

ANNUAL REVIEW

2011



adventure
specialties
TRUST 

2011



2011 has been a challenging year on a number of levels. Financially we have not been immune to the effects of the global economic crisis and this has been reflected both in income from grants and donations and also client numbers particularly from schools. This has been contrary to indications we had earlier in 2010 that 2011 would be a year of significant growth.

However we have a very united and committed group of Trustees, management and staff and everyone has pulled together to ensure that we've maintained high standards while being as financially prudent as possible and at the end of 2011 the Trust is in good health.

The restructuring of our upper management roles that was undertaken at the end of 2010 this has proved to be very successful. In March Trust CEO, Lyndsay Simpkin, following up on the idea of diversifying our income streams travelled to the USA to see if he could attract some more university groups who would like to use our services for environmental and cross-cultural education studies. We have been handling the logistics for a couple of universities for several years now, in this particular study area. As a result of this trip an additional semester long programme for Eastern Mennonite University was secured for the spring of 2012. With continued programmes from Messiah College this will have a positive effect on both our cash flow and income that is able to be placed into underwriting our operating costs.

During the year we were pleased to receive notification from Child, Youth and Family that we had been awarded the status of 'High Trust Provider'. This is gratifying but also encouraging for the stability of the Trust as we can now have three year funding contracts awarded.

We were pleased to be able to have a number of programmes that were at the heart of what Adventure Specialties Trust was about. This included six Journey Programmes for youth at risk, the second of two pilot programmes called Te Wero Aki working with young offenders and delivering the wilderness component for Project K. We also continued to provide a range of family programmes and programmes for people with disabilities and programmes for mental health providers.

We continue to have great relationships with a wide range of community organisations and it is a privilege to be able to work alongside these such as counselling centres and youth development agencies. While most of our clients come from the greater Auckland area or Christchurch we have also run programmes for groups as far away as the Te Whanau O Apanui Area school in Te Kaha with a trip for 'Gateway' students down 'their' awa - the Motu.

One of our 2010 emerging needs that we were able to achieve was an upgrade of our website and this has already proved to be a valuable exercise.

Our Outdoors Mark compliance was rolled over as was our Maritime New Zealand compliance for white water rafting. In line with new legislation we have also registered Adventure Specialties Trust with the Department of Labour. It is our belief that we will have no issues complying with any standards that are rolled out as part of this latest Government initiative to register all adventure providers and apply a consistent audit standard.

Statistics

During the year our Auckland branch worked with 2690 people in 127 programmes and our Christchurch branch worked with 1624 in 71 programmes. In addition to these numbers there were over 40 groups who used The Trust indoor climbing wall The Crater.

The breakdown of ethnic origin is:

Maori	9%
Pakeha	63%
Pacific Island	10%
Asian	6%
Indian	4%
South/Africans	1%
Americans	2%
Other	5%



Adventure Specialties Christchurch

The 22nd February Earthquake obviously had a major impact on Christchurch's infrastructure, people and businesses. The immediate effect for us was the number of cancellations as schools and organisations had to focus on pulling their lives together. A few programmes were reinstated later in the year but tended to be shorter in duration and have reduced numbers. The major aftershock in June didn't do much to improve this overall situation, however we have had some programmes requested as a 'breakaway' from the earthquakes and aftershocks ever present effects.

We had an increase in the number of family camps and this is an area that seems to have been really appreciated and a particular niche for our work in Christchurch. We have been fortunate to have our offices and equipment held in a relatively modern tilt slab building and as a result have not had to deal with too much damage. However damage to staff homes has been significant. So a year of highs and lows for our Christchurch branch with some great work opportunities and good relationships with our clients but some difficult situations both logistical and personal to manage.



Resources

The Trust continues to offer clients a range of high quality resources. The major purchase of 2011 was the upgrade of 24 new Mountain Bikes for our Auckland Branch. Other purchases include upgrading rain coats, splash jackets, sleeping bags and climbing equipment.

Our Christchurch operation was also able to upgrade its fleet of sea kayaks to boats more suited to our client groups.

Staff in 2011

Lyndsay Simpkin
Libbee Dove
Glenda Simpkin
Marianne Hunt
Steffen Poepjes
Erin Chapman
Anita Sword

Tim Wills
Mark Johnston
James Hunt
Josh Geddes
Sarah Poepjes
Jared Partridge
Naomi Geddes



Trustees

Ken Stevenson
Brian Knolles
Lyndsay Simpkin
Wayne Mitchell
Glenda Simpkin

During the year the Trustees met seven times. At our AGM Ken Stevenson a founding Trustee stepped down from his role as chairman. The tremendous role that Ken has played in the Trust's development cannot be underestimated and his dedication to good governance is gratefully acknowledged.



Brian Knolles was appointed to this position as the new Trust Chairman.

Good governance in tough economic times would characterise our Trustee involvement in 2011. The Trustees have moved a significant way through a strategic planning process and one of the early emerging directions has been the confirmation of just how valuable and cost effective our Journey programme is. We are now formulating a marketing strategy of how to fund the project more effectively.

Training

Having well trained staff is an important consideration for the Trust and we continue to place a strong commitment to this area.

During the year we had staff training in Restorative Justice through the agency Restorative Schools.org. Further training for dealing with adolescents with difficult behaviours was provided by Thomas Felton the Adolescent Programme Coordinator for Man Alive Inc. In the middle of 2011 the Trust sponsored Dr.

David Foster a biologist and environmental ethnologist to deliver training on the environment and how we can both incorporate caring for the environment into our programmes and also utilise the environment better to achieve our social and developmental outcomes.

Staff have achieved a number of New Zealand Outdoor Instructor Association (NZOIA) Awards. The Trust supports staff to achieve these important industry standards. The staff also participated in a staff Journey to explore further the Journey process and group facilitation and development skills.

Grants

We are grateful for grants from the following organisations:

ASB Community Trust
Accommodation Assistance Fund
NZ Lottery Grants Board
John Ilott Charitable Trust
Farina Thompson Charitable Trust
Christchurch Casinos Charitable Trust
Community Wellbeing Fund
MSD Breakaway Holiday programme
Community Organisations Grant Scheme Waitakere and Manukau
The Canterbury Community Trust

Youth Programme Fund
Child, Youth and Family
Perpetual Trust
Rotary Club
Perry Foundation
NZ Post
Pub Charities



Emerging Needs

At the end of 2011 our major needs are:

- Qualified instructional staff. With some existing staff coming to the end of contracts we need to both replace staff and also increase our staffing levels to meet 2012 demands.
- Replacement of white water raft, our oldest raft has now had over 15 years usage.
- Computer upgrades. Computers are a vital tool in our service and the age of our current computers are now proving to be frustrating.
- Continued maintenance and replacement of our Auckland office plant. It is now over 10 years since any painting, carpet etc has been achieved.
- Upgrade of our sea kayak trailer in Christchurch

Conclusion

2011 was our 28th year of operation. The support we have been given from the community, many individuals and philanthropic trusts is greatly appreciated particularly considering the economic times.

While there are some challenges ahead of us in 2012 particularly around staffing needs the year ahead looks exciting and we are enjoying continued commitment from our clients and positive involvement from all staff. The last 2 years have shown us that this is a healthy Trust in the way it undertakes it's business, manages it's resources and retains the quality of it's services.

Reviewed by;
Lyndsay Simpkin - CEO

