



Wesley
Community
Action

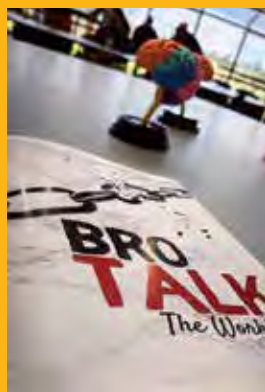
ANNUAL REPORT 2023–2024

Real change happens when it is led by the people wanting change



KĀORE MĀ TE WAHA ENGARI
MĀ TE RINGA

Actions speak louder than words
- Nā Rua Rakena





Otila and Pita Lamosi and their son Marcus hold the keys to their new home at Panavaiola in Flaxmere, Hawkes Bay. We built the 12 new houses at Punavaiola in partnership with the Methodist Church of NZ Hastings Samoan Parish.



FROM THE DIRECTOR AND BOARD CHAIR

Kia ora

How do we know we are making a positive impact for those most in need of support?

We know that inequity and ecological stress is growing globally, nationally and in communities. And we know that these trends will impact most heavily on the people least equipped to respond.

Given this, how can one smallish community organisation claim to be making an impact when so many trends are pulling in a different direction? The truth is, we don't know. The complexity and interconnectedness of issues mean we can't untangle what we do from the thousands of other influences.

This admission can be liberating. Frequently we aren't measuring the right thing or asking the right questions. The following words of the late Nobel laureate Ilya Prigogine help point to our liberating direction: "When a system is far from equilibrium, small islands of coherence in a sea of chaos have the capacity to lift the entire system to a higher order."

Wesley Community Action strives to be one 'small island of coherence'. This is enabled by focusing on the quality of our relationships and a deeper awareness of what is happening. As Otto Scharmer, an action researcher who helps leaders embrace cross-sector systems transformation, reflects: "Our attention, if aligned with intention, can radiate clarity and begin to catalyse agency (that is, action that actualises our best future potential)."

Wesley Community Action believes that working within communities with whānau leading is how we catalyse agency – rangatiratanga. This calls us to untangle our old colonial ways of working, reweave with matāuranga Māori and as a Kaupapa Te Tiriti Organisation, be one of many islands of coherence that enable deep change to emerge.

This report is some of our story in doing this and our expression of honouring Te Tiriti.

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.

Te Ara Wēteri (The Wesley Way) is at the heart of our work. It helps people to actively contribute to the change process.

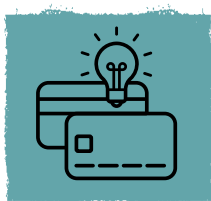
We are committed to becoming a kaupapa te Tiriti organisation – one that actively works to honour the Treaty of Waitangi.

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



A healthy natural
environment



Warm, safe and
dry housing



Good kai

OUR HIGHLIGHTS 2023 – 2024



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 pēpi / tamariki and their whānau to have the best start in life through the Family Start programme.
- Worked alongside 12 whānau to help 30 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.



- Supported another 64 whānau experiencing challenges through the Strengthening Families and Family Wellbeing programmes based at Wesley Waitangirua.
- Made the difficult decision to close Te Whare Whakapakari, our residential whare for young people, and developed a new programme, the Intensive Caregiver Support Service (ICSS), to offer Oranga Tamariki caregivers short periods of intensive, flexible support in their own homes. This has seen our foster care service reduce to supporting one placement as we build the ICSS.
- Supported 38 tamariki and their whānau at three schools in Otaki through the Social Workers in Schools programme.

KAUMĀTUA

During the year we:

- Supported 116 vulnerable kaumātua to stay living in their own homes through the Supported Independent Living programme.
- Responded to 311 referrals to the Elder Abuse Response Service from people living in the greater Wellington region.
- Ran a pilot programme at Wesley Rātā Village called Stuff Busters to help people having problems with clutter develop a better way of managing their stuff.
- Ran two 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 5 volunteers helps keep everybody safe and happy.

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.
- Established a fitness gym, Kotahitanga Hauora, at our new premises in the Eastern Suburbs to provide regular kickboxing and other fitness classes for all age groups. The gym is part of Te Pae Urungi, one of two projects we run through our Hurihanga programme for whānau who identify as members of gang communities.
- Ran regular holiday and sport programmes for rangatahi in the Strathmore area.
- Partnered with the police Gang Engagement Team and the Howard League Driving School to help 8 people in the Eastern Suburbs get their learners, restricted or full drivers licence.

"My son has learning differences so he doesn't get much of a chance to shine or be successful. But he was really good at one of the holiday programme activities and he had a chance to lead and shine."

– Parent of a Te Pae Urungi school holiday programme participant



- Developed a community garden in the heart of Waitangirua through Broject, which is our second Hurihanga project. The Broject team, which is based in Porirua, also ran a Fathers and Sons programme and helped support the delivery of BroTalk.
- Established parents and babies' art classes as a core offering in our arts programme at Wesley Rātā Village. We also established a 'Maker Space' group for people interested in craft-based creativity such as sewing, knitting and card making.
- Continued to host our popular monthly Koha Café at Wesley Rātā Village.
- Worked with tāne at Hawkes Bay Regional Prison to train them as facilitators for BroTalk, a programme designed by and for whānau to create positive, supportive and healthy whānau relationships. We also delivered BroTalk to about 250 people throughout the country.
- Increased the membership of WhānauFluence from 18,000 to 24,000. 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.

"I hadn't thought that other people were in my position until I walked in the room."

– Stuff Busters course participant





FINANCIAL STABILITY

During the year we:

- Ran 3 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 partnership with Te Atiawa ki Whakarongotai, Manaaki Kapiti and Ground Truth.
- Began a new collaboration with 2 Pasifika organisations to train their workers to run Good Cents courses.
- Held 3 Train-the-Trainer courses for FinCap in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch. FinCap supports budgeting and financial capability services throughout New Zealand
- Grew the Porirua Wealth Pool to 33 members, and supported members to take on administrative roles. The wealth pool now has 86% of its funds out in no-interest loans to help members do things such as buy household assets, vehicles and pay for family events.
- Grew the Porirua Time Bank to 34 members and joined a new user-friendly platform for timebanks called Time and Talents.



A HEALTHY NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

We believe that doing what we can to be kaitiaki for the environment and to counteract climate change fits with our kaupapa as an organisation committed to building and sustaining healthy systems.

During the year we:

- Continued measuring our carbon emissions and waste levels and working towards reducing them.
- Established a community composting hub to manage food waste at Wesley Rātā Village.
- Installed solar panels on the roof at Wesley House in Cannons Creek.
- Bought our first electric vehicle.
- Continued to plant the bare hills behind Porirua East with native trees through Ngahere Korowai, a partnership between our Mens Group in Cannons Creek, Ngāti Toa Rangitira, Greater Wellington Regional Council, Porirua City Council, our community and several other organisations. The Mens Group also starting regularly monitoring the water quality in the Cannons Creek Lakes Reserve.





WARM, SAFE AND DRY HOUSING

During the year we:

- Provided warm, safe, dry homes to more than 90 people throughout Wellington. We had tenants living in 62 low-rental homes in the greater Wellington area.
- Continued to upgrade our housing stock to comply with the government's healthy homes standards.
- Demolished 11 rental units in Waitangirua because they were no longer fit for purpose. We are now developing plans for the site. In the meantime it is being used as a community garden.
- Welcomed the first tenants to 12 new rental homes at Punavaiola, a \$7m community housing project in Flaxmere carried out in partnership with the Methodist Church of NZ Hastings Samoan Parish. The homes provide warm, safe, dry housing for mostly Pasifika aiga.
- Started work on Kowhai Court, which involves converting the former hospital wing at Wesley Rātā Village into 15 small apartments. We also developed plans to build 16 apartments in the former Strand rest home.
- Supported 25 vulnerable households to stay living in their rental homes through the Sustaining Tenancies programme.

"Our oldest son, we opened the gate and he just went on his knees and said, 'Thank you Jesus'."

– **New tenant at Punavaiola**



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 expanded our focus on composting and growing vegetable seedlings using biology-first principles and providing training opportunities in growing kai. We supported communities to get access to good kai in a range of ways:

- Supported 12 communities to distribute 74,000 packs of well-priced, good-quality fresh produce to people throughout Wellington through the Wellington Region Fruit and Vegetable Co-op. That's a 19% increase on the previous year. We co-ordinate the co-op in partnership with Health New Zealand / Te Whatu Ora (formerly Regional Public Health).



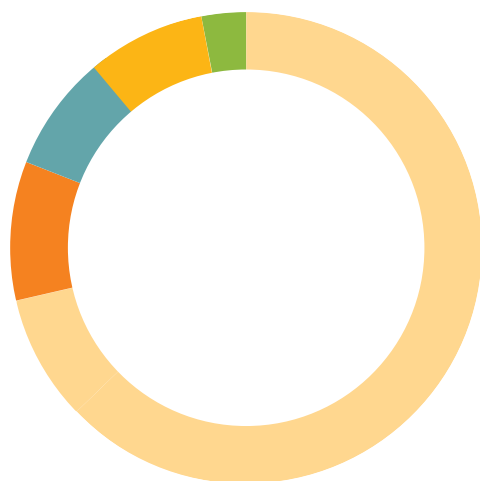
- Continued to provide emergency food parcels through our Community Pantry in Cannons Creek.
- Partnered with the Wellington Eastern Suburbs Foodbank to provide a regular food cupboard at our new premises in Miramar to help meet the growing demand for food parcels in the area.
- Ran regular educational and training workshops with a focus on growing kai at our community nursery in Cannons Creek. We continued to propagate vegetable seedlings, some of which we give free to school and community gardens and the rest of which we sell to the local community. We adopted a new model of doing this called Community Supported Agriculture. We are very grateful for the advice and support provided by gardening expert Hannah Zwartz.
- Supported six community groups on their journey to making amazing biology-rich compost.



During the year we also:

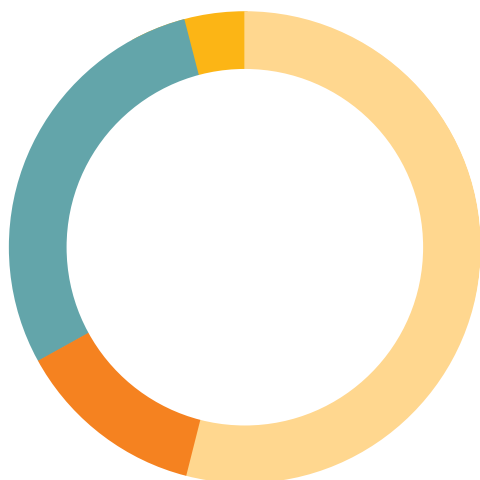
- Launched our new website, www.wesleyca.org.nz. As well as providing the usual information about what we do, the new website provides insights into how we work, and includes a collection of short videos featuring interviews with “local experts” – the whānau we work with.
- Finished our six-month pilot of Te Wiki Wēteri, our holistic approach to a reduced and more productive working week, and committed to implementing it for another 12 months. Te Wiki Wēteri enables kaimahi to have their Wā Wēteri – the 20% of their working time given back to them in exchange for completing 100% of their output / work requirements in 80% of the time.
- Moved our Eastern Suburbs team, Te Pae Urungi, into permanent premises in Miramar. The team now operate out of the former Miramar Methodist Uniting Church. Many thanks to the Lower North Island Synod and the leadership and ministry of the church for facilitating this move.
- 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, an initiative that builds community connection. It is based at Walter Nash Park in Taita.

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE



WHERE OUR REVENUE OF \$8.79M CAME FROM

	%	\$m
Fees and services	73	6.42
Rent income	8	0.72
Grants, bequests and donations	7	0.61
Interest revenue	8	0.72
Government grants: rent subsidies	4	0.33



WHERE OUR EXPENSES OF \$9.96M WERE USED

	%	\$m
Employee-related costs	54	5.38
Operating and administration	13	1.34
Occupancy (leases, power, insurance rates, maintenance)	29	2.85*
Depreciation	4	0.39

** Occupancy costs include a net loss on disposal of fixed assets of \$1.33 million. This one-off loss was incurred when one of our assets was demolished.*

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 2024.

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

Many thanks to the organisations that funded our work in 2023-2024:

Board of the Wellington Methodist
Charitable and Educational
Endowments Trust

Four Winds Foundation

Hutt City Council

Hutt Mana Charitable Trust

J R McKenzie Trust

Mas Foundation

Methodist Church of New Zealand/
Te Haahi Weteriana O Aotearoa

Nikau Foundation

Nuku Ora

NZ Lotteries Grants Board

St Joan's Trust

Tindall Foundation

Todd Foundation

Trust House Foundation

Winton and Margaret Bear Charitable Trust

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

Special thanks to MinterEllisonRuddWatts who provide free legal services to kaumātua involved with Te Waka Haumarū, our Older Persons Team, setting up Enduring Power of Attorney for those who cannot afford to pay for them.

Thanks also to the NEST collective, Pregnancy Help and Kiwi Community Assistance for their support for our Family Start team.



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A member of the Methodist Alliance 