

# Our Kerikeri

- COMMUNITY LEADS CHANGE -

## Our Kerikeri Community Charitable Trust Chairman's Report for year ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Kia ora koutou

To think it was only March last year that we had our very first community meeting is mind boggling to say the least. The Turner Centre was packed out with over 400 people in attendance. The atmosphere was electric and I came away from there so excited to hear the commonality in the community's ideas and vision for what they wanted Kerikeri to look and feel like in 20 years.

At that meeting, the most amazing group of people put their hands up to form the leadership team – near 30 of them feeling the same passion and drive to make Kerikeri a better place. We spent the next 6 months gathering more feedback and reaching out to 32 target groups that were not present at that community meeting. We gathered feedback from over 1200 people, with 80% of them being face to face. We went to local schools and spoke to over 420 children and youth. It was a massive undertaking but one we enjoyed very much. It inspired us even more to continue with our work.

We invited people to be part of a focus group where we learnt so much through these sessions – I remember the leadership group feeling very nervous about facilitating these focus groups – something that none of us had been trained to do with an aim to extract information out of people we had for the most part never met.

One of our very talented leaders categorised and analysed all the data we received through that process – thousands of data lines - something we refer to on a very regular basis. This data then formed part of our working sessions where we created the draft vision, goals, and project ideas. When I look back, I wonder how on earth we did it. Every member of the leadership team had families, work commitments, other volunteer commitments and life events and yet we pulled it together to create the vision and goals – something we are very proud of.

3 further community meetings were held with the final meeting being in September last year, a little over a year ago. The leadership team's job that they had signed up for was finally complete.

Now a year later, most of the leadership team are still actively involved, attending meetings and volunteering their time. 7 of the team are now Trustees of the Trust. Something that still astounds me to this day is the diversified and yet balanced board composition we have and the leadership team by its side. A fluke maybe, or a sign that this was meant to be. We discuss things robustly but respectfully learning to see all sides, being filled with so much knowledge from each other and ultimately supporting the decisions made. We are very lucky.

Next, we set out to formally create an entity. We had been warned that it can take up to 2 years to do this with a further warning that it is not an easy feat. Led by one of our Trustees, by January, we had completed the Trust Deed and applied for charity status. We had the support of Jo Baguley from Atlas Law who helped us through this which we are very grateful for. On the 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2020, we received approval. Even with lockdown and a backlog at the Charities Office, we were stoked to get the approval as quick as we did!

Through this period, we also invested much time in getting our foundations built– we attended a strategic planning session, created a governance manual, a project prioritisation framework, a code of contact and our ethical principles.

You would think that was enough to achieve in such a short time, but no, we knew we had to do more. Far North District Council had created a draft Far North 2100 discussion document explaining what the Far North should look like by 2100. Reading the document, we knew we needed to be involved and we prepared a submission led by a very visionary member of the team.

At the same time, Far North District Council was preparing a Transport Strategy for the North focusing on what our transport priorities for the next 10 years should be. Again, we could not ignore this opportunity. It seemed all the hard work we had done gathering feedback and data was perfectly timed.

I am also proud of the fact that we came into this from the very beginning with a mission to create a positive relationship with Council. Our ethos has been - and hopefully always will be - to work positively and collaboratively with them for as long as they let us. We have built some great relationships with the staff in FNDC as well as the Councillors who represent us.

We also completed the following projects:

- Organised subsidised movie tickets to the environmental movie “2040” where we sold out the sessions.
- Promoted “car free day” and organised carparking at the outer edge of the CBD where people could park their car securely and walk or cycle to work and school.
- Organised “Christmas in the Park” at Kororipo Basin, navigating through very strict conditions for the event due to the heritage nature of the site.
- Facilitated and promoted a Tuhono 200 School Ephemeral Art Rock project at Wiroa Stream.
- Became chalk ninjas one evening, sneaking out in stealth mode leaving chalk art and kind messages all through the CBD as well as for the essential workers at the supermarkets.
- Applied for two Innovating Streets for People Pilot projects to NZTA with the aim to trial pedestrianisation of the CBD. Sadly, we missed out on this funding.

At financial year end, we also had the following projects underway:

- A wall art installation in the CBD
- Facilitating and supporting Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Rēhia with their long-standing project called Te Haa o Te Ao “The Breath of the World.” This is a world first climate change dynamic sculpture created by renowned NZ sculpture Chris Booth. It will involve school students who will be researching the impact of climate change and will operate the sculpture to depict our efforts in reducing our impact.
- Advocating for funding through the COVID shovel ready fund for the Kerikeri Domain to upgrade our children and youth facilities and to beautify the space.

On top of all this, we produced 5 e-newsletters, had a monthly editorial in the local newspaper and created countless Facebook Posts to nearly 1100 followers!

And that is only through to the end of June 2020!

I would like to thank my fellow Trustees and the whole leadership team for their guidance, input and support for one another. This is not an easy job. It is a job that is unpaid, can at times be frustrating, and is often a thankless one. We do this because we know there is so much more potential for our area. We do this because we want our children to be proud of the place we call home.

And lastly, thank you to the community who have supported our efforts so far - those that have volunteered their time, donated to the cause and who share kind words that help to keep us going.

Ngā mihi nui



Annika Dickey  
Chairman – Our Kerikeri Community Charitable Trust