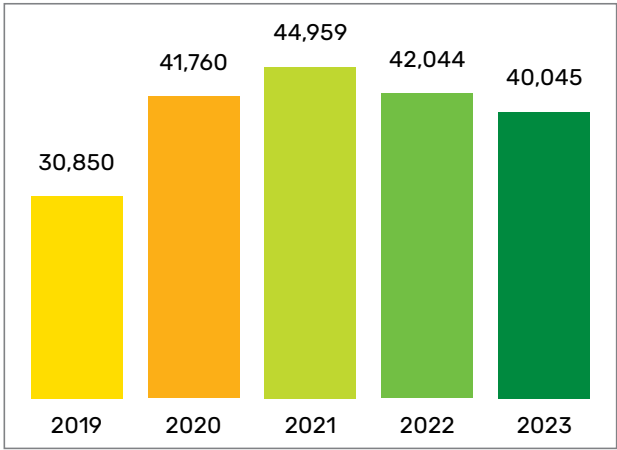
Aroha goes out to Takutai Moana Watts, Jaime Calvert and Tamia Eruera-Watts, who left during the year. Ngā mihi nui for your amazing mahi.



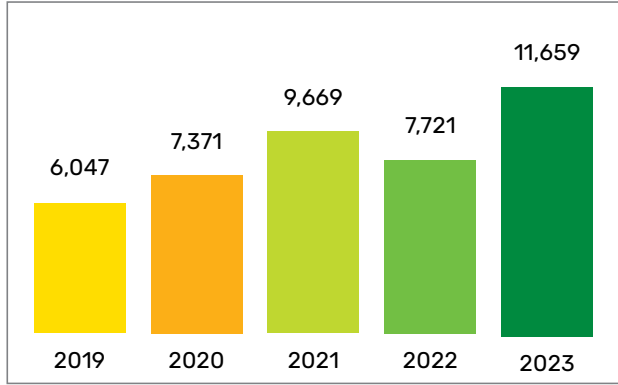
Exemplar Biodiverse Native Plant Nursery

Growing 89 different species for our local community's restoration projects, we operate two nursery sites at Birkdale and Hobsonville Point staffed by our wonderful nursery volunteers. Our aim is to enhance local biodiversity by providing a wider range of native species all eco-sourced from the local area. While growing over 40,000+ plants, this year was a stella year for plant sales with over 25,000 plants leaving the nurseries despite the gloomy 2023 weather which has slowed down growth of our seedlings and caused some challenges with continuously wet conditions.

199,658
native plants grown since 2019



42,497
volunteer hours since 2019
valued at \$1,005,054 based on NZ living wage at \$23.65 per hour





Upper Waitematā Regeneration

Kaipātiki Project has been working with local community for over three years to help restore the wetlands and adjacent Clearwater Cove Reserve, West Harbour – these are one of Auckland’s most significant estuarial wetlands, as recognised by DOC. The key restoration work undertaken this year has been to work alongside an extensive large pest tree removal operation by the Upper Harbour Local Board. Our work with community volunteers has focused on follow-up weeding and ground preparation and supporting Hobsonville Primary School to grow native plants for the project.



Iwi, Hapū & Community Nursery Network

There are now over 45 iwi, hapū and community nurseries in the network across the Auckland region, supporting local restoration projects and their local communities, building ecological corridors and amplifying community restoration efforts. Kaipātiki Project partners with Uru Whakaaro to facilitate and support the nurseries, funded by Auckland Council. We acknowledge the many organisations and collaborative partnerships that have helped facilitate networking and/or have financially enabled the nurseries through funding, internship contribution, Rourou Kākano – Seed Library development and through procurement as existing or potential clients. The programme aims to tautoko and encourage nurseries and aspiring nurseries to share knowledge about growing native plants, to upskill and enable peer mentoring across the network of participants. Our work this year built on the engagement with a network of kaupapa Māori and community nurseries to share information, facilitate biodiversity and biosecurity workshops, hold the network bi-annual hui and visiting nurseries to support those working on indigenous revegetation. In 2023 we saw unprecedented weather systems hit the region like never before. This caused many upheavals for nurseries with staffing, clean-ups and access, and some construction or upgrade plans were affected and delayed. We have also been laying the groundwork to create a Strategic Plan looking forward 10+ years, to underpin and guide the programme’s growth for delivery and impact.



Te Ara Awataha Regeneration

Since 2019, Kaipātiki Project has facilitated community-led regeneration at Papa ki Awataha | Jessie Tonar Scout Reserve (source of the Awataha Stream) for Northcote’s new greenway. This programme is designed to deliver on the aspirations of iwi kaitiaki, based on the Take Mauri Take Hono Mauri Indicator framework, in partnership with mana whenua, Eke Panuku, Auckland Council Healthy Waters, Kāinga Ora and Kaipātiki Local Board. Two significant projects completed at the end of last year – the daylighting of the Awataha Stream and the transformation of Te Kaitaka | Greenslade Reserve into a stormwater detention park – were tested to the max in the January ‘1 in 150 year’ flood event. This proved critical in providing fit-for-purpose stormwater management in Northcote by detaining and slowing the release of water, allowing flood water to be channelled along the stream bed, rather than through private property, where previously the roads and houses would have been overcome with water.

The opening up of these spaces shifted our focus to community activations showcasing the daylighted stream, reaching out from Papa ki Awataha along the 1.5km blue-green corridor linking existing parks, the Northcote town centre, new schools and homes in Northcote. We are continuing to engage our diverse community in a range of events and celebrations included weeding bees, planting days, bird monitoring, pest animal control, freshwater education and raranga. Over the next year, this will grow along with the new community.





Streamcare Kaipātiki

This year, our programme took a dual approach to build upon the previous year's efforts:

- Streamcare Workshops: We continued to partner with six local schools, engaging students in WaiCare and fish monitoring activities within their local streams. Additionally, students took practical actions to support the well-being of their local waterways, such as litter clean-ups.
- Community-Based Catchment Activation: Research highlighted silt as a major threat to the catchment, so we designed a pilot project to engage local property owners, residents, volunteers, and members of the Auckland City Mission Street Guardians group to take preventative action. In response to the devastating floods, we shifted our focus towards assessing slip sites along the Glendhu (Lignite) Stream, seeking opportunities for micro-mitigation work. Activities included clearing fallen trees and vegetation, using the wood for retaining terraces, and reinforcing the slip face with coconut coir matting. Native planting events were also held, including plantings at the top of the reserve to reduce the risk of further slippage on steep slopes. This pilot slip remediation effort served as a valuable educational exercise and showcased an affordable, volunteer-driven approach without the need for heavy machinery.



Waipapa Stream Regeneration

The Waipapa Stream regeneration programme continues to build on our previous years of pest plant control and replacement native planting along the open section of Waipapa Stream in Parnell. We facilitate regular working bees to weed, mulch, plant native plants, control animal pests and monitor progress. We took the time to review the devastation that visited the site in the wake of flooding and plan work to remediate the damage. A positive observation was the evidence of the efficacy of legacy planting of natives going back over a decade, for maintaining the integrity of much of the daylighted stream bank. However, a result of the severe inundation and deposition of mud and silt, several large shrubs, including some of the mature koromiko died off completely. We focused on the removal of dead specimens from the stream, cutting them into small pieces and moving them to suitable areas where they can break down naturally. Additionally, two reinforcement edges have been created using the stones, wood and bricks that were thrown up onto the banks by the force of the torrent.



Eskdale Reserve Network Regeneration

Eskdale Reserve Network is our tūrangawaewae. It is where local volunteer-initiated restoration work commenced 25 years ago that led to the establishment of Kaipātiki Project. We continue to facilitate group volunteering in the reserve each week, host community days and welcome the increased number of corporate groups joining in the fun. We have monitored the impact of floods and climate, the stream was heavily damaged with significant bank erosion and increased silt, with rubbish blocking sections and two major slips along the lower tracks. Some sections of the reserve remain closed to the public. We have worked to remediate some of the degradation, removing rubbish where safe to do so and replanting an area of previous year planting that was wiped out. We have also noticed a significant increase in the number of pest animal trapping numbers due to the conditions. One positive observation - the extensive grey skies have reduced the rate weed plants are growing!



Indicator Species Biodiversity Monitoring

We continue to monitor native indicator species, Titiwai-Glowworms, Kākahi-Freshwater Mussels and, in partnership with Community Waitākere, surveying Pekapeka tou roa-Long Tailed Bats. Our goal is to engage with local community, iwi and stakeholders in order to increase our understanding of present populations, including training volunteers and partners in the appropriate best practice to undertake initial baseline surveys and conduct regular ongoing monitoring of specific populations once identified. The extreme rainfall of 2023 interrupted these studies but have also provided opportunities to observe the impact to the populations and habitats in the aftermath of flooding and learnings to take restorative action. Informed by local Māori knowledge shared with us, we now implement an old technique to support kākahi populations after storms. Post flooding, we have gone to downstream sites to pick up stranded mussels on the banks and put them back in safer zones upstream.



WHAUKATANGA Sustainable Living

Sustainable Living

Champion:

- Food resilience & soil integrity
- Para kore Zero waste

Enable others to live sustainably through:

- Growing networks
- Exchanging knowledge & providing stewardship
- Experiential learning & behaviour change

This year we've continued to foster collaboration to create a more resilient ecosystem of communities, organisations, businesses, dedicated sustainable living advocates, and local champions, all with the shared goal of eliminating waste and pollution, promoting responsible resource use and enabling skill sharing and positive behaviours to mitigate climate change.

We've provided numerous experiential learning opportunities, including food resilience, soil health, and zero waste. We are also partnering with groups, such as Bike Kaipātiki to create a Pop-up Bike Hub.

As we move forward, we are committed to expanding and strengthening networks to enable everyone to live sustainably. Together, we aim to create a kinder, more sustainable world where we can all be inspired to access simple, place-based support and skills to make the changes we need to achieve collective impact.



ROBYN FORRYAN

Sustainable Living Lead & Para Kore Zero Waste Activator



JUDITH ROSAMUND

Teaching Garden Co-ordinator



WAIATA RAMEKA-TUPE

Kaiāwhina ō Rongo Teaching Garden



SAMANTHA PENMAN

Education for Sustainability Facilitator



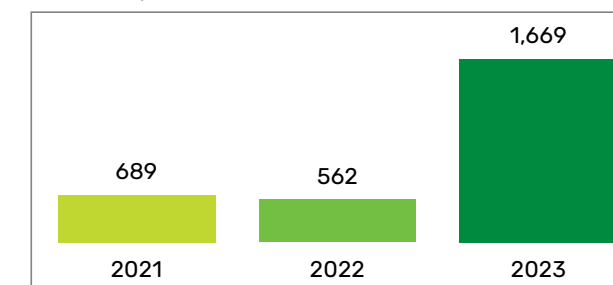
281

tonnes of food & green waste diverted via Compost Collective and two Community Compost Hubs

2,920

garden and compost hub volunteer hours since the compost hub was established in 2021

valued at \$69,058 based on NZ living wage at \$23.65 per hour



Teaching Garden

It has been an extremely wet year and coupled with low sunshine hours, plants have really struggled to thrive. However, we can celebrate resilience of our volunteers steadily returning and new volunteers joining us each month, resulting in tripled volunteer hours in the garden compared with last year. Our food growing practice observes maramataka rhythms and is aligned to Hua Parakore a kaupapa Māori system and framework for growing Kai. We continue to develop the infrastructure of the garden, designing in resilience and efficiency. Our garden volunteers radiate a strong connection to the land and each other, sharing homemade kai with ingredients grown in the gardens and delicious recipes from their respective cultures each month. Our most seasoned volunteer is 92, he learnt his gardening skills when billeted as a 7-year-old to the countryside to escape the wartime bombing in London. He is an inspiration to us all!



Food Co-Op

In response to the findings of our 2021 Sustainable Food Strategy research, we launched a pilot food co-op in partnership with FoodTogether. With the support of six wonderful volunteers, and five community organisations (Bayview Community House, Birkenhead RSA, Highbury House, Northcote YMCA and Onewa Christian Community), we collectively provide an average of 30 families with fresh, affordable, low or zero waste produce each week, and donate remaining produce to local Pātaka Kai. After a successful pilot year, we look forward to reaching more families, trialling food pop-ups, and introducing workshops to make the most out of food.





Education for Sustainability

The EcoHub serves as vital community infrastructure for ongoing sustainability education in our projects and programmes, with a goal to enhance impact. With growing interest and demand in this area, we initiated Education for Sustainability (EFS) research and engagement to identify what the needs are, what resources are available to support these programmes, and who else is interested in delivering to schools and communities to meet these needs. Our research highlighted the need for a more collaborative approach. Working in partnership with Sustainable Schools and a host of community partners, we are co-creating what this collaborative approach could deliver for schools and communities, linked with the range of host venues, such as gardens and restoration projects. For example, establishing a platform for coordination across schools, community groups, and providers could yield numerous benefits, including improved efficiency, reduced duplication, opportunities for complementary programmes, and reduced competition for existing funding. This collaborative effort sets the stage for a more effective, coordinated approach to sustainability education, across a broader range of schools and community for Auckland's north. We look forward to completing this planning stage and rolling out this fresh approach next year with our partners.



Pasifika Food Garden

Several community groups approached Kaipātiki Project seeking advice and support to find spaces for local food cultivation, largely driven by COVID-induced food insecurity, engagement with our research, and the cultural importance of sharing Pasifika gardening practices. We initially established a partnership with a Tongan-language group in Northcote and later formed a second group in Birkdale. Guided by four overarching principles: 1) Championing strengths & aspirations, 2) Building connections, 3) Enhancing capacity, and 4) Contributing to the community, we assisted these groups in identifying key leaders and locating potential sites, which happened to be local schools (Northcote Intermediate & Birkdale Intermediate). In brokering this relationship, we were able to work through language barriers to help establish expectations between both parties and helped them develop site plans with school leadership guidance. Both gardens focused on two main objectives: collecting various kūmara varieties and establishing a kūmara production bed. With the support of Kaipātiki Project's network, volunteers successfully gathered four main kūmara varieties, two of which hold important cultural significance (Tongamai & Tolu Mahina).



Compost Collective

Compost Collective is a behaviour-change programme that supports Auckland Council's vision to educate, inspire, and equip everyone to manage their organic waste through local composting as part of the strategy to achieve zero waste by 2040. In collaboration with EcoMatters Environment Trust, and working with a team of expert facilitators, Kaipātiki Project delivers free composting in-person and online workshops, with multiple language options, for home, small business, and community composting, using worm farms, bokashi buckets, traditional compost bins, as well as DIY methods. We also aim to build community capacity to divert waste from landfill and reduce carbon emissions by encouraging on-site composting of food and garden waste. As urban living evolves, so does the programme, with increasing support for community compost hubs through starter packs and microgrants to get set up.



Para Kore Zero Waste Northcote

This initiative focuses on the innovative, ambitious whole-of-Northcote Action Plan developed with partners Eke Panuku, Kaipātiki Local Board, Kāinga Ora, Council's Waste Solutions team, local schools, marae, libraries, churches, support organisations, businesses and Northcote Business Assn, as part of the wider Te Ara Awataha programme, helping to realise the aspirations of mana whenua. Our purpose is for us all to have 'a role in creating a better future that is zero waste'. We established the Zero Waste Hub as a base to support locals in their zero waste journeys. We hosted workshops and events about composting, recycling, swapping in reusables, repairing and upcycling, and participated in other local events promoting zero waste activities. We collected hard-to-recycle items, including 190kg of batteries, 11.5m³ of polystyrene, 4.1m³ of curtains, oral care products, cellphones, tablets and ink cartridges. Energetic volunteers contributed 796 hours and responded in visitors' first languages. Over 30 students joined the Northcote Intermediate Eco Warriors group, conducted a waste audit and are building composting into the school routine, and Northcote Kindergarten initiated Litterless Lunchboxes.

Eke Panuku led advocacy to the NZ Green Building Council to include waste separation in all Homestar certification, and mandatory waste reduction for building rating tools. A trial for businesses to divert food scraps will also support system change through development and tenancy agreements. Targets for town centre development include minimum 70% waste diversion. Deconstruction will be the standard practice and all town centre materials have been surveyed to identify potential recycling and reuse, and Council has mandated waste management plans for all physical works contracts. Kāinga Ora's house clearance achieved six houses relocated, 90% waste diversion, crushed concrete reused, and salvaged materials for reuse locally and in the Pacific.



Hobsonville & Kaipātiki Community Compost Hubs

Our compost hubs are a growing part of our solutions for organic waste and closing the loop on food. These thriving neighbourhood hubs now have 140 active household members regularly contributing bokashi bins full of food scraps across the two hubs. Thanks to the generous support of our community, we've expanded our composting capabilities by adding two additional Carbon Cycle compost boxes. These new boxes maintain consistently high temperatures, effectively eliminating invasive weeds and seeds. One of our international interns dedicated their efforts to capturing the essence of our compost hub through photography and film, creating a valuable resource on the importance of composting. We've harnessed this resource with a recurring feature called "Let's Talk Compost" in our communications, including a series of informative short videos. Our goal is to educate and engage people about the value of composting, spreading awareness and encouraging more people to get involved.



Food Scraps Collection

In collaboration with Auckland Council, EcoMatters and Compost Collective, we support our local communities in diverting food waste from landfills. Our primary objective was to inspire a shift in perspective regarding food scraps, encouraging people to explore alternatives to throwing them out. This initiative includes supporting the rollout of Council's kerbside food scraps collection and educating residents about various food scraps disposal options available at home and within their communities. We support people to consider their local compost hubs or trying bokashi or home composting as sustainable alternatives, as well as the food scraps collection service. Our comprehensive approach involves a mix of strategies, such as leveraging social media, engaging with community groups, hosting compost workshops, and organising events at our Zero Waste and EcoHub locations.



NGĀ WHAKAPĀPĀ Communications & Engagement

Communications & Engagement

Trusted brand

Engagement that strengthens an ecosystem of partnerships & collaboration

Champion:

- Community-led initiatives
- Behaviour change learning opportunities for individuals, community & business

Volunteers are at the heart of our organisation, and their stories vividly illustrate the essence of our mission.

We are delighted to have welcomed a growing number of volunteers who dedicated even more of their time in the post-COVID era. Hosting a group of talented interns who have also made remarkable contributions to our cause, we see them as the future leaders in the environmental field. Our collaboration with three other hubs expanded the reach of EcoFest, connecting with more individuals than ever on their sustainability journeys. The launch of our newly constructed EcoHub has provided a welcoming space for numerous groups and individuals, positioning it as the ultimate destination for nature-inspired learning and gatherings.



BLANKA ROS
Communications & Engagement Lead



DAN DE KLERK
Digital Communications & Event Facilitator

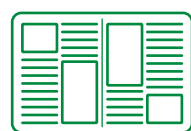


ELIM AHLERS
Kaitakawāenga Hāpori / Community Activator



SAM TU'ITAHİ
Kaitakawāenga Hāpori / Community Activator

Ofa goes out to Sam Tu'itahi, who left during the year. Malo for your amazing foaki.



3,221

people read our regular newsletters



1,120

network event participants at 28 events we organised



513

events during EcoFest across Tāmaki Makaurau



7,037

Facebook followers



33,972

website visits plus 18,600 visitors to regional EcoFest website



EcoFest 2023

Since 2013, Kaipātiki Project has been the driving force behind EcoFest North, alongside EcoMatters Environment Trust running EcoFest West. In 2023, this local festival, steeped in over a decade of tradition, expanded its horizons, going regional to offer more Aucklanders the chance to acquire new sustainable living skills and strengthen community bonds through environmental actions. Through collaboration of four prominent Auckland eco hubs – EcoMatters Environment Trust, Beautification Trust, Waiheke Resources Trust, and Kaipātiki Project – we co-hosted EcoFest 2023, a month-long celebration of Tāmaki Makaurau's distinctive environment and our collective responsibility toward it. The regional EcoFest adopted a fresh identity with a new logo while preserving its commitment to local grassroots eco-activities. Our outreach has more than tripled, offering attendees a wider array of events to choose from, fostering greater community engagement and a deeper connection to sustainability.



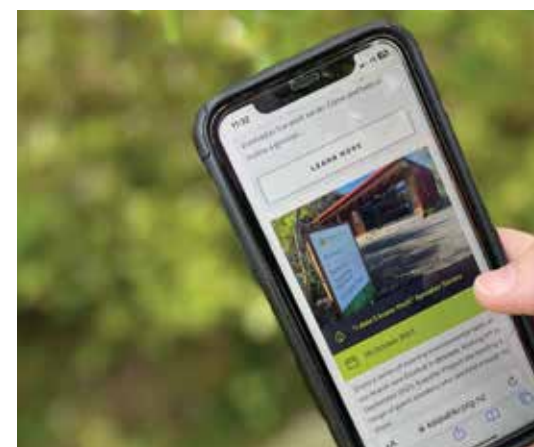
Environment Hubs Aotearoa

The EHA mission is to bring communities together and create lasting, positive change for our environment and future generations. Since 2015, EHA has been connecting regional hubs, leading organisations and changemakers to grow thriving, sustainable communities, and to unlock the power of regional knowledge. Through a collaborative approach (currently 22 Hubs), and in partnership with major funder Ministry for the Environment, EHA mahi empowers community organisations to increase social cohesion, community resilience and environmental stewardship. Together, we have hosted 397,000 visitors, run programmes for 22,000 tamariki, and run 3,200 events attended by 123,000 participants. Kaipātiki Project is a valued member in the network making an impact in our communities, offering information, action, resources and solutions. Manager Janet Cole is currently Co-Chair of EHA and chairs the Sustainable Partnerships & Revenue Committee (SPARC), and Funding & Impact Lead Joanne Kyriazopoulos is a member of EHA Funding Steering Group and SPARC.



Volunteering & Internships

In response to the post-COVID landscape, we made significant strides in enhancing our volunteer engagement. We introduced monthly volunteer welcome sessions, bolstered by improved induction and H&S guidance. Five on-the-job training sessions, in partnership with Iwi, Hāpu, Community, Nursery Network, added depth to our volunteers' skill set. In response, we experienced a notable increase in volunteer numbers, across the nursery, garden, and Eskdale Reserve, where we've cultivated a dedicated volunteer group. Corporate volunteering saw a surge as well, with 20 businesses joining hands to rejuvenate nature alongside us. Internships also saw expansion, welcoming six new interns, both local and international. This multi-faceted approach is instrumental in our collective impact.



Enhancing Engagement Platforms

In the past year, we invested time and resources in our communication platforms to enhance engagement with our invaluable volunteers, stakeholders, partners, and the broader community. As a result, we improved ways in how we share our stories, track volunteer contributions, and transition towards efficient paperless systems, significantly reducing administrative burdens. Furthermore, we revamped our donation platform, yielding a remarkable uptick in contributions. Beyond our annual Gift A Tree This Season campaign, we embarked on a special collaboration with The Johnson Ohana Foundation, led by the renowned musician and philanthropist Jack Johnson, during his tour across Aotearoa. This unique partnership sparked heightened interest and generosity, resulting in increased donations to support our vision.



Partnering with The New Zealand National Commission for UNESCO

Recognising that no one group can do it alone, partnerships, collaboration and funding for community-led initiatives is vital for sustaining projects and programmes that contribute to SDGs at a local level. The New Zealand National Commission for UNESCO hosted Early Career Ocean Professionals (ECOPs) from Fiji, sponsored by the Pacific Community Centre for Ocean Science, at the Waiti, Waitā Conference in Tāmaki Makaurau. Kaipātiki Project had the opportunity to take the ECOPs to explore our conservation and regeneration work in Eskdale Reserve and waterways, which began at the estuary. We showcased our kākahi and titwai monitoring programmes, and shared knowledge of Mātauranga Māori approaches to regeneration. Building on this initial engagement, UNESCO further supported our volunteer regeneration efforts leading up to two key UNESCO & Kaipātiki Project partner events: a Titiwai-Glow Worm Night Walk and a Community Planting Day.



“ We firmly believe that achieving sustainable development requires the active involvement of communities because our communities hold a wealth of knowledge, wisdom, traditions and practices that have been passed down through generations. These practices often embody sustainable approaches that are harmonious with the local environment and culture.” Linda Faulkner, Natural Sciences Commissioner, when speaking at the tree planting about the power of our communities and the role that communities play in enabling a sustainable future for all. ”

Linda Faulkner, Natural Sciences Commissioner, when speaking at the tree planting about the power of our communities and the role that communities play in enabling a sustainable future for all.

NGĀ MIHI MAIOHA

Our activities would not have been possible without your help, support, collaboration and encouragement.

CORE PARTNERS



FUNDING PARTNERS

Alexander Harold Watson Charitable Trust, proudly managed by Perpetual Guardian
Community Organisation Grants Scheme (COGS)
Creative Communities Scheme
Community Volunteering & Capability Fund
Devonport-Takapuna Local Board
Eke Panuku Development Auckland
Four Winds Foundation
Johnson Ohana Charitable Foundation
Lottery Community Grants
Pacific Development and Conservation Trust
New Zealand National Commission for UNESCO
The Stout Trust proudly managed by Perpetual Guardian
Upper Harbour Local Board
Your West Support Fund

NETWORKS & MEMBERS

Environment Hubs Aotearoa
Iwi, Hapū & Community Nurseries Network
Kaipātiki Restoration Network
Moths & Butterflies of New Zealand Trust
Network North
New Zealand Plant Producers Incorporated
Pest Liaison Group (regional)
Sustainable Business Network
Volunteering Auckland
Volunteering NZ
Upper Waitematā Ecology Network
Zero Waste Network

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Douglas Pharmaceuticals Ltd
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Fiftyfive5
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Jasmax
Link
Pals
Redux
Saatchi & Saatchi
SalesForce
Sony Music Entertainment NZ
Specsavers Glenfield & Takapuna
Sports Travel and Hospitality NZ

Te Ara Ahunga Ora
Teletrac Navman

IWI & COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Mana Whenua Kaitiaki PWG
Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei
Te Kamaka Marae
ASPEC Construction
Auckland Botanical Gardens
Auckland City Mission Street Guardians - Tomorrow Inc
Auckland Libraries
Auckland North Community and Development
AUT students
Bayview Community Centre
Beautification Trust
Birkdale Beach Haven Community Project Inc
Chinese Conservation Education Trust
Conservation Volunteers NZ
Compost Collective

Dr Tūmanako Fa’au
EcoMatters Environment Trust
Environmental Impact Assessments
FoodTogether
Glenfield Community Centre Inc
Habitat for Humanity
Habitat Hobsonville
Highbury Community House
Hobsonville Primary School
Kaipātiki Community Facilities Trust
Laura Donkers @ Limen Lab
Localised
Northcote Intermediate School
Pacific Climate Warriors
Pacific Vision Aotearoa
Para Kore Ki Tāmaki
Pest Free Kaipātiki Restoration Society
Repair Café
Restoring Takarunga Hauraki
The ReCreators
University of Auckland
Waiheke Resources Trust

VOLUNTEERS

Board governance volunteers
Community regeneration volunteers
Corporate volunteers
Food Co-op volunteers
Gardening volunteers
Interns
Nursery volunteers
Operational, marketing and administrative volunteers
Zero waste hub volunteers

LIFE MEMBERS

Jenny Christianson
Charmaine Bailie
Roy Pyle (deceased)
Tabitha Becroft
Helen Wakefield
Crystal Aston
Fabrice Baras



Kaipātiki Project is committed to taking innovative steps to implement local programmes and collaborative solutions that align with Sustainable Development Goals and support this ambitious global framework.



**Kaipātiki
Project**

share in nature's revival

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KaipatikiEnviro

