

Our Kerikeri

- COMMUNITY LEADS CHANGE -

Our Kerikeri Community Charitable Trust Chairperson's Report for year ended 30th June 2021

Kia ora koutou

It's our second year of the Trust's existence and it has been a tough one. Covid continues to wreak havoc, challenging all aspects of our lives. Granted, we had a period of time where we enjoyed freedoms that no other country seemed to have, and it felt good and promising. But inevitably, Delta entered New Zealand and was a tough variant to manage under our elimination strategy. We joined the rest of the world in changing our strategy and working out how to live with it and with that, a whole new set of challenges emerged.

We have been limited with our ability to achieve what we had set out to do, due to the ongoing impact of Covid. All board members are volunteers with the Trust having no paid staff to assist with the ongoing management of the Trust. Many have had to manage their significantly impacted businesses, whilst supporting their employees, home schooling their children and continuing to support in their 'free' time multiple organizations that they do charitable work for. We are, however, proud to achieve what we have done, taking into consideration the significant challenges we faced.

Some of the achievements this year have been:

- Secured \$550,000 towards a joint project Te Haa o te Ao "The Breath of the World" entranceway sculpture with local hapu, Te Runanga O Ngāti Rēhia Trust.
- Organised a survey for our community regarding the proposed Long-Term Plan and summarised the data into a submission and presented at the local Council's hearing. A total of 240 individuals completed the survey.
- Assisted Council in securing funding for the development of the town's domain.
- Organised a Christmas competition to encourage increased uptake of Christmas which had 65 entries and improved significantly the Christmas feel in our town, something that was lacking as highlighted in our public consultation process.
- Organised a give-a-little donation campaign and then organised a community Christmas tree with dynamic programmable lights.
- Created an interactive Community Feedback & Engagement Display at the Proctor Library.
- Held monthly board meetings, via in person or zoom throughout the pandemic.

- Continued to secure funding for the Wall Art Installation with approval of a further \$10,000 confirmed before balance date with the project due to be undertaken in the 2022 year.
- Formalised e-newsletter format, including framework and frequency.
- Formalised and signed off governance manual and strategic plan.

During this year, a wonderful group of volunteers came together to organise bringing joy to Kerikeri in December for Christmas. They met every month during 2021, planned and plotted events and were forced to adapt and pivot what felt like daily as updates, alert levels, changes to rules, lockdowns, vaccine passes, and all other matter of things were thrown at them. They rose to the challenge and never gave up in their desire to bring joy to whānau over Christmas. A very special thank you to a very special lady, Nola Blainey, who I admire so much for her tenacity, go getter attitude and infectious energy. This Trust and this community are incredibly lucky to have such a committed volunteer who rallies the troops together and leads in this space. I am in awe of you Nola.

Covid has also impacted on deadlines and timeframes for other projects such as the upgrade to the Kerikeri entranceway with the climate change sculpture, Te Haa o Te Ao (the Breath of the World), led by Te Runanga O Ngāti Rēhia which we have had the privilege of partnering with and supporting their long-standing project. We were fortunate to receive funding from the shovel ready PGF fund for this project and have spent the last 10 months navigating government agencies and State Highway requirements in between lockdowns and alert level changes. All the paperwork, consents, contracts and plans are all complete and a blessing at the site took place as the first physical step of a safety barrier at the site is being installed as I write this report. The sculpture will be installed in February 2022 which will then be followed by phase 2, beautiful landscaping of the entranceway, making our strategic entranceway one to finally be proud of. We have loved working with Ngāti Rēhia and Chris Booth, the artist of this project – their sense of place, inclusion and passion for the land is inspiring.

Another member of our valued leadership team, Melanie Chandler-Winters has been working hard this year to secure funding for our wall art installation competition, which we expect to have completed in the first quarter of 2022. She has an incredible passion for the Arts and her grant application skills are pretty amazing too! We thank you so much for your commitment to Our Kerikeri and to the community's goal of increasing the Arts in Kerikeri.

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

I would like to thank my fellow Trustees and the whole leadership team for your ongoing contributions and commitment. I want to particularly acknowledge Lasse Pedersen, Secretary and Kirsty Grant, Treasurer, for all of your tireless work behind the scenes, keeping the Trust's wheels turning to high standards. This year has certainly not been easy. 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 and the volunteers who support us from the side lines or deep in the trenches.

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