

2026

A N N U A L R E P O R T

TE WAIPUNA PUAWAI · MERCY OASIS



***Whakamana te oranga wairua o te tangata me
te whenua***

Wellbeing for our communities and restoration of the earth

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

TE WAIPUNA PUAWAI · MERCY OASIS

He Tirohanga Whānui

A Snapshot of Who We Are

Te Waipuna Puawai is a Mercy-kaupapa community development organisation working alongside whānau in **Tāmaki Makaurau** (Ellerslie & Glen Innes) and **West Auckland** (Rānui & Glendene). Founded in the tradition of the Sisters of Mercy, we walk with women, families and communities, strengthening wellbeing, connection and hope.

TĀ MĀTOU TIROHANGA · OUR VISION

Whakamana te oranga wairua o te tangata me te whenua

Wellbeing for our communities and restoration of the earth

TĀ MĀTOU WHĀINGA · OUR MISSION

Kia ū ki te mahi kotahi whakarawea te mana wāhine, te mana whānau, me te mana iwi whānui

Working together to strengthen women, strengthen families and strengthen community

WHAT WE DO

- Innovate financial wellbeing initiatives
- Deliver community-based education programmes
- Activate and support community-led initiatives
- Walk alongside whānau through Whānau Ora navigation
- Nurture our environment through Project Twin Streams

OUR APPROACH

- Collaborative, relational, holistic
- Community-based and community-led
- Whānau-centred and outcome-focused
- Earth-aware, Tiriti-based practice

Ā MĀTOU UARA · OUR MERCY VALUES

Te Tapu o te Tangata
Respect

Aroha
Compassion

Tika
Justice

Manaakitanga
Hospitality

Te Tiriti o Waitangi
Partnership

Mana Whakahaere
Mutual enhancement

Our strategic plan challenges us to:

Live our Mercy kaupapa

Hold space (te wā) for community to thrive

Sustain an impactful, fit-for-purpose organisation

Chair's Report

“From a single wellspring, many flowers bloom. This year we have tended the roots, so that whānau across Tāmaki and West Auckland can puāwai.”



He Puna Aroha, gathering our community of donors, volunteers and whānau.

Tēnā koutou katoa. As Tumuaki and Board Chair, it is my privilege to present this Chairperson's Report for Te Waipuna Puawai, and to reflect on a year characterised by resilience, growth, collaboration, and an unwavering commitment to our mission of strengthening wāhine, whānau, and communities.

I begin by acknowledging those who came before me, the Sisters of Mercy whose vision gave rise to this organisation, my predecessor Luke Ryan, and fellow board members whose stewardship has carried us to where we stand today.

Like many community organisations, we have operated within a challenging funding environment. The Board has worked closely with management to ensure the long-term sustainability of our services while remaining focused on delivering meaningful outcomes. I acknowledge the leadership of Bill Takerei, our Manukura, together with Josie Ruawhare and the wider team, who have navigated these challenges with determination, innovation, and care.

A highlight of the year has been the **growing confidence shown in Te Waipuna Puawai by partners and funders**. Significant funding secured throughout the year, including investment in whānau economic capability and community-focused programmes, reflects

growing recognition of the quality of our work and the strength of our relationships. These investments will help us expand opportunities for whānau, strengthen resilience, and continue delivering programmes that create lasting impact.

Our programmes continue to evolve in response to the needs of our communities, and we remain particularly proud of the work across financial wellbeing, community resilience, mentoring, food security, and the support provided to wāhine and whānau. As a Board, we remain committed to our vision of 'Wellbeing of our communities and restoration of the earth', strengthening our focus on Te Tiriti o Waitangi, community-led development, environmental stewardship, and the long-term sustainability of our organisation.

I thank my fellow Board members for their dedication and expertise in service of our kaupapa, and acknowledge our volunteers, partners, funders, and supporters whose collective contributions make our mahi possible. As we look ahead, we do so with optimism. While challenges remain, Te Waipuna Puawai is well positioned to keep growing its impact and supporting communities to flourish, together creating spaces where hope, opportunity, and wellbeing can thrive.

Nāku noa, nā.



Marcel Fletcher
TUMUAKI · BOARD CHAIR

Chief Executive's Report

Tihei Mauri Ora! Ko te maunga o Maungarei e tū tonu mai, ki te awa o Tāmaki e rere atu rā ki te moana o Waitematā. Tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā tātou katoa.



Whānau gathering at the Rānui Kai Hub, more than kai, a doorway to connection.



Manaakitanga in action, week in and week out.

This year we continued to meet the invitation of our communities, to deepen our connections and strengthen our kaupapa. We found our place more fully in West Auckland, working with whānau in Rānui and Glendene while continuing to serve Tāmaki, the place where this organisation began.

The numbers tell part of the story. Our Rānui Kai Hub provided **1,410 kai parcels** to local whānau, growing into far more than a food distribution point, it is now a place of whakawhanaungatanga and a gateway to wider support. Our Whānau Ora navigators walked alongside families toward their own goals; our financial wellbeing cohorts supported wāhine to build confidence and security; and our learning spaces flourished across reo, kākahu, waiata and digital literacy.

Our environmental mahi matured this year as **Project Twin Streams** settled into our whānau following the merger with Te Ukaipo, restoring our awa while teaching the next generation to be kaitiaki. None of this happens alone: we are grateful to partners including Te Puna Manawa, Tāmaki Regeneration, KiwiHarvest and Fair Food.

This year our operating budget was set at **\$1,270,217**, reflecting our commitment to responding effectively to the needs of Tāmaki and West Auckland while stewarding every dollar with care.

We also mark some changes in our team. With gratitude, we farewell **Teremoana Teura KSM** and **Georgina Peterson**, whose dedication and aroha have left a lasting mark on our whānau, and we wish them every blessing on their next journeys. We warmly welcome **Kara Laifone**, who steps into Georgina's shoes as our newest Kaiwhiriwhiri Whānau Navigator.

I warmly welcome Marcel Fletcher as our new Tumuaki, and thank our board, our kaimahi, our volunteers and the Sisters of Mercy. Together, we are weaving a legacy of support and connection, ensuring Te Waipuna Puawai continues to thrive as a beacon of hope.



Bill Takerei
MANUKURA • CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Our Board

Te Waipuna Puawai is guided by a dedicated board who give their time, skill and aroha to keep our organisation strong, accountable and true to its Mercy kaupapa. In partnership with Whānau Mercy Ministries, they hold the long view, so our kaimahi can focus on walking alongside whānau.



**Marcel
Fletcher**
TUMUAKI • CHAIR

Marcel brings governance experience across education, corporate, community and government settings, including tertiary and kaupapa Māori organisations. He pairs commercial acumen with a deep commitment to community development and partnership with iwi, leading with clarity of purpose and a focus on sustainable, values-driven impact.



Nicola Brehaut
TUMUAKI TUARUA • DEPUTY CHAIR

A fifth-generation New Zealander with a strong management background across the private, public and not-for-profit sectors. Passionate about community-led development, Nicola is proud to support an organisation making a real difference in the lives of women and their whānau.



**Janine
Roberts**
BOARD MEMBER

Having provided accounting support to Te Waipuna Puawai for a number of years, Janine is excited to be more involved as a board member. She is passionate about supporting young people, through financial education and opportunities to get ahead, and looks forward to seeing our community development continue.



Scott Russell
BOARD MEMBER

A senior lawyer with experience across private practice, in-house and government roles, from Bell Gully to Ashurst (London and Hong Kong), Head of Litigation at Virgin Media UK, and Senior Legal Counsel at the Commerce Commission before founding Russell Legal. With an LLB (Hons), BCom and MBA, Scott brings sharp commercial and legal problem-solving to the board.



Bill Takerei
MANUKURA • CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Bill brings 20 years of management experience and deep fluency in te ao Māori to his role, supporting the board to achieve its strategic and operational objectives. His gift for fostering strong relationships helps Te Waipuna Puawai remain a trusted leader in community development, an organisation with a heart that reaches its communities in many ways.

01

Aupiki Whānau

Whānau
Resilience

Rānui Kai Hub · Food security & connection

Rānui Kai Hub, Growing Stronger Together

Food security and sovereignty remain central to our commitment to whānau wellbeing across West Auckland. Every Wednesday, for more than four years, Richard and our team of volunteers provide healthy kai for whānau in Rānui. Our parcels combine donated food with vegetables grown in our own **māra kai**, for a true garden-to-table experience.

With the cost of living rising sharply, demand grows week on week. Yet the Kai Hub is far more than a food point, it is a space of **whakawhanaungatanga** where whānau connect, share and access wider support. Through these relationships our team identifies needs, offers referrals, and walks whānau toward the resources that strengthen their wellbeing. This is manaakitanga in action.

WHO WE SERVE AT THE KAI HUB

80%

Māori

10%

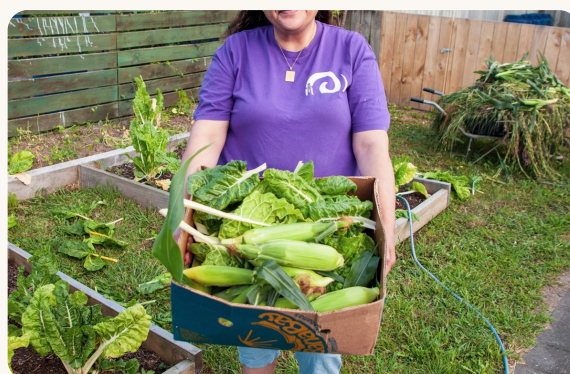
Pasifika

6%

Indo / Middle
Eastern /
Asian

4%

NZ European



Each Wednesday, and from our māra kai to whānau tables.

1,410

KAI PARCELS
DISTRIBUTED THIS
YEAR

65-70

PARCELS EVERY
WEEK

400+

WHĀNAU
REGISTERED

3-5

NEW
REGISTRATIONS
WEEKLY

Helping to pack and hand out kai boxes meant so much to me, I grew up on the other side of that line, seeking a kai box myself. To now be giving back is something I'll always be grateful for.

**CASSANDRA, NGĀ PUAWAI O TE WAIPUNA
VOLUNTEER**



Fresh produce, ready for whānau tables.

With heartfelt thanks to **KiwiHarvest** and **Fair Food** for their continued support. To register, visit our Rānui office before 1pm each Wednesday.

Kaiwhiriwhiri Whānau, Walking Beside Whānau

Whānau Ora is a nationwide kaupapa, and we feel fortunate to offer it here in the west. Our Kaiwhiriwhiri Whānau (navigators) walk alongside individuals and families, supporting housing, health, education, employment, financial wellbeing and whānau connection. We believe every whānau holds their own vision for a thriving future; our role is to uplift and support them on that journey, in a way that honours their mana and strengths.



Georgina Peterson
KAIWHIRIWHIRI WHĀNAU

"I have walked alongside whānau here in Tāmaki Makaurau for the past eight years. I'm originally from Te Tai Tokerau, where my passion for this kaupapa grew. At the heart of everything I do is listening, uplifting, and supporting whānau to move toward their own aspirations."

027 317 1492 • ✉
glendenewhanaunavigator@twp.org.nz



Roi Boyd
KAIWHIRIWHIRI WHĀNAU

"My day begins and ends with whānau, checking in, making sure they're safe and moving steadily toward their goals. Fortnightly I sit with them kanohi-ki-te-kanohi, review their goals and celebrate their progress. My mahi is active and relational, grounded in the real challenges whānau face right now."

027 329 9206 • ✉
ranuiwhanaunavigator@twp.org.nz

25

WHĀNAU ONBOARDED INTO WHĀNAU ORA
THIS YEAR

"This year, the moments that stayed with me are the many stories whānau have trusted me with. Every moment of trust reminds me why holding space with care and respect matters so much."

ROI BOYD, KAIWHIRIWHIRI WHĀNAU

IN PARTNERSHIP • TE PUNA MANAWA

We've been fortunate to work alongside the team at Te Puna Manawa on Lincoln Road, Henderson. Through several workshops and two-way referrals, we've linked whānau into **Kahu Taurima**, **Noho Āhuru** (Healthy Homes), and **Healthy Babies, Healthy Futures**. Their nurse prescribers have made a real difference for our whānau with pēpi and tamariki under five, and over summer their Noho Āhuru drop-in sessions at our Kai Hub created an easy, welcoming way for whānau to access support.



02

SECTION 02 · TE WHAKATIPU

Oranga Pūtea

Financial Wellbeing

Building confidence, choices & futures whānau can be proud of



Josie Ruawhare

OPERATIONS MANAGER · FINANCIAL WELLBEING & NGĀ PUAWAI LEAD

At Te Waipuna Puawai, we believe financial wellbeing is about more than managing money. It is about restoring confidence, strengthening decision-making, creating opportunities, and supporting whānau to build futures they can be proud of.

This year we delivered **two Financial Wellbeing cohorts**, supporting wāhine from diverse backgrounds to strengthen their financial knowledge, develop practical budgeting skills, and work towards personal and whānau goals. Through group learning, mentoring, goal-setting and peer support, participants explored budgeting, debt management, saving strategies, financial planning and future aspirations.

The programme met women at different stages, from those re-entering the workforce to those seeking greater stability for their whānau. Participants reported increased confidence in managing household finances, making informed decisions, and setting realistic goals for the future.

10

WĀHINE ACROSS TWO COHORTS

3

**PATHWAYS OPENED:
EMPLOYMENT, STUDY &
HOME OWNERSHIP**



Josie Ruawhare (right), our Financial Wellbeing lead, alongside a programme participant.

CO-FACILITATOR · PALE SAUNI

"Listening to the changes in participants' financial situations, always for the better, is what I enjoy most. These skills and talents are within us to do well."



"The programme helped me look at money differently. Instead of feeling stressed and overwhelmed, I now have a plan and feel more in control of my future."

FINANCIAL WELLBEING PARTICIPANT

"I realised I wasn't alone. Being able to learn alongside other women and share our experiences gave me confidence to make changes for my whānau."

FINANCIAL WELLBEING PARTICIPANT

FROM FINANCIAL WELLBEING TO HOME OWNERSHIP

Carrissa's journey

One of the most significant outcomes from this year's Financial Wellbeing Initiative was the progress made by participant Carrissa, who began exploring a pathway towards home ownership and became a successful candidate in Tāmaki Regeneration's shared home-ownership programme, 'OWN-IT'.

Through ongoing support, financial planning and goal-setting, Carrissa took practical steps toward an aspiration that once felt out of reach. Today, she is part of the Te Waipuna Puawai whānau as Administration Support.

As a Pasifika woman and mother of five, financial decisions are rarely made in isolation. Home ownership had never felt realistic for us, but through the programme I began to see it differently. It gave me confidence in the foundations we had already built, and the gentle nudge to stop treating home ownership as something that only happened to other people.

CARRISSA TUAGALU · 'A SHIFT IN PERSPECTIVE'



Carrissa (right) celebrating with the Ngā Puawai whānau.

WĀHINE LEADERSHIP & VOLUNTEER COLLECTIVE

Ngā Puawai o Te Waipuna

A volunteer leadership collective of wāhine who have walked through our programmes and wish to keep giving back. Through community events, programme activations and volunteer initiatives, our members create welcoming spaces, support delivery, and show the power of lived-experience leadership. For many, volunteering has become a stepping stone to new opportunities, confidence and growth.

Santana · Pathway to Employment

Following her involvement in our programmes and volunteer activities, Santana built her confidence and skills, and successfully transitioned into employment, an important milestone for her and her whānau.

Being part of Te Waipuna Puawai gave me the confidence to put myself forward and believe I could achieve more. The support I received helped me take the next step into employment.

SANTANA

Te Waipuna Puawai · 2026 Annual Report

Cassie · Pathway to Tertiary Study

Through her participation and leadership within Ngā Puawai o te Waipuna, Cassie grew in confidence and aspiration, ultimately progressing into tertiary study.

The encouragement I received helped me realise that further study was possible. It gave me confidence to invest in myself and my future.

CASSIE

Te Tipuranga Hapori

Community Growth & Enhancement

Free learning that builds skills, identity & belonging, across the Tāmaki and Rānui communities.

6

KAUPAPA DELIVERED

20

CLASSES & PROGRAMMES

10

COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS

50+

PEOPLE PER WORKSHOP

Our kaupapa this year

SIX PROGRAMMES

Te Reo Māori

01

Language, culture & identity

- 4 classes • 8-11 each

He Kākahu Aroha

02

Raranga & kākahu weaving

- 2 programmes • 8-10 each

Waiata Tioriori

03

Waiata & voice

- 2 classes • 15-20 each

Computer Literacy

04

Digital confidence

- 2 programmes • 10 each

Community Workshops

05

Scones, eczema hauora, raranga & more

- 10 workshops • 50+ people

Wānanga & Wheiao Reo

06

Immersive learning days

- Held across the year



Across reo, raranga, waiata and digital literacy, learning together, growing together.

SECTION 03
TE WHAKATIPU



Sophie Strickland

KAIHĀPAI HAPORI · EAST AUCKLAND COMMUNITY LIAISON

“Ko Sophie Strickland tōku ingoa. Having once participated in programmes here myself, I know the impact a supportive environment can have on someone’s life.” Sophie leads our community learning, creating welcoming spaces where whānau can grow. Throughout the year we continued to provide **free learning opportunities** across Tāmaki and Rānui, run in line with school terms so parents and caregivers can take part while their tamariki are at school.

Ngā reo o ngā tauira, Voices from our learners

At first I didn’t think I’d enjoy class because there was no one my age, now I wouldn’t miss one. I’ve realised I’m actually good at weaving and tāniko, and that I’m not as ‘dumb’ as I used to think. TWP has helped me see I’ve got more potential than I gave myself credit for.

PUNA APERAHAMA (18), NEW TAUIRA

I love that while my tamariki are at school learning, I too am away at TWP doing my own learning!

PROGRAMME PARTICIPANT



Ō mātou kaiārahi, Our facilitators



**Tamati
Patuwai**

TE REO MĀORI

“Mauri ora ki te wheiao, ki te ao mārama! My connection to Te Waipuna Puāwai is grounded in shared tikanga, aroha, manaaki, whanaungatanga, and service to the hapori. Over the years I’ve seen TWP support so many wāhine from our community; in supporting those women, they strengthen whānau, tamariki and the wider community. Their work is practical, relational, and deeply community-based.”



**Naomi Hopa-
Wetere**

KOROWAI & KĀKAHU

“I started my journey at TWP in the early 2000s, looking to create a better future for my family, and with their support I gained my qualification and travelled the world. After five years learning the art of making korowai, I came back to pass that knowledge on. Seeing the happiness in people’s eyes when it starts to click warms my heart, that’s why I keep coming back.”



RK

Richard Kirby

ENVIRONMENT COORDINATOR

“At Te Waipuna Puawai, we believe a healthy environment is the foundation of a thriving community.” Caring for Papatūānuku is woven through our mahi, restoring our awa, growing kai, and empowering whānau to become kaitiaki.

Project Twin Streams & Flood Resilience

In the Rānui-Massey-Swanson area, Project Twin Streams restores the waterways from the Swanson Road bridge to Huruhuru Creek, including the Waimoko, Paremuka and Swanson streams. A major milestone this year was securing the **Community Flood Resilience** contract, extending our mahi beyond stream restoration into helping whānau understand flood preparedness, catchment health and climate resilience, through community events, workshops, stream walks and practical restoration.

Rānui Community Māra Kai

After months of planning, site preparation and volunteer effort, we established our new **Rānui Community Māra Kai** and planted our first seasonal crops. More than a place to grow vegetables, the māra has become a living classroom for sustainable gardening, food sovereignty and composting, and a gathering place for all ages. Our first crops are thriving and we eagerly await our inaugural community harvest in November.

Community engagement & kaitiakitanga

Our environmental kaupapa thrives on strong relationships with schools, mana whenua, Auckland Council, Healthy Waters, community groups and volunteers, from stream clean-ups and native planting to environmental monitoring with **Wai Care**. One of our greatest joys has been seeing volunteers return again and again, growing a lasting commitment to sustainability and taking ownership of their environment.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT · YASIN

One of our dedicated environmental volunteers, Yasin gives his time in the Rānui Community Māra Kai and on our planting days, part of the whānau of kaitiaki whose aroha keeps our mahi growing.



Matariki harvest from our māra kai.

“True environmental stewardship is about more than caring for the land, it’s about nurturing the spirit of our communities and weaving knowledge from our past into a sustainable future.”

BILL TAKEREI, MANUKURA



Yasin in the Rānui Community Māra Kai.

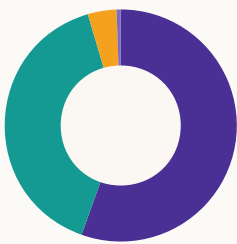
Financial Review

For the financial year ending 31 March 2026, Te Waipuna Puawai continued to respond to the invitation of the communities we serve, directing more of every dollar to frontline delivery while stewarding our resources with care.

Against an operating budget of **\$1,270,217**, total revenue for the year was **\$803,816** and expenditure **\$1,006,190**, resulting in a net deficit of **\$202,374** (2025: \$26,501). Philanthropic income tightened markedly, falling from \$706,771 to \$445,965, while government contracts grew from \$183,863 to \$321,078.

Through that shift we protected frontline delivery. Programme costs rose from \$448,632 to \$641,512, lifting the proportion of expenditure invested directly in programmes from 47% to **64%**, while operating costs were reduced by 40%.

Where our funding comes from



Philanthropy	55.5%
\$445,965	
Government contracts	39.9%
\$321,078	
Donations	4.0%
\$32,095	
Other income	0.6%
\$4,678	

How it is invested



Programme costs	63.8%
\$641,512	
Operations	22.0%
\$221,153	
Buildings	14.3%
\$143,525	

Summary statement of financial performance

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH

	2026	2025
Total revenue	\$803,816	\$921,962
Total expenditure	\$1,006,190	\$948,462
Net surplus / (deficit)	(\$202,374)	(\$26,501)

The full financial statements are available on request.

Looking ahead, we remain focused on strengthening our funding base, managing costs responsibly and ensuring that our resources are directed towards the areas of greatest need. Our priority is to continue delivering programmes that respond to the needs of our communities, while building the financial sustainability needed to support this work into the future.

TE TAU I NGĀ TAU • THE YEAR IN NUMBERS

1,410

Kai parcels distributed to whānau

400+

Whānau registered at the Kai Hub

20+

Programmes & workshops delivered

25

Whānau onboarded into Whānau Ora



Acknowledgements & Thanks

“Our organisation thrives thanks to the generosity of individuals, donors and partners who believe in our mission. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has invested their time, energy and resources into Te Waipuna Puawai.”

PHILANTHROPIC FUNDERS

Community Organisation Grants Scheme (COGS) · Foundation North · New Zealand Lottery Grants Board · Sisters of Saint Joseph · Whānau Mercy Ministries Trust · Meridian Trust · Te Kawareau Iwi Tiaki Trust

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Auckland Council · Henderson & Massey Local Board · Te Whatu Ora – Health New Zealand · Rangitāmiro – Whānau Ora Commissioning Agency · The Trusts

FOOD DONORS

Fair Food · Glendowie Catholic Parish · Glendowie Presbyterian Parish · KiwiHarvest · Meadowbank Parish · Michael Park School · St Ignatius Primary School · St Vincent de Paul House · and anonymous donors

GIFT VOUCHERS, CASH, CLOTHING & GOODS

Māori Women’s Refuge · Island Child Trust · St Heliers & Glendowie Church Groups · St Joseph’s Catholic School · Tony Verner · and anonymous donors



***“Working together to strengthen women,
strengthen families and strengthen
community.”***

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT

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