

Our Kerikeri

- COMMUNITY LEADS CHANGE -

Our Kerikeri Community Charitable Trust Chairperson's Report for year ended 30th June 2022

Kia ora koutou

Another year has flown by! This year has been tough personally, no doubt the same with the other Trustees, as most are self-employed and have businesses and staff to manage. This year has seen extraordinary pressures from illness and absenteeism due to Covid, putting intense pressure on our businesses and taking much of our time and energy to navigate. We always must remember that our board do this work as volunteers, all whilst raising families and managing their businesses or employment. I appreciate immensely their commitment to Our Kerikeri.

This year has seen the implementation of a number of projects that had been in the planning stage throughout Covid. Some of the projects have been a rollercoaster ride as we navigated cost increases and supply issues caused from Covid, but we have been incredibly blessed to have local businesses support us, helping us implement projects cost effectively.

Some of the achievements this year have been:

- Began the construction of the joint project Te Haa o te Ao "The Breath of the World" entranceway sculpture with local hapū, Te Runanga O Ngāti Rēhia Trust. The sculpture is due to be completed in December 2022.
- Secured additional funding for the landscaping at the Kerikeri/State Highway 10 entranceway.
- Completed the Cathay Cinema Wall Art competition where the community were involved in voting for the top 3 artworks that were then enlarged and installed on the wall.
- Organised and executed successfully Christmas 2021, where constant changes were required due to ongoing adjustments to the Covid settings and rules. Our amazing team of volunteers pulled off an amazing Christmas for Kerikeri which included a roving Carols Convoy that visited the streets of Kerikeri, Christmas installations throughout town, a community Christmas tree, organised a Light Up Kerikeri and Pallet Tree competition all while dealing with Covid. We were proud of how they pulled this off with every element of the project being able to be enjoyed by the whole community.
- Created a Kerikeri/Waipapa cycling working group who have been busy meeting with DOC, FNDC, NTA, Waka Kotahi and local hapu with the aim of increasing our community's options for walking and cycling safely.
- In collaboration with Kerikeri & District Business Association, helped secure funding for the replacement of the downtown irrigation system, secured a large portion of funding for the subtropical hanging baskets, which should occur in the first half of next year.

- Involved in the FNDC's spatial planning process, although this has now been put on hold by Council.
- Continued to push and advocate hard for a downtown Masterplan for Kerikeri. This has been quite the challenge to progress this, as it requires commitment and funds. Whilst other towns seem to be able to progress their plans much faster than Kerikeri, their towns also have less challenges than us, such as our existing roading infrastructure deficit.
- Saw the completion of a major milestone by Council on the Domain redevelopment plan with the playground! Whilst we were not involved in the design of the playground, we were there at the very beginning advocating to grasp the opportunities that were currently available through central government funding to Council, of which our town was successful in receiving.
- Held regular board meetings, via in person or zoom throughout the pandemic, although we chose to have less of them this year, to ensure we lessened the burden on our Trustees as they dealt with the challenges of life.

We have also enjoyed working collaboratively with Vision Kerikeri, as well as working on a future project with Bald Angels. Watch this space in the 2023 year.

Please refer to our Annual Performance Report for further achievements over the last 12 months.

I would like to particularly thank a number of incredible volunteers that have led and driven projects throughout the year. Nola Blainey, you really are a legend. Your commitment to improving our town is beyond measure. Your energy is infectious, and we most certainly would not have been able to achieve what we have without you. Melanie Chandler-Winter, your commitment to the arts is remarkable. Our town is so lucky to have you advocating on their behalf and pushing the boundaries of what we can achieve. We look forward to continuing our journey of increasing the presence of art in our township. And to Bonita Burnett who manages our regular e-newsletter and Jane Jones who helped prepare grant applications this year. We are so grateful for your help!

To my fellow Trustees, thank you. There were several Trustees that stepped up to bear more than their fair share of the load this year whilst other Trustees have had personal and business challenges to deal with. This is the definition of true teamwork, but I know that it hasn't been easy. From the bottom of my heart, thank you.

As I say every year, remember that 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 for your support. We really appreciate it.

Ngā mihi nui

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Annika Dickey', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Annika Dickey
Chairperson – Our Kerikeri Community Charitable Trust