

ANNUAL REPORT

Tēnā Koutou Katoa

I am very pleased to report that the 2021 year has seen the continued growth and development of the Horses Helping Humans, Hōiho Hāpai Hapori, programme in the Taranaki community.

With the overwhelming mental health crisis in New Zealand continuing, there remains a never-ending demand for resources to address this need, particularly for our young people in Aotearoa; Taranaki proving no exception. We remain ever conscious of the competing demand for financial resources and the ongoing challenges and frustrations of Covid, however have been greatly encouraged by the growing recognition and support for our programme which has enabled us to expand our impact across the Taranaki region.

Between 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2022, 85 Taiohi received the programme and there were 29 youth workshops delivered. The feedback we have received has been unequivocal and demonstrates to us that the programme is effective in bringing about measurable change in a very short space of time for our clients, their families, and their support workers. This feedback continues to give us all confidence in the programme's authenticity and unique value to our community. Our experience is proving consistent with the wonderful outcomes achieved by Sue Spence in Australia, the programme's creator and to whom we remain licensed.

As our programme has become more established, we have received a wider pool of support from a variety of funders through grants and sponsorship arrangements totalling \$113,638.00 to the year ending 31 March 2022.

Our client base is generated from organisations such as Oranga Tamariki, CAMHS, the Police, Family Court, Youth Court, the Start Programme, and various educational outlets including Intermediate and High schools throughout the region. There are some paying clients who pay a subsidised fee (Oranga Tamariki and START) which simply covers the cost of their programme delivery. Other grants and donations cover operational costs to deliver the programme and also provide funding to enable clients to attend. It has been exciting to receive the support of the Police through their flexi-fund donation programme.

In the year ending 31 March 2022 we also received financial support from the following funders: Toi Foundation, New Plymouth District Council, Lottery Taranaki Community, COGS, Craigs, The Taranaki Foundation, Shining Peak and the Lindsay Foundation.

The elements of Te Ao Māori woven into our programme through the Te Ara Whakamana youth work model, incorporating the Māori Atua and Tikanga into the workshops has created a unique perspective and dimension relevant specifically to Aotearoa's Taiohi. The inclusion of this programme has resonated with many clients and from our continued experience has enhanced the effectiveness of their learning.

Over the last year our trust board has also continued to grow, and with the departure of Nicola Ngarewa in December of last year, due to her many burgeoning commitments, we were fortunate to be joined by David McKenzie from the Police and Sarika Rona, Clinical Psychologist, both of whom import a tremendous amount of experience, knowledge and enthusiasm into our trust board. I acknowledge all trustees continued contributions and their respective belief and commitment to our cause which has been so integral to maintaining progress over the last year.

Special thanks to our Lead facilitator, Laura Menzies, who remains the ever present “captain at the ship’s helm”. Laura is integral player to our whole operation and a debt of thanks must go to her for her continued positivity, passion, and commitment to the programme. Laura adds colour and dimension to our programme in a very real and tangible way that is so relatable for our young clients. So many participants and support people reflect that positively back to us in their feedback and commentary.

It certainly feels likely we are gaining traction and are now making an impact in the community which is both exciting and tremendously encouraging as we continue to look towards more making more plans for growth and sustainability moving into the future.

I will leave you with some feedback received from the SENCO, of one of our local schools which speaks to our mission at the heart of Horses Helping Humans :

“Today was beyond all our expectations. I loved being there and I could see how involved, excited, open-minded and confident all the girls were. It was an awesome accomplishment and amazing to be part of. We all let our guards down and enjoyed the day. Loved connecting with an awesome group of ladies as well”.... This programme is pure gold and we would not hesitate to register our taiohi again. We certainly have no hesitation in recommending this programme for any taiohi from other learning establishments who require some support in bringing out the best in themselves. While any taiohi would love and benefit from it, it is particularly beneficial for those who are struggling and are more vulnerable. We run a range of very supportive programmes for our students at school with brilliant staff and fabulous outside facilitator support, however we don't have the capacity to emulate the uniqueness and power in the same way that those sessions did. The response to this programme was like nothing we have seen before, considering it was only two sessions. Our students absolutely loved Laura - she is a truly outstanding mentor with a very high level of emotional intelligence and a genuine love and passion for her horses and the taiohi who she works with”.

Coastal Taranaki School.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Bridget Burke', followed by a long horizontal line and a small circular mark.

Bridget Burke
Chairperson