

ANNUAL REVIEW

2012



adventure
specialties
TRUST 

2012



Overall 2012 has been a good year for the Trust but not one without some frustrations.

Financially we ended the 2011/12 year (balance date 31 March) with an approximately \$15,000 loss and consequent difficult cash flow through April to August, our traditionally quieter months. However by the end of 2012 we had turned this around through a combination of fund raising and the more profitable work we have been able to do with US university groups.

We are indebted to our core supporters who responded so generously to a plea for help in the middle of the year and donated over \$60,000 to the Trust. This was very heartening and positively impacting for our staff to see the tremendous level of support we have and the value that others see in what we are trying to achieve as a Trust.

From September to December we provided logistics for a 14 week semester long cross cultural and environmental education programme for 21 students from Eastern Mennonite University. As part of providing this service the Trust, with a generous loan assistance from the Keith Hay Trust, brought a 25 seat Mitsubishi Fuso tour coach. This programme also had a very positive affect on our cash flow and bank balance. We and the client were very pleased with how smoothly the entire programme was implemented and we have grown a lot of confidence that we can deliver programmes of this size and complexity. We are hopeful that this will lead to other opportunities as it is a great fit with the types of programmes we can offer and helps achieve a goal we have always sought, that being to find ways to help underwrite and sustain our charitable endeavours.



During the year the Trust ran 5 Journey programmes, one less than the previous year. This is one of the great frustrations for us; the inability to find consistent funding for a programme that has been very well developed over 20 years, and has consistently good feedback from schools we have worked with, and which feedback and some research has a positive long term benefit for many participants.

Another frustration in 2012 of a similar nature was having put heart and soul into the Te Wero Aki pilot programmes; a programme for young offenders funded through the Ministry of Social Development Innovation Fund, providing comprehensive reports and seeing some very encouraging outcomes for participants, we received no feedback from the Ministry. When we asked was there likely to be a continuation of funds we were told there were no funds tagged for this purpose. It begs the question as to why you would invest in a pilot programme trying new and innovative approaches to what is clearly a problem area of our society, not evaluate it, provide no feedback and seem not to have any commitment to on-going funding or solutions to the identified problem!

During the year we also implemented the wilderness component of a programme for Project K. This is the first programme we have done with Project K for some time and received very good feedback particularly regarding commitment and skills of our staff. This we believe is not just a reflection of level of personal integrity and commitment our staff bring to all programmes but also the training we have invested in them particularly around the area of working with difficult adolescents and the use of restorative justice tools and practice.

Similar feedback has been received from our family strengthening programmes we run alongside the various counselling centres we work with.

We have had some instructional staff turnover in 2012 but our management team has remained unchanged. This is a great strength of the Trust and insures consistency and continuity of our services. Our instructional staff spend around 150 days per year in the field so it tends to be the younger and single staff who do this and as such some turnover is expected. On average however our field staff stay 1 year longer than the national average for related organisations and this too really helps in retaining and passing on institutional knowledge.

We continue to fully comply with the audit requirements of Outdoors Mark, Maritime New Zealand and Child Youth and Family. We were also advised by our accountants of new IRD audit standards and also audit options with less stringent requirements. We have advised them we wish to continue with full audits as our commitment to and our desire for strong accountability and transparency.

Statistics

During the year our Auckland branch worked with 3016 people in 119 programmes and our Christchurch branch worked with 1650 in 84 programmes. In addition to these numbers there were over 30 groups who used The Trust indoor climbing wall The Crater.

The breakdown of ethnic origin is:

Maori	8%
Pakeha	58%
Pacific Island	13%
Asian	13%
Indian	5%
South/Africans	1%
Americans	2%
Other	1%



Adventure

Specialties Christchurch

Christchurch of course continues to be impacted by the effects of the February 2011 earthquake. Our staff and programmes have not been immune to this and the pervading feeling is likened to that of being in a “no man’s land” not quite knowing what will happen with the rebuild and the time it takes to get answers.

Funding we received through the Earthquake Recovery Fund has allowed our Christchurch branch to develop some Father and Child programmes that have received very positive reviews. Sustaining these once the fund finishes will be an issue we need to address.

The year for Christchurch could more accurately be described as one of consolidation rather than growth. Our staffing has remained stable and at the start of the year we increased our administrator Naomi’s hours to a full time position. Josh our senior field instructor has taken up more responsibility overseeing programmes and freeing our Christchurch Operations Manager, Mark Johnston, to work on gaining more consistent opportunities and funding for the branch. This is part of a strategic direction we have going into 2013.

Most clients of our Christchurch work have continued to use our services despite their own post earthquake issues. One interesting aspect of our work in Christchurch has been the work we have done with Christchurch Men’s Prisons Youth Unit and also Kia Marama a custodial unit for sexual offenders.

The purchase of 2 new white water rafts for Christchurch will open up several opportunities for programmes involving local rivers.

Resources

Major purchases for the Trust in 2012 were as follows:

Auckland

- A 25 seat tour coach
- New white water raft
- Caving headlights
- The refurbishment of our 6 "Sea Bear" double sea kayaks

Christchurch

- Work begun on refurbishing the sea kayak trailer
- A new printer
- 2 new white water rafts



On-going maintenance is important to the Trust as not only do we always try to stay compliant with safety requirements but also because we believe it is respectful of our clients to provide the best possible resources as part of our service to them.



Staff in 2012

Lyndsay Simpkin
Glenda Simpkin
Marianne Hunt
Mark Johnston
Erin Chapman
Steffen Poepjes

Tim Wills
James Hunt
Anita Sword
Josh Geddes
Naomi Geddes
Sarah Poepjes

Jared Partridge
Cathryn Butcher
Richard Lange
Anne Bilton

Trustees

Brian Knolles (Chair)
Wayne Mitchell
Lyndsay Simpkin
Glenda Simpkin
Ken Stevenson

During 2012 the Trustees met 7 times. While most of the Trustees focus has been on ensuring the usual aspects of good governance, a significant project was a staff pay scale review and examining our parity with community organisations of a similar nature. This is part of a wider on-going process of ensuring we retain high quality staff.

Training

Each year the Trust pulls all staff together for a retreat with the purposes of refocusing on the vision of the Trust, enhancing staff relationships and some specific staff training. At the beginning of 2012 our staff spent 4 days at Wairuru Marae, Raukokore. The central thrust of the retreat was to better understand Maori culture and how this impacts our Maori clients we work with and how we can serve the needs of Maori clients better and what we can do to help promote good relationships between Maori and Pakeha. Staff also did some sea kayak training taking advantage of the spectacular coast line.

In June, our quieter month, several staff took part in a training week looking at leading groups in cave environments

and also technical skills for leading groups in alpine areas.

Throughout the year several staff passed New Zealand Outdoor Instructors Association (NZOIA) certified qualifications and staff attended the NZOIA training symposium, the Outdoors New Zealand Forum and the Christian Outdoor Leaders Conference. We see these events as important to maintain standards and to stay in touch with industry developments.

Chief of Operations Tim Wills also presented at the Christian Camping New Zealand conference and has been working with Skills Active and the Mountain Safety Council to develop a training pathway for Christian camps that Adventure Specialties Trust will deliver.

Grants

We are grateful for grants from the following organisations:

ASB Community Trust	MSD/FAC Breakaway
Accommodation Assistance Fund	Child, Youth and Family
MSD community Response Fund	Sargood Bequest
Canterbury Community Trust	Sky City community trust
Community Wellbeing Fund	Pub Charity
CCC Discretionary Grant	Mainland Foundation
CCC Small Grants Fund- Metro	The Bishops Fund
Farina Thompson Charitable Trust	Rotary earthquake appeal
Christchurch Casinos Charitable Trust	
Community Organisations Grant Scheme Waitakere, Papakura, North Shore and Canterbury	



Emerging Needs

Our major needs are:

- To find funding for staff wages to align them more closely to related industry and community groups.
- Replacement of vehicles - We need to replace our Toyota Hiace 10 seat mini bus and also need to upgrade our 14 seat Nissan Civilian bus that is regularly used for Journey programmes.
- Continued maintenance - Refurbishment of some of our Auckland office plant, painting and some carpet replacement being the priority.
- There are a number of smaller items such as wetsuits, tents and overalls where our stocks of usable items are getting lower and need to be expanded.

Conclusion

2012 was our 29th year of operation. It has been very heartening to see our financial situation turned around and the year ending on a positive note. We are extremely grateful to everyone, both individual and philanthropic trusts who have supported our work.

Our trustees and staff remain very committed to the mission of the Trust and its vision for working with our communities.

Reviewed by;
Lyndsay Simpkin - CEO

