



Te Poari ā-Rohe o Aotea / Great Barrier  
Te Rīpoata ā-Tau 2023/2024

# Aotea / Great Barrier Local Board

Annual Report 2023/2024



Volume  
**2.2**

# Mihi

Ko Aotea te moutere rongonui

Ko Hirakimata te maunga tapu

Ko te moana nui a Toi  
te moana

Ko te Tuatara, te Mauri, rātou ko te Tukaiaia  
ngā kaitiaki

Ko Aotea te kāinga o ngā uri o Ngāti Rehua

Anei te whenua e manaakitia tātou. E  
whakapiritia tātou. E whakaoratia tātou.

Te waahi o ngā taonga maha, ngā taonga tapu,  
ngā taonga matahiapo.

Na ngā whetū e kanapu ki te rangi ki ngā  
aitenga a punga e kōhimuhimu ana ki ngā  
ngahere.

Ko Aotea te taonga motuhake  
o te moana nui a Toi.

Ko Aotea toku tūrangawaewae.

Aotea is the renowned island.

Hirakimata is the sacred mountain.

The Moana of Toi is the ocean that embraces  
our island.

The Tuatara, Mauri, and the Tukaiaia are the  
guardians.

Aotea is the home for the descendants  
of Ngāti Rehua.

Here is the land that protects us, brings us  
together, keeps us alive.

A place of many treasures, sacred treasures,  
precious treasures.

From the stars shining bright in the sky to the  
insects that whisper in the forest.

Aotea is the prize of the moana of Toi.  
Aotea is my standing place.

Ngāti Rehua – Ngāti Wai ki Aotea Trust  
Board 2023

## He kōrero mō tēnei rīpoata

# About this report

This annual report tells the story of how Auckland Council has performed in delivering services in the Aotea / Great Barrier Local Board area from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024.

You can read about our progress, expenditure, service performance and challenges faced in 2023/2024. It's part of the wider annual reporting package for the Auckland Council Group and meets our Local Government Act 2002 obligations to report on our performance against agreed measures. It reports against the council's Long-term Plan 2021-2031 (10-year Budget 2021-2031) and the Aotea / Great Barrier Local Board Agreement 2023/2024.

This report also reflects the local flavour of your area by profiling its population, people and council facilities. It features a story about a council or community activity that adds special value to the area and demonstrates how **together we're delivering for Auckland**.

▼ Okiwi School

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## He kōrero mai i te heamana From the chairperson

Auckland Council significantly reduced its operational budgets to meet fiscal pressures during the financial year 2023/2024. We did our bit by reducing our budget to maintain core council operations and providing grants to community groups to deliver community services and environmental resilience programmes.

Community feedback signalled high priority areas as being community wellbeing services, marine protection and community led-environmental projects. We continued to fund Aotea Family Support Group to deliver welfare support, Aotea Education Trust to deliver education, AoteaOra Trust to deliver food resilience, and Anamata to deliver local waste solutions.

Community-owned community facilities were also upgraded using the board's capital grant fund. Projects included FitzRoy wharf pile replacement, Sports Club solar panels and battery upgrade, resealing driveways at Barrier Social Club, Kawa marae and Golf Club, painting of the new Health Trust annex, Sea Education storage shed and Kaitoke School pump track.

Oruawharo Medlands Ecovision, Okiwi Ecology Group and Okupu beach care group continued with their incredible work planting, trapping and surveying to protect our biodiversity.

We worked alongside mana whenua to protect our marine waters with surveillance for the exotic Caulerpa and support for the community-led Ahu Moana marine restoration projects at Katherine Bay and Schooner Bay.

We will continue focusing on resilience and wellbeing in the next financial year, supporting mana whenua and our community groups to continue to deliver their outstanding services and projects for our island.

Stay safe and take care.



**Izzy Fordham**  
Chairperson,  
Aotea / Great Barrier  
Local Board



## Te Poari ā-Rohe o Aotea / Great Barrier Aotea / Great Barrier Local Board



▲  
(L to R) Chris Ollivier (Deputy Chairperson), Patrick O'Shea, Izzy Fordham (Chairperson), Neil Sanderson, Laura Caine

### Contact us



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# Ngā kaupapa me ngā whakapaipai ake Aotea / Great Barrier projects and improvements

## Key to current and planned projects

### ✓ Delivered projects

- 1 Picnic table and trees beside Okiwi pump track
- 2 Aotea Great Barrier Island - Interpretive signage - continuation

### 🚶 Current projects

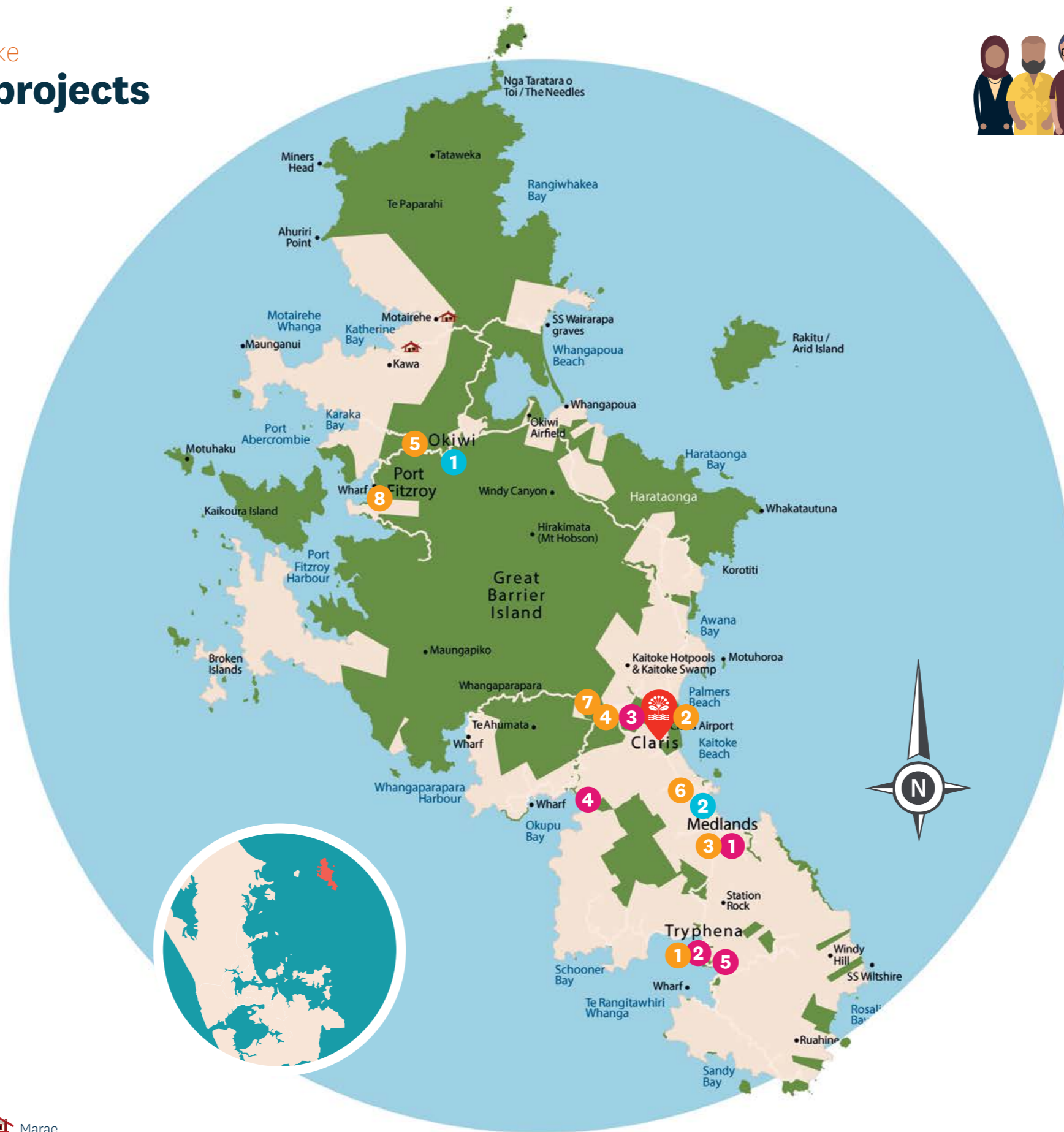
- 1 Medlands playground renewals
- 2 Aotea Great Barrier - design and install pou
- 3 Airport to Claris Village - renew pathway
- 4 Aotea Great Barrier - remediate 2023 storm and cyclone damaged assets
- 5 Mulberry Grove seawall renewal

### ★ Significant local grants funded projects

- 1 Grant to support Aotea Family Support Group
- 2 Grant support for Ngāti Rehua Ngātiwai ki Aotea Trust to manage the Great Barrier Island visitor centre
- 3 Grant support for food resilience and sustainability projects
- 4 Grant support for construction and waste advisor at Anamata
- 5 Grant support for Okiwi ecology programme
- 6 Grant support for construction of a pump bicycle track at Kaitoke School
- 7 Grant support for battery upgrade and solar panels at Sports Club
- 8 Grant support for pile replacement at Port Fitzroy Wharf

### Map legend

- Local board office
- Department of Conservation land
- Marae



**1,251** permanent residents

**51%** of residents are aged 50 years and older



Over **60%** of the island is Department of Conservation estate; **43%** of which is the Aotea Conservation Park



One of **16** places in the world to be designated an International Dark-Sky Sanctuary; one of two sanctuaries in Aotearoa

Data sources: Stats NZ Population Estimates, as at 30 June 2023

# Tā mātou pūrongo whakahaere mahi

## Our performance report

### Local Community Services

We provide grants to our health, welfare, arts, education, housing and sustainability organisations to deliver community services. We support our community through arts and culture, library, parks, sport and recreation, waste solutions and events delivered by a mix of council services, mana whenua, community groups and volunteers. We improve island food resilience by supporting the food resilience coordinator and community garden manager. We maintain and upgrade our parks and facility assets and provide capital grants to community groups to maintain their assets.

**KEY** ● Achieved ● Substantially achieved ● Not achieved \* Measures favourably/unfavourably impacted by COVID-19

For more information on our service performance judgements and assumptions please refer to pages 166-167 of Volume 1 of the annual report.

#### Provide safe, reliable and accessible social infrastructure for Aucklanders that contributes to placemaking and thriving communities

##### Percentage of Aucklanders that feel their local town centre is safe - day time

While residents' perception of feeling safe during day time has declined to 85 per cent, no feedback was provided. The small sample size of 33 participants in the survey may not represent the general feeling of residents.

Result against target		●
Target 2024		92%
Result	2024	85%
	2023	88%
	2022	100%

##### Percentage of Aucklanders that feel their local town centre is safe - night time

No feedback was provided as to why residents' perception of safety has declined. The small sample size of 33 may not represent the general feeling of residents.

Result against target		●
Target 2024		90%
Result	2024	83%
	2023	66%
	2022	82%

#### Utilising the Empowered Communities Approach, we support Aucklanders to create thriving, connected and inclusive communities

##### The percentage of Empowered Communities activities that are community led<sup>3</sup>

The local board has demonstrated a strong commitment to supporting community-led activities. Additionally, this financial year has seen an increase in community-led investment in crime prevention initiatives.

Result against target		●
Target 2024		70%
Result	2024	81%
	2023	70%
	2022	78%

##### The percentage of Empowered Communities activities that build capacity and capability to assist local communities to achieve their goals<sup>3</sup>

This year has exceeded target with a continued focus on food resilience and sustainability programmes, as well as on emergency preparedness and community resilience.

Result against target		●
Target 2024		60%
Result	2024	67%
	2023	71%
	2022	80%

#### We provide safe and accessible parks, reserves, beaches, recreation programmes, opportunities and facilities to get Aucklanders more active, more often

##### The percentage of users who are satisfied with the overall quality of local parks

Clearing works in Okupu have re-opened parts of the reserve affected by stormwater issues. Access improvements were made to the Medlands Beach eastern accessway for launching boats after heavy erosion affected the area.

Result against target		●
Target 2024		70%
Result	2024	71%
	2023	52%
	2022	63%*

##### The percentage of residents who visited a local park in the last 12 months

Visitor numbers were affected by a wet winter 2023, but benefitted from a settled period between January-May 2024.

Result against target		●
Target 2024		81%
Result	2024	60%
	2023	90%
	2022	91%*

#### We showcase Auckland's Māori identity and vibrant Māori culture

##### The percentage of local programmes, grants and activities that respond to Māori aspirations

Aotea / Great Barrier exceeded target. This was achieved by an outstanding result for local grants that include Māori outcomes (over 70 per cent of all local and quick response grants), and a strong result for community empowerment activities responding to Māori aspirations.

Result against target		●
Target 2024		25%
Result	2024	35%
	2023	35%
	2022	41%

#### We fund, enable and deliver services, programmes, and facilities (art facilities, community centres, hire venues, and libraries) that enhance identity, connect people, and support Aucklanders to participate in community and civic life

##### The number of internet sessions at libraries (unique sessions over public computing or public WIFI networks)<sup>1</sup>

Aotea / Great Barrier is under target and has consistently struggled to meet the internet goals in the current financial year, unlike the trends seen in most other parts of Auckland. WiFi sessions are 62 per cent lower than last year, likely reflecting changing customer behaviours. With Aotea/Great Barrier having a small permanent population, any change to customer habits can have a large impact on the final numbers.

Result against target		●
Target 2024		4,500
Result	2024	2,472
	2023	5,724
	2022	5,232

##### The percentage of arts, and culture programmes, grants and activities that are community led

Aotea / Great Barrier was above target, with 100 per cent of arts and culture programmes delivered by the sole community-led facility: Great Barrier Island Community Art Gallery.

Result against target		●
Target 2024		90%
Result	2024	100%
	2023	100%
	2022	100%

Local Community Services measures cont'd over

**The percentage of art facilities, community centres and hire venues network that is community led**

Result against target		●
Target 2024		100%
Result	2024	100%
	2023	100%
	2022	New Measure

**The number of visits to library facilities<sup>1</sup>**

Aotea/Great Barrier is below target, with visitor numbers similar to last financial year. Unfortunately, Aotea/Great Barrier has a very small permanent population and minor changes to customer behaviour can have a larger impact on results than in other local boards. Additionally, the traditional summer peak of visitor numbers in January has not yet recovered to the same high levels seen pre-pandemic.

Result against target		●
Target 2024		13,000
Result	2024	10,150
	2023	10,172
	2022	6,820*

**The number of participants in activities at art facilities, community centres and hire venues<sup>2</sup>**

Aotea / Great Barrier was above target, although there were slightly fewer participants for most quarters of this financial year compared to the previous year. This reduction arose from the key resignations earlier in the year, including the departure of the previous General Manager, the gallery coordinator, and several long-term volunteers. The resulting staff and volunteer shortage have led to the cancellation of several workshop, art classes and events.

Result against target		●
Target 2024		14,000
Result	2024	14,571
	2023	18,347
	2022	New Measure

**Percentage of customers satisfied with the quality of library service delivery<sup>1</sup>**

Great Barrier / Aotea Local Board Library continues to exceed the customer satisfaction target, with a year-end result surpassing the target by 11 percentage points. Auckland Libraries successfully implemented the Intelligent Materials Management System for more effective collection management at the end of May 2024. Despite the scale and complexity of this project, a focus on the customer experience ensured satisfaction remains above target.

Result against target		●
Target 2024		85%
Result	2024	96%
	2023	97%
	2022	95%*

1. The Great Barrier Service Centre and Library are one multi use facility.  
 2. The Great Barrier Island Community Heritage & Arts Village was funded by the Aotea / Great Barrier Local Board and will be contributing to this performance measure going forward.  
 3. This financial year, a reporting responsibility change and more diverse community delivery strategy have had an impact on reported results for a number of local boards. Although framework and direction were consistent with previous years, different interpretations have been applied by the new information providers. This has had a varying impact across different local boards, and has led to some variances in the current year results compared to the prior year.

## Local Environmental Management

We support healthy ecosystems and sustainability through board-funded initiatives such as planting, pest control, stream and water quality enhancements, and waste minimisation projects. We support community-led water resilience programmes including drinking water tanks and fountains. We fund community-led environmental groups including Oruawhoro Medlands Ecovision, Ecology Vision and the Okiwi ecology programme. We support community-led marine protection initiatives including Ahu Moana and the Caulerpa Response.

**We work with Aucklanders to manage the natural environment and enable low carbon lifestyles to build resilience to the effects of climate change**

**The percentage of local water quality or natural environment improvement projects that have successfully contributed towards local board plan outcomes**

We successfully delivered five water quality and natural environment improvement projects this year. These projects have contributed towards the board’s environmental objectives as described in its local board plan.

Result against target		●
Target 2024		85%
Result	2024	100%
	2023	85%
	2022	90%

**The percentage of local waste minimisation projects that have successfully contributed towards local board plan outcomes**

We successfully delivered one project this year. This project has contributed to local board’s environmental objectives as described in its local board plan.

Result against target		●
Target 2024		80%
Result	2024	100%
	2023	100%
	2022	New measure

He whakamārama mō ā mātou mahi whakahaere

# Our performance explained

## Local community services

The island’s community groups continue to excel in providing essential services across health, welfare, education, housing, and sustainability. The Aotea / Great Barrier Local Board remains dedicated to supporting these efforts through targeted funding.

This year, the Claris Library achieved exceptional customer satisfaction, exceeding the year-end target by 11 percentage points. This success is a testament to the dedication of our library staff.

We continued our support for Ngāti Rehua Ngātiwai ki Aotea Trust in managing the Claris Airport Visitor Information Centre, and funded the Aotea Education Trust to deliver the Aotea Learning Hub and Early Childhood Centre in Kaitoke.

AoteaOra Trust’s food security and sustainability programmes received continued support, including expanded initiatives for local food production and affordable water tanks. We upgraded park facilities this year including a renewal of the basketball court at Medlands Reserve.

Ngāti Rehua Ngātiwai ki Aotea hosted their annual Mānawatia a Matariki event at Kawa Marae on Friday June 28. Approximately 180 locals participated in this significant event, where board-funded cooked kai was offered to the stars, reflecting a strong community commitment to cultural traditions.

The one-year-only local crime prevention fund was used to fly mental health and addiction specialist Peter Thorburn to the island to host two well attended hui on methamphetamine. Staff then began working on a return visit for specific sessions on other topics, including rangatahi strength and resilience.

## Local environmental management

In the 2023/2024 financial year, we successfully delivered five natural environment (environmental services) projects for Aotea/ Great Barrier Island. These projects have contributed significantly to our environmental objectives as outlined in our local board plan.

Our ongoing environmental initiatives include supporting the role of our on-island conservation advisor and Aotea Ecology Vision facilitator. They delivered projects such as the

Aotea Cat-alogue and responsible cat ownership, the Ecology Vision Festival 2023, bird aversion trainings and local bird species awareness raising.

The board also supports community-led environmental projects being delivered by the Okiwi Ecology programme and Ōruawharo Medlands Ecology Group. They delivered the community trap library, Asian Paddle Crab trapping, Myna trapping, and bird signage. The community groups also deliver riparian plantings, wetland restoration and tree plantings.

We continued funding the Construction Waste Leadership Project to minimise environmental impact in the building sector. Behaviour change through the engagement and education of this project has resulted in a 70 per cent reduction in contamination of construction and demolition materials.



▲ Ecology Vision  
▼ Kawa Marae



Te āhuatanga ā-rohe

# Local flavour

## Mānawatia a Matariki

Ngāti Rehua Ngātiwai ki Aotea hosted their annual Mānawatia a Matariki event at Kawa Marae on the Matariki public holiday in June 2024 – but with a few changes.

Wahine led the first whāngai i te hautapu – or hautapu for short - ceremony held by Kawa Marae for Matariki in 2022 and last year’s was led by the tamariki.

“This year it was time for the tāne to have their turn,” says chair of the Kawa Marae Trust, Jan Piahana.

A hautapu ceremony involves cooked kai being pulled out of the earth with its steam being offered to the stars. Around 180 locals committed to an early start to come and be a part of this special ceremony.

Between the ceremony and breakfast guests had the opportunity to learn waiata in the whareniui.

A catered breakfast, funded by the local board, reached capacity with 150 people attending. An open invite was extended to all locals to join in with the post-breakfast festivities.

A special viewing of the film ‘Whina’ was accompanied by a kōrero with director Paula Whetu Jones about how the movie came about. Whina is the story of Dame Whina Cooper, the beloved Māori matriarch who worked tirelessly to improve the rights of her people.

Another feature of the day was a small market with stalls offering jewellery, clothing, artwork, weaving, some rongoā (herbal medicines and consultations), and marae merchandise.

Kawa Marae Youth Club were involved in gathering some of the kai for the hautapu ceremony and breakfast, including crayfish, eels and pig hunting, as well as decorating the Matariki cake.

The group of rangatahi also stayed the night ahead of the celebrations at the marae to help with all the preparation.

“It was a great opportunity to educate our next generation on the roles of the marae,” says Jan.

▼ Hautapu ceremony



Te tahua pūtea

# Funding impact statement

Financial year ending 30 June 2024

\$000s	Notes	Actual 2023/2024	Annual Plan 2023/2024	Annual Plan 2022/2023
<b>Sources of operating funding:</b>				
General rates, UAGCs, rates penalties		2,818	2,818	2,515
Targeted rates		0	0	0
Subsidies and grants for operating purposes		0	0	0
Fees and charges		0	0	0
Local authorities fuel tax, fines, infringement fees and other receipts		3	2	2
<b>Total operating funding</b>		<b>2,821</b>	<b>2,820</b>	<b>2,517</b>
<b>Applications of operating funding:</b>				
Payments to staff and suppliers	1	2,308	2,360	2,168
Finance costs		101	101	75
Internal charges and overheads applied		359	359	249
Other operating funding applications		0	0	0
<b>Total applications of operating funding</b>		<b>2,769</b>	<b>2,820</b>	<b>2,492</b>
<b>Surplus (deficit) of operating funding</b>		<b>53</b>	<b>(1)</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Sources of capital funding:</b>				
Subsidies and grants for capital expenditure		0	0	0
Development and financial contributions		0	0	0
Increase (decrease) in debt	2	75	291	566
Gross proceeds from sale of assets		0	0	0
Lump sum contributions		0	0	0
Other dedicated capital funding		0	0	0
<b>Total sources of capital funding</b>		<b>75</b>	<b>291</b>	<b>566</b>
<b>Application of capital funding:</b>				
Capital expenditure:	3			
- to meet additional demand		(92)	54	11
- to improve the level of service		44	26	14
- to replace existing assets		176	210	566
Increase (decrease) in reserves		0	0	0
Increase (decrease) in investments		0	0	0
<b>Total applications of capital funding</b>		<b>128</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>591</b>
<b>Surplus (deficit) of capital funding</b>		<b>(53)</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>(25)</b>
<b>Funding balance</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**Variance explanation Actual 2023/2024 to Annual Plan 2023/2024**

1. Payments to staff and suppliers were below plan mainly due to delays in repairs and maintenance work for Claris Airfield and parking driven by the adverse weather conditions.
2. Capital expenditure and payments to staff and suppliers were lower than planned. This resulted in a funding surplus which meant that less debt funding was required than planned.
3. Capital expenditure was below plan mainly due to delays in general open space and building, and assets renewal projects. These included Medlands Playground Reserve, Gooseberry Flat Playground, local board office and Service Centre, Medlands Park and Sandhills Reserve. The basketball hoop renewal at Medlands Playground Reserve will be included in the next stage. The negative actual capital expenditure to meet additional demand was mainly due to reclassification of accumulated costs associated with Claris Cemetery development being reclassified to operating expenses as the project had been ceased.



▲ Planting at Okupu Bay



▲ Oruawhoro Medlands Ecovision hub



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