



Wesley
Community
Action

ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023

KĀORE MĀ TE WAHA
ENGARI MĀ TE RINGA

ACTIONS SPEAK
LOUDER THAN WORDS

HAERE RĀ ALITA AND TUTA

We were shocked and saddened at the unexpected deaths of two of our Wesley whānau during the year.

Alita Harris, who was a social worker based at Waitangirua, died in August 2022. She was a humble person but she lived Te Ara Wēteri, and she had a big influence on whānau who were doing it tough.

Tuta Ngarimu, who worked with New Zealand P-Pull, died in October 2023. Tuta was a genuine grass-roots leader who worked amongst the communities in Te Tairāwhiti promoting hauora and connectedness to counter addictive and destructive behaviours.

Moe mai rā Alita and Tuta – you are deeply missed.





FROM THE DIRECTOR AND BOARD CHAIR

Kia ora

Effective change involves weaving powerful stories. We get to hear and contribute to the weaving – and reweaving – of many powerful stories each day. They are powerful because they are hopeful, despite the challenges and the continuous ‘bad news’. This report provides a taste of the vast number of stories that are being rewritten by people across many different areas.

With a worsening economic situation and growing uncertainty the need for creative change has never been greater. We are confident that ‘Te Ara Wēterī’ is transformational in helping release the capacity that exists in people and communities.

For us, it’s an honour and a privilege to be part of this transformation. We asked kaimahi for their highlights from the year. Here’s what they said:

“Walking alongside whānau/community on their financial journey and supporting them to turn their mamae into aroha has been the most humbling experience.

“Walking the talk about whānau first. Our family experienced more than the usual share of tangi and hospital admissions; it was such a tautoko knowing my reduced hours could be accommodated.

“Doing the mahi at Hawkes Bay Regional Prison running BroTalk, from writing up the proposal to having now attended three graduations where the Lifers are the BroTalk facilitators.

“Working to provide an intensive, whānau-led service, alongside parents whose tamariki are at risk of being removed from their care.

Our kaupapa te Tiriti focus and our new power-sharing governance arrangement are also products of this transformation. We caution against simple charitable solutions, and we value deep long-term partnerships that ‘hang-in-there’ when the going gets messy and tough.

To the many people and organisations that fund, support, work, volunteer, challenge and inspire us, we are deeply appreciative. We look forward to building on our partnerships to co-create the communities people want to live in.

Peter Glensor
Chair

David Hanna
Director

OUR MAHI

Wesley Community Action is a creative change organisation that works in communities and with whānau across all ages and stages within the wider Wellington region. We run services, design new initiatives and support and partner with people and groups doing great work to sustain whānau and communities to live lives that they value.

Our kaupapa is based on our Methodist heritage and our many years of experience working alongside whānau. This has taught us that people

respond best when they are respected, have their strengths identified and named, and can use those strengths to make the changes they want.

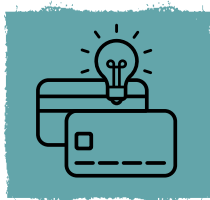
We are committed to becoming a kaupapa te Tiriti organisation – one that actively works to honour the Treaty of Waitangi.

We are evolving as we resist the dominant ‘doing to’ people approach (colonisation) to one that supports people ‘to do’.

Our mahi spans five inter-related foundations for a good life:



Connected and
supportive
whānau



Financial stability



Good kai



A healthy natural
environment



Warm, safe and
dry housing

OUR HIGHLIGHTS 2022 – 2023

During the year most of our work continued to focus on the five inter-related foundations for a good life. We also:

- Launched the Te Hiko website – www.tehiko.org.nz. Te Hiko is our Centre for Community Innovation. It aims to not just support and grow community innovation in action, but also to evaluate, measure and share knowledge about what's being learned.
- Refreshed our 12-year-old strategic directions document. Te Ahunga Ki Tua 2023 Ki Te 2035 will guide our work as we evolve as a kaupapa te Tiriti organisation committed to creatively bringing about change.
- Worked on plans to carry out a six-month pilot of Te Wiki Wēteri – our version of the 4-day work week.
- Continued to provide backbone support to local social initiatives. They include New Zealand P-Pull, a national movement of people working to awhi individuals, whānau, whānui and communities to lead the way to a meth-free future, as well as Common Ground and Food4Thought, two initiatives that build community connection. One is based in Walter Nash Park in Taita and one in Upper Hutt.



CONNECTED AND SUPPORTIVE WHĀNAU

Our work to help build connected and supportive whānau spans the whole life cycle from pēpi and new parents to kaumātua / seniors. We also work with rangatahi (teenagers and young adults) and with wāhine and tāne who are looking for connection, support, challenge or growth.

TAMARIKI AND THEIR CARERS

During the year we:

- Supported up to 100 whānau to give their tamariki the best start in life through the Family Start programme.
- Worked alongside 12 whānau to help 32 tamariki stay with or return to their family through the Mana Whānau service which provides intensive whānau-led support to build resilient and skilled whānau and reduce the number of tamariki going into – or staying in – care.
- Advocated for and supported another 77 whānau experiencing challenges through the Strengthening Families and Family Wellbeing programmes based at Wesley Waitangirua.
- Provided foster care and social work support to 7 young people and their whānau through Te Waka Kotahi, our foster care programme for young people aged 12 to 17.

- Supported 33 tamariki and their whānau at three schools in Otaki through the Social Workers in Schools programme.

KAUMĀTUA

During the year we:

- Supported 120 vulnerable kaumātua to stay living in their own homes through the Supported Independent Living programme.
- Responded to 258 referrals to the Elder Abuse Response Service from people living in the greater Wellington region.
- Ran three 10-week Ageing Well courses at Wesley Rātā Village for people from all over the Hutt Valley who come together to combat loneliness and build connections with others.
- Hosted around 38 regular attendees at our weekly Ageing Well coffee group. About half have cognitive decline and a committed group of 6 volunteers helps keep everybody safe and happy.

"If it wasn't for the van which comes to pick me up, I couldn't come." **Ageing Well group participant**



RANGATAHI, WĀHINE AND TĀNE

During the year we:

- Continued to support the growth of youth wellbeing and resilience among rangatahi in Porirua through youth-development programme Te Roopu Tiaki Rangatahi.
- Filled our lounge at Cannons Creek with local tāne at our regular Aotearoa Pasifika Mens Group where they enjoyed a good kai, a korero and a chance to connect.
- Ran holiday and sport programmes for rangatahi in the Strathmore area.
- Supported 35 whānau to get an open-water diving certificate through The Broject, which is one of two projects we run as part of our Hurihanga programme for whānau who identify as members of gang communities. For some participants, this led to jobs as divers cleaning lakes in the Taupō area.
- Supported nine rangatahi aged 17 to 30 to take part in the Wellington City Council's 'pathways to employment' initiative through the Rangatahi programme in Strathmore, which is also part of Hurihanga. Of those, three got fulltime jobs.
- Expanded the arts programme at Wesley Rātā Village to include pottery and theatre classes, as well as a painting programme for new parents.
- Hosted a regular Koha Café at Wesley Rātā Village to provide a place for the local community to get together to drink coffee, eat delicious food and build connections and friendships.
- Increased the membership of WhānauFluence from 12,000 to 18,000. WhānauFluence is a closed moderated Facebook page for whānau who want to break down cycles of intergenerational disadvantage. It provides a kete of tools through lived experiences, shared knowledge and the voices of tamariki.



FINANCIAL STABILITY

During the year we:

- Ran 5 Good Cents financial wellbeing courses at Wesley House in Cannons Creek and another 2 in Kapiti. The Kapiti courses were run as part of the Jobs for Nature programme through a new partnership with Te Atiawa ki Whakarongotai, Manaaki Kapiti and Ground Truth.
- Held 1 online and 2 face-to-face Train-the-Trainer courses for FinCap, which supports budgeting and financial capability services throughout New Zealand.
- Grew the Porirua Wealth Pool to 32 members. The wealth pool now has almost \$9000 out in no-interest loans to help members do things such as buy household assets and pay for family events.
- Revitalised the Porirua Time Bank. Its members have agreed to be the kaitiaiki for Tā Patē, a new community hub in Cannons Creek.



WARM, SAFE AND DRY HOUSING

During the year we:

- Provided warm, safe, dry homes to 113 people throughout Wellington. We had tenants living in 73 low-rental homes in the greater Wellington area.
- Upgraded all our housing stock to comply with the government's healthy homes standards.
- Closed 11 rental units in Waitangirua due to the high cost of upgrading them to meet the healthy homes standards. We plan to demolish the units and replace them with new rental homes.
- Worked with the Methodist Church of NZ Hastings Samoan Parish on a \$7m community housing project on church-owned land in Flaxmere. The 12 affordable rental homes at Punavaiola – Spring of Living Water are expected to be completed by the end of 2023. They will be rented to people on the social housing waiting list, with a particular focus on Pasifika aiga.
- Continued to explore plans to turn the former hospital wing and Strand Resthome at Wesley Rātā Village into 31 one-to-two-bedroom apartments.
- Supported 50 vulnerable households to stay living in their rental homes through the Sustaining Tenancies programme.



GOOD KAI

During the year we continued to explore ways of supporting local people to be more in control of how they access, grow and share kai. With the help of our community, we have realised the best way we can support growing of kai in our community is to focus on composting and seedling-production using biology-first principles and providing training opportunities in growing kai. We also supported communities to get access to good kai in a range of ways:

- Supported 11 communities to distribute 62,000 packs of well-priced, good-quality fresh produce to people throughout Wellington through the Wellington Region Fruit and Vegetable Co-op. That's a 23% increase on the previous year. We co-ordinate the co-op in partnership with Te Whatu Ora (formerly Regional Public Health).
 - Continued to provide emergency food parcels through our Community Pantry in Cannons Creek. There was a significant increase in demand for parcels during the year.
 - Carried out landscaping work at the back of Wesley House in Cannons Creek to accommodate a tunnel house and potting shed to propagate vegetable seedlings to sell to the local community and give free to school and community gardens as part of our kai resiliency work. We are very grateful for the advice and support provided by gardening expert Hannah Zwartz.
- Supported five community groups on their journey to making amazing biology-rich compost.
 - Happily loaned our garage at Wesley House in Cannons Creek to the Kai Ika Project every Thursday as a base to distribute high-quality fish frames to the local community – the first of Kai Ika's four distribution points.

"It's a budgeting measure because you know you're paying that much and you don't have an unknown price when you go to get fruit and vegetables." **Fruit & Vege Coop member**





A HEALTHY NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

We believe that taking action together to help nature to heal helps support good health in our social systems. Doing what we can to be kaitiaki for the environment and counteract climate change fits with our kaupapa as an organisation committed to building and sustaining healthy systems.

During the year we:

- Carried out waste audits at all of our sites and worked on waste reduction plans for each site.
- Had our carbon emissions officially measured and set targets to reduce them.
- Continued to plant out the bare hills behind Porirua East as part of Ngahere Korowai, an ambitious project to cloak the hills in a ngahere (forest) of native trees. Ngahere Korowai is a partnership between our Mens Group in Cannons Creek, Ngai Toa Rangitira, Greater Wellington Regional Council, Porirua City Council, our community and several other organisations.



BROTALK

BroTalk is an extension of WhānauFluence. It was developed during 2022 in partnership with a small group of 'Bros' and the first course was delivered in early 2023. In the first six months 70 people from around the country completed the programme with a very positive reaction.

The idea behind BroTalk was to create something that would help club whānau (whānau who identify as members of gang communities) to dig deep and reflect on their behaviour and the impact it has on them, their partners, their tamariki, their clubs and their community. The aim is to train up club whānau as BroTalk facilitators across Aotearoa – including in prisons – as we grow this kaupapa.

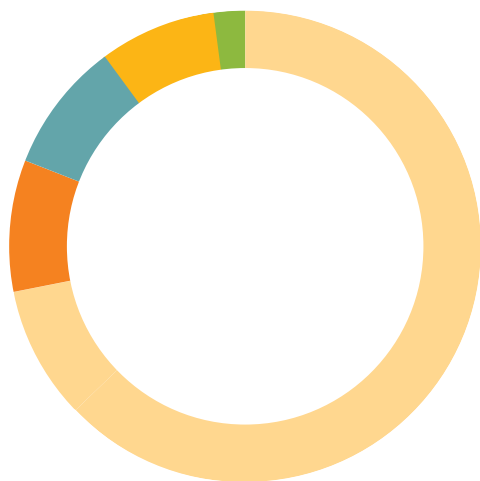
"To be honest, all my lightbulbs went on so I would recommend BroTalk for all chapters and why? For our tamariki!!!" **BroTalk participant**

TE WIKI WĒTERI

During the year members of our leadership team worked closely with an organisation called PeopleEX to develop our version of the 4-day work week, which we have called Te Wiki Wēteri. We are running a six-month pilot with eligible staff which will finish in May 2024. Eligible kaimahi who complete 100% of their deliverables in 80% of the time will get that 20% of time back as Wā Wēteri.

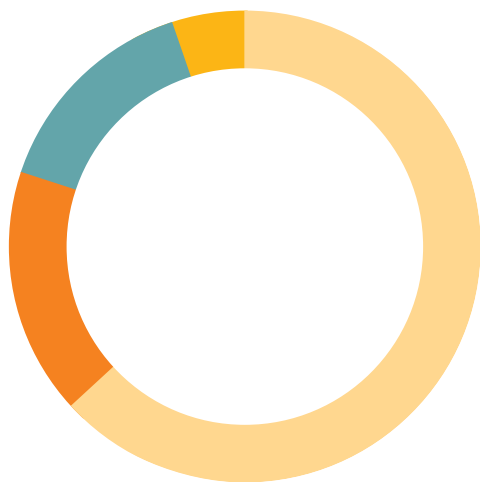
The aim of Te Wiki Wēteri is to support work-life balance, improve kaimahi wellbeing, provide a positive work experience for our kaimahi and facilitate effective outcomes for whānau and communities.

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE



WHERE OUR REVENUE OF \$8.76M CAME FROM

	%	\$m
Fees and services	72	6.29
Rent income	9	0.79
Grants, bequests and donations	9	0.75
Interest revenue	8	0.68
Government grants: rent subsidies	3	0.26



WHERE OUR EXPENSES OF \$7.77M WERE USED

	%	\$m
Employee-related costs	63	4.89
Operating and administration	17	1.35
Occupancy (leases, power, insurance rates, maintenance)	15	1.16
Depreciation	5	0.38

The income and expenses costs shown on this page have been taken from the full audited financial statements of Wesley Community Action for the year ended 30 June 2023.

Copies of the full financial statements are available from Wesley Community Action.

Many thanks to the organisations that funded our work in 2022-2023:

Department of Internal Affairs –
Lottery Community Fund

Fincap

Hutt City Council

JR McKenzie

Methodist Church of New Zealand /
Te Haahi Weteriana O Aotearoa

Nuku Ora

St Davids Trust

The Tindall Foundation

Todd Foundation

Trust House

Wellington Community Fund

Wellington Methodist Education and
Endowment Trust

Winton and Margaret Bear Charitable Trust

**Thank you to everyone who made individual donations during the year.
Your generosity is much appreciated.**



Wesley
Community
Action

A member of the Methodist Alliance 