

Annual Review 2013

*adventure
specialties*
TRUST





2013 has been a satisfying year and one that has passed without any major incidents or significant blow outs in the budget. We came into the start of the year with good cash flow as a result of some significant fundraising in 2012 and through successes in running profitable overseas university study group tours. This income allowed us to address some pay parity issues with our staff and support us through the less profitable months of 2013. However, due to the lack of a significant additional income stream, that is, having only one overseas study group, this surplus was continually eroded throughout 2013 and used to keep us operational.

2013

In the middle of the year Chief Executive Officer Lyndsay Simpkin took a 4 month sabbatical from the Trust and left Tim Wills the Chief of Operations in full charge of Adventure Specialties Trust. Tim ensured that the Trust continued to function operationally well during Lyndsay's absence and no major issues arose that required the Chief Executive Officers involvement or intervention.

Throughout the year we have run a number of successful expedition type programmes including 2 contracts with Project K and 6 Journey Programmes. We also delivered 9 strengthening family programmes, 8 weeks of free holiday programmes and numerous other outdoor recreation/education programmes with schools and community groups. In delivering our programmes we have partnered with Massey Community Trust, Day Springs Counselling Centre, 24/7 Youth Workers, Coast Youth Community Trust, Foundation for Youth Development, Care Waitakere, Te Ukaipo, Youth Alive, Recreate, Christchurch City Council, Christchurch Mens Prison Youth, Stepping Stone Trust, Rolleston Prison, Helen Anderson Trust, Stand for Children, Scripture Union, 180 degree Trust, Project Esther and numerous schools.

We have consistently had positive feedback from our client groups throughout 2013 including good reports from Child Youth and Family and Ministry of Social Development who fund a number of our programmes. This feedback is reflective of Adventure Specialties Trust being well resourced with quality staff, good processes and pools of specialised equipment. A frustration is that even with this great feedback and increased demand we are unable to increase our volumes of delivery. This is due to the fact that we are reliant on external funding and it is difficult to secure this on an ongoing basis and to offer increases in our delivery.

Adventure Specialties Trust continued to meet all our legal compliance requirements including Maritime NZ, Outdoors Mark and Child Youth and Family. With Child Youth and Family we are a High Trust provider which again demonstrates we are well resourced and have excellent policies and procedures.

Tim Wills also received the Tall Totara Award this year. This is a national award for excellence in outdoor instructing and is awarded through the New Zealand Outdoor Instructor Association. This is a highly regarded award that reflects



well on Adventure Specialties Trust. Lyndsay Simpkin was also awarded the Tall Totara in 1997

We have had some instructional staff turnover in 2013 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.

Statistics

During the year our Auckland branch worked with 3767 people in 161 programmes and our Christchurch branch worked with 1750 in 67 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	54%
Pacific Island	14%
Asian	11%
Indian	8%
South/Africans	1%
Americans	1%
Other	3%



Adventure

Specialties Christchurch

Our Christchurch branch continues to be effective in serving the people of the Canterbury region. They continue to work with youth offenders and continue to develop their father and son programmes and family camps as well as their general education work. Staffing throughout 2013 has continued to be stable in Christchurch enabling the Operations Manager to release himself more from daily instruction work to further develop Christchurch Adventure Specialties Trust.



Volume of work and income generated is on par with the Auckland branch based on population. That is, they are about a third the size of the Auckland branch and generate about one third of Adventure Specialties Trusts income. We continue to look at ways of growing Christchurch Adventure Specialties and believe there are some exciting

opportunities with the rebuild happening and the increasing population which we hope to capitalise on.

Resources

Equipment maintenance and new purchases is an ongoing concern for the Trust and necessary to stay compliant with safety requirements and to provide a professional service.

At the end of 2013 we purchased a new bus as a replacement vehicle and we continue to look at ways of funding further vehicle replacements. 2013 saw the turnover of some of our camping resources such as tents and cookers. We also purchased Personal Location Beacons and group survival shelters for instructional staff that they now carry as part of their instructional kit.

Staff in 2013

Lyndsay Simpkin
Marianne Hunt
Naomi Geddes

Glenda Simpkin
Richard Lange
Jeff Lapin

Jared Partridge
Mark Johnston
Graham Gilbert

Tim Wills
Josh Geddes
Tyler Bichan

James Hunt
Anne Bilton
David Moss

Cathryn Butcher
Erin Chapman



Trustees

Brian Knolles (Chair)
Wayne Mitchell
Lyndsay Simpkin
Glenda Simpkin

During 2013 the Trustees met 4 times. The Trustees focus has been on ensuring the usual aspects of good governance, supporting Tim while Lyndsay was absent and looking at how the Trust can be sustainable into the future.

It also needs to be noted that Ken Stevenson resigned from the Trust Board as Chairman after serving the Trust for 28 years. Ken's input, knowledge, wisdom, connections and hard work has been invaluable in shaping and influencing the Trust over the years. We thank him greatly for his service and wish him all the best for his future endeavours.

Training

Ongoing internal and external training is important to the Trust and each staff member has a training pathway designed for them. On top of this we pulled 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. This was held at the beginning of 2013 and staff spent 4 days at Whananaki, Northland. We had a guest speaker that helped us better understand the Pacifica culture and how we can serve the needs of our Pacific Island clients better.

In September we spent 2 days looking at facilitation skills and how we can add value to our programmes. We also went on a staff adventure to remind us what our clients often go through as they are pushed out of their comfort zones. This was held in the Hopkins valley in the South Island and an attempt was made to summit Dazzler Peak.

We ran 3 training workshops for Christian Camping New Zealand geared around the National Outdoor Activity Supervisor

Award. We also sent representatives to 3 national conferences; the New Zealand Outdoor Instructors Association Symposium, the Outdoors New Zealand Summit and the Christian Outdoor Leaders Conference.

Grants

We are grateful for grants from the following organisations:

ASB Community Trust
Community Post
MSD community Response Fund
Lottery Grants Board
Canterbury Community Trust
Sky City community trust
Community Post
Christchurch City Council

Mainland Foundation

Farina Thompson Charitable Trust

Christchurch Casinos Charitable Trust

Community Organisations Grant Scheme Waitakere, Papakura, North Shore and Banks Peninsula/ Christchurch City

The Bishops Fund
Auckland Council

MSD/FACBreakaway

Child, Youth and Family



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 look at other vehicle replacements.
- Continued maintenance - Refurbishment of some of our Auckland office plant, painting and some carpet replacement being the priority.
- Replacement of our cycle fleet and sea kayak fleet.
- To recruit staff that fit within the philosophical ideology of the Trust that are also skilled in outdoor instruction.

Conclusion

2013 was our 29th year of operation. It has been very heartening to see all the good work we have carried out and we are extremely grateful to everyone, both individual and philanthropic trusts who have supported our work. 2014 will be a challenge financially as we end 2013 with no money in reserve but our trustees and staff remain very committed to the mission of the Trust and its vision for working with our communities.

Reviewed by;

Tim Wills - Chief of Operations

