



**ADVENTURE**  
SPECIALTIES TRUST

EST. 1984

# Annual Review

— 2017 —

*Using outdoor adventure to grow great communities*

[www.adventurespecialties.co.nz](http://www.adventurespecialties.co.nz)



## *Building on strengths*

Mastery; confidence; self-belief; self-awareness; recognition of talents and gifts; resilience.

## *Forming quality connections*

Belonging; team work; whanaungatanga; quality relationships; communication skills; conflict resolution skills; social skills.

## *Fostering empowerment*

Independence; skills; knowledge; risk awareness; personal responsibility; rangatiratanga.

## *Making a difference*

Generosity; empathy; manaakitanga; appreciation of others; willingness to help others; respect for diversity; leadership skills.

## *Improving wellbeing*

Enjoyment; hauora; hopes and dreams for the future; physically healthier; a spiritual connection / concept of wairua tapu / God; feeling positive; connection with nature.



## WORD FROM THE CEO

It has been another year of growth in both our Christchurch and Auckland regions as we continue to address the needs of our communities and bring positive change to many lives.

**Our Adventure Therapy programmes have gone from strength to strength and we now have a specialist Adventure Therapy team.**

The team has formed strong relationships with our clients – which include The Department of Corrections, Westbridge Residential School, Whakatakopokai, STOP, and SAFE Network – to deliver some fantastic programmes.

Our pilot Internship programme, which ran in partnership with PRAXIS, was a success and we are thrilled to continue the programme in 2018 with fresh faces. The three ‘awesome interns’ (as they are affectionately called by our staff) of 2017 became valuable team members who contributed considerably to the ongoing work of the Trust. One of them is now an employee with us, which highlights the success of the programme.

Our contract with the Ministry of Social Development was up for review as a result of the changeover of Child Youth and Family to Oranga Tamariki – Ministry for Children. This contract is important as the funding we receive goes towards our Adventure Therapy programmes, so we are thrilled to report that our

contract has been renewed and will be secure until 2020. Again, this demonstrates the value our clients hold in our programmes and the positive effect they have on the participants.

We know our programmes play a vital role in helping our clients grow and change. However, it is difficult to quantify when and where we are making an impact. As a result, a lot of our focus through the year was on defining our outcomes, and working towards ensuring they are delivered in each and every programme.

*“On one of our Oranga Tamariki Te Oranga programmes on a caving trip a young man freaked out while in a cave and our instructor stayed with him to help him calm down. In his graduation speech, the young man commented that, upon reflection, he realised that this was the first time in his life that someone had stayed with him in his dark places. It had been life impacting and he saw the dark cave as a metaphor for the dark spaces in his life.”*



# The year in numbers

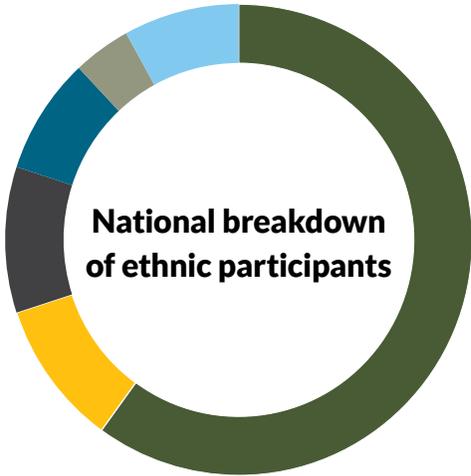
**5265**  
participants

**20,536**  
participant days

**20**  
Full-time staff  
members

**21**  
New  
programmes

**235**  
Programmes  
delivered

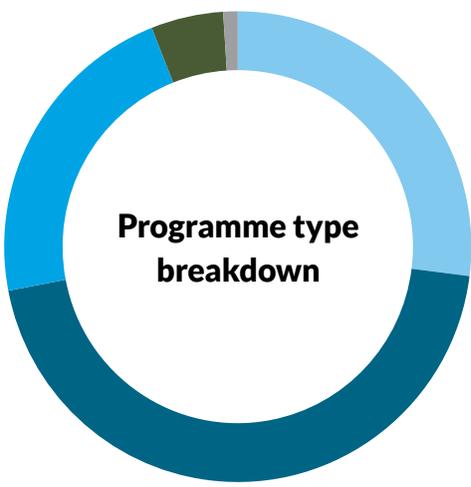


**Auckland 3517**

- 54% Kiwi/European
- 12% Asian
- 11% Maori
- 10% Pacific Island
- 6% Indian
- 7% Others

**Christchurch 1748**

- 72% Kiwi/European
- 7% Maori
- 7% Asian
- 5% Pacific Island
- 7% Other European
- 2% Others



- **27% Outdoor Education:** outcome is to further the participants knowledge in a specific skill or where academic achievement is the key focus.
- **45% Social Development:** outcome is holistic development of the participants
- **22% Adventure Therapy:** clearly defined individual needs and desired outcomes identified.
- **5% Commercial:** a service provided in order to return significant profit.
- **1% Other**

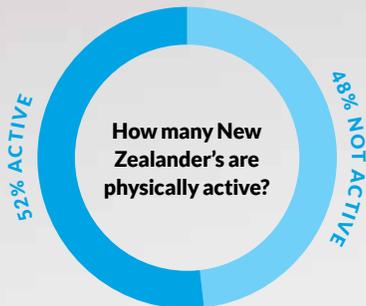
**Auckland:**  
Total programmes delivered 155

- Outdoor Education 30%
- Social Development 85%
- Adventure Therapy 23%
- Commercial 1%
- Other 2%

**Christchurch:**  
Total programmes delivered 80

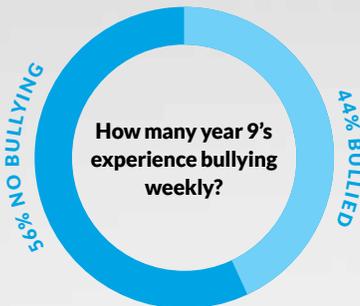
- Outdoor Education 22%
- Social Development 46%
- Adventure Therapy 20%
- Commercial 12%
- Other 0%

# How is Adventure Specialties Trust supporting Kiwis?



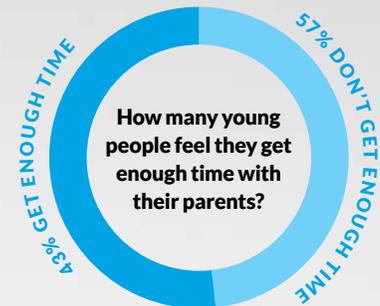
## Improving Physical Health

Our programmes get people outside, active, eating healthy food and enjoying activities. This connects to our outcome area of 'skills'. Giving people the skills to recreate the active experiences with their family and friends.



## Decreasing bullying behaviour

Our programmes foster developing understanding others through working together. This relates to our outcome area of 'making a difference'. Through working with other participants increases empathy, compassion, awahi, a willingness to help others and a respect for diversity. The development of these things leads to a reduction of bullying.



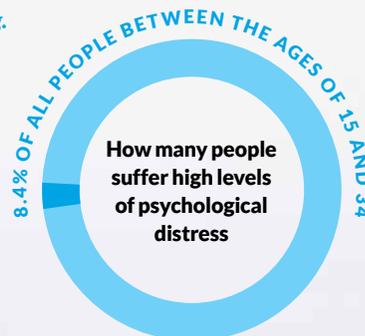
## Increasing family connections

Our family programmes specifically focus on assisting families to have quality time together and build strong relationships. This is reflected on our outcome area of 'connections' and is our primary motive for supporting our family programmes.



## Increasing engagement with Education

Our programmes reach young people who are disengaged with education. This relates to our outcome area of 'connection'. Through connection with others, teachers, staff, activity and developing social skills this helps them succeed in academic environments.



## Improving wellbeing and hope for the future

Our programmes assist with improving participants sense of wellbeing and hope for the future. This relates to our outcomes area of 'well-being' and is achieved through having fun, connecting with nature, a spiritual connection, enjoying activity and being with people.

## Some Outcomes from our Strengthening Family programmes

**100%** felt that our programme significantly grew their sense of wellbeing

**100%** of our families could better identify other family member's strengths

**81%** of families felt that they improved their ability to celebrate successes

**72%** of the families identified that they left the programme with significantly more ideas of what they could do together as a family for quality time.

**66%** of the families felt that they were able to work together better as a team following the programme.

**50%** of participants identified that the programme had given them more goals to work towards as a family.

**90%** of our participants felt the programme significantly contributed to the happy family memories.



# Finances

The 2017 financial year was the first full year of accounts based on a calendar fiscal year. In the writing of this review we do not have a finalized audited report but preliminary results show that we were in deficit for 2017. The juggling of finances is challenging and a constant concern for our management team but if you take off \$54,466 of depreciation, cash wise we managed ok.

We are faced with increasing staffing and compliance costs and, in order to stay viable, we rely on numerous streams of funding. These include donations, user pay, government contracts and funding through philanthropic organisations.

Employing a part-time funding administrator has been beneficial and we have already seen an increase in funding through grants.

Income increased approximately 16 percent on the 2016 calendar year and our expenditure has increased approximately 12 percent.

*"We see young men experiencing a variety of emotions within the adventure activities setting, and this range is dealt with by the staff in professional and appropriate ways. Our clients develop an ongoing relationship with Adventure Specialties staff as we are together a number of times each year."*

|                             | 2017         | 2016 (Ending March) |
|-----------------------------|--------------|---------------------|
| <b>Total income</b>         | \$1,708,575  | \$1,330,405         |
| <b>Total expenditure</b>    | \$1,729,984  | \$1,330,336         |
| <b>Total profit/deficit</b> | (\$ -21,408) | \$69                |



# Programmes

We saw significant increases in the work that we deliver particularly in the field of Adventure Therapy while continuing to serve our general clients.

There is an overwhelming demand for our services but, unfortunately, our resources limit the number of clients we can work with. Still, our programmes are delivered to a number of different agencies and schools to reach a wide and diverse range of clientele.

A number of new programmes were delivered in 2017 with the following client groups:

## New clients

- ▶ Akaora School
- ▶ Annandale
- ▶ Burnham Youth Unit
- ▶ Department of Corrections
- ▶ Ladbrooks School
- ▶ Little River Youth Group
- ▶ Marihau High
- ▶ Methodist Mission
- ▶ Papanui Youth Facility
- ▶ Rangi Ruru School
- ▶ St Andrews
- ▶ Social Workers in Schools
- ▶ Tai Tapu School
- ▶ West Bridge Residential School
- ▶ Whakatakapokai
- ▶ Safe Network
- ▶ Zen Detox

*"The Family Camps have provided a much needed respite for our stressed families and encouraged them to seek out new ways of working together as whanau."*

*"We have noticed an obvious difference in individuals when they return from camp to when they started. Before they go they are shy, looking down and uncertain of how they will cope. On return the youth are connecting with each other, adults and children have found new friends and their heads are held high, laughing and supportive of one another. They always ask if they can go again the next time."*

# Compliance

Compliance is ongoing and dynamic. We are continually reviewing our practices and policies so that we remain compliant with the Ministry of Social Development, Maritime New Zealand and current health and safety laws.

Our great safety record has again been confirmed through the safety surveillance that was carried out mid-year by Outdoors Mark, a national outdoor safety audit programme. We demonstrated that we continue to have great systems in place, and it's comforting to have that acknowledged externally. Next year we will be going through our three-yearly full audit, which I'm sure we will pass with flying colours.

*"The knowledge and experience of Adventure Specialties Trust staff, along with the range of equipment they provide, ensures that STOP staff and our clients have a worry-free experience in the outdoors."*



# Staff

We have always had excellent staff who are committed and driven to do the best for our clients. This year has been no different.

Twenty full-time staff members and a number of contractors work together to make our organisation hum. We also had great support from our three interns who were not only able to help out with 'around the base' jobs but were invaluable support to our instructors in the field.

Our staff take full advantage of professional development opportunities we present to them as part of their role with us. A number of team members gained national qualifications, all

attended our annual retreat, participated in various training courses and attended some insightful conferences.

Two staff members took on more specialised roles to work with our higher-need clients as Adventure Therapy Facilitators. These roles include ongoing training, which is required for them to effectively deliver our Adventure Therapy programmes.

The year saw some minor staffing changes with one full-time staff member going part-time and tweaks to a few staff job descriptions and roles as a result.

## Staff of 2017

- ▶ Jared Partridge
- ▶ Denise Talamahina
- ▶ Mark Johnston
- ▶ Amy Horn
- ▶ Jeff Lappin
- ▶ Tim Wills
- ▶ Glenda Simpkin
- ▶ Andy Balcar
- ▶ James McMillan
- ▶ Rani Harris
- ▶ Helen Taylor
- ▶ Hugh McLaren
- ▶ David Moss
- ▶ Stephen Miller
- ▶ Hanna McLeay
- ▶ Ben Pearson
- ▶ Libbee Dove
- ▶ Anna Squires
- ▶ Jock Barr
- ▶ Gwyneth Barr

*“Adventure Specialties Trust staff are skilled at drawing the best out of our often-challenging students, and helping them to achieve things they didn't think they could achieve. They also frame the learning experiences in such a way that the young people can relate the learning themes to their own lives, meaning the learning can be transferred beyond the immediate context and can become a catalyst for personal growth.”*

– Jonny Langley, Assistant Principal, Kingslea School - Te Oranga





# Trustees

A recruitment drive for three new trustees took place through the year following the resignation of our founding trustee Glenda Simpkin.

Glenda had been a board member since the trust began in 1984 and we thank her immensely for her vision, commitment and dedication to our organisation. Glenda remains involved as our finance officer and to keep Tim, the CEO, on his toes.

We welcome our 2018 trustees Tanya Laybourn, Jennine Thompson, Andrea Fox and Bruce Conway.

## Trustees of 2017

- ▶ Brian Knolles (Chair)
- ▶ Glenda Simpkin (resigned December 2017)
- ▶ Ken Stevenson

*"I believe the programme helped our carers and children to connect on a level they wouldn't have been able to in the placement.*

*I saw multiple occasions where the children showed behaviours that were desired that they don't show in their day to day lives."*

*– Foster care agency coordinator*

# Grants

Our funding administrator has done great work in helping philanthropic trusts know about us and understand the great work we do.

Grants and donations from a number of generous organisations have greatly supported us in serving our communities. There are also numerous, unnamed individuals who have contributed.

We are grateful to the following organisations:

- |                           |  |                                    |
|---------------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| ▶ Sargood Bequest         | ▶ Lion Foundation                      | ▶ Rata Foundation                  |
| ▶ United Way              | ▶ COGS Manukau                         | ▶ NZ Post                          |
| ▶ NZ Lottery Grants Board | ▶ COGS Rodney/North Shore              | ▶ CERT                             |
| ▶ Wilberforce21           | ▶ COGS Waitakere                       | ▶ The Trust Community Foundation   |
| ▶ Infinity Foundation     | ▶ COGS CHCH                            | ▶ Four Winds Foundation            |
| ▶ ANZ Staff Foundation    | ▶ Mainland Foundation                  | ▶ John Ilott Charitable Trust      |
| ▶ Foundation North        | ▶ Christchurch Earthquake Appeal Trust | ▶ Farina Thompson Charitable Trust |
| ▶ Four Winds Foundation   | ▶ Henderson/Massey Local Board         | ▶ Keith Hay Trust                  |
| ▶ SKYCITY Community Trust | ▶ NZCT                                 | ▶ Decal Trust                      |
| ▶ Wilberforce21           |  |                                    |

*"The physical activities have helped to increase my son's confidence and motivated him to take care of his body by getting fitter and eating healthier ... [he] has lost over 16 kilograms." – Mother*





# Emerging Needs

**With the increased demand for our services, staffing and resources remain at the forefront of need.**

We have put some good measures in place to help address this through the development of our internship programme and the specialised development of the Adventure Therapy team. We look forward to 2018 when we hope to see the positive effect these measures have on our staffing needs and achieving our outcomes.

However, we still face the challenge of balancing our tight finances and the need to purchase some big ticket items such as new vehicles and to ensure our staff are well looked after. It has also been identified that we should have a financial buffer or reserves to keep us viable and this is one area that we continually work on.

Overall, the most significant need comes from our communities who value our programmes and see

the positive impact they have. Our challenge is to find a way that we can increase our programming so that we can be even more effective in reaching the most vulnerable in our communities. To do this we need to secure significantly more funding.

## Practical needs for 2018 are:

- ▶ New vehicles
- ▶ Replacement of our mountain bike fleet
- ▶ Additional funding for staff training, development and pay increases
- ▶ A new premise for our Christchurch branch (who are rapidly outgrowing their current premise)

# Conclusion

**We can be proud to have delivered our programmes to more than 5000 participants throughout the year, making steady progress in serving more people in our communities.**

This has only been possible because of the dedicated and passionate staff who get out there and help people change their lives through well-facilitated outdoor adventures. The job is hard but being at the forefront of addressing some of our country's youth and social concerns is what makes it all worthwhile.

Looking forward, our focus now is on developing better evaluation tools to measure the outcomes we defined in 2017. Robust evaluation will help us in two ways; firstly so our funders can see tangible evidence of how valuable our programmes are and, secondly, as a reference for us to ensure our programmes are meeting the needs – and ultimately exceeding the expectations – of our partners and clients. All this and more makes me honored to be part of a great organisation that is doing great things ... bring on 2018!

Tim Wills  
Chief Executive Officer





# Creating Everyday Heroes



**ADVENTURE**  
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