

Annual Reveiw 2009




*adventure
specialties*
TRUST

2009

has been a year of many ups and downs for Adventure Specialties Trust. In January we celebrated 25 years of operation with the “Sea 2 Summit the 4 Corners Journey Challenge” which saw four teams of teenagers tramp, cycle, kayak and climb from Auckland, Wellington, Gisborne and New Plymouth to the summit of Mt Ruapehu. It was a fantastic effort, along the way raising funds for the aid agency TEAR Fund and their Lost Children of the Himalaya appeal, combating child trafficking in Nepal. At Easter we celebrated with many past employees and friends at a large staff and supporters reunion. It was great to hear many stories from our past and also to hear how what former staff are doing and how their time with us has influenced their lives and subsequent careers.

It was also a year of some huge challenges as felt the effects of the recession. Many of the groups we work alongside struggled and many of our own supporters went through challenging times. The recession had a further impact on the Trust as Trustees came to a realisation that the seven years of effort that we have put into the Rockell Development could not be sustained and would not bear the result we had hoped.

In March the Trust was awarded Outdoors Mark, the National Outdoor Safety Quality Assurance Programme designed for outdoor recreation, education and adventure organisations. We were glad to receive this endorsement for the quality of programmes and risk management that we have long aspired to deliver.



However we have come to the end of 2009 with renewed energy for the Trust and the work that it does and we look forward to heading into 2010 and all that it holds for us.



Staff and volunteers at the top of Mt Ruapehu during the Sea 2 Summit Challenge

Statistics

During the year our Auckland branch worked with 2939 people in 110 programmes and our Christchurch branch worked with 1427 in 59 programmes. In addition to these numbers there were over 59 groups who used The Trust indoor climbing wall The Crater.

The breakdown of ethnic origin for Auckland is:

Maori	9%
Pakeha	60%
Pacific Island	9%
Asian	8%
Indian	5%
Other	9%

Adventure Specialties Trust Auckland

The first half of 2009 saw a noticeable reduction in programmes due to many of the community providers we work alongside feeling the effects of the recession. We were fortunate that we had some staff that were choosing to leave for other endeavours and we were able to maintain our other staff numbers. However from September onwards we have had a huge influx of work and have been very busy right from then till the time of this review.

Despite reduced funding we were able to run five Journey programmes including one with a new school James Cook High School.

We have continued to enjoy great relationships with a number of community counselling services, schools and disability providers such as Recreate New Zealand.

We also established an Adventure Specialties Trust facebook site for clients to stay in touch.

Adventure Specialties Trust Christchurch



The Trust work in Christchurch continues to consolidate. We were pleased to be able to run the first South Island adventure programme for disability provider Recreate New Zealand and also to run our first Family Camp alongside Addington School guidance department. We also run programmes for Christchurch Youth Prison and the Refugee Migrant Services. Many schools still used Adventure Specialties Trust Christchurch services for outdoor recreation and training.

In November we moved to new premises which now house both the equipment and our offices under the same roof, much enhancing our ability to work more effectively and present a professional image.

Resources

Most of our resources purchases in 2009 were for Christchurch and we were privileged to receive grants that allowed us to purchase a fleet of new bikes and some avalanche transceivers for enhanced mountain safety.

Staffing for 2009

Lyndsay Simpkin
Glenda Simpkin
Daniel Pennington
Steffen Peopjes

Steven Parker
Melody McGuinn
Dale Shore
Jillian Emerson

Libbee Dove
Mark Johnston
Dean Woodgate
Sarah Orchard

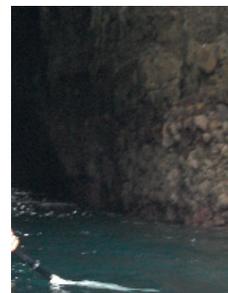
Sarah Orchard joined the Trust in early 2009.

Trustees

Ken Stevenson
Lyndsay Simpkin
Andrew McPhail
Glenda Simpkin
Wayne Mitchell
Jared Partridge

The Trustees meet 9 times in 2009.

At the end of 2009 Ken Stevenson stepped down from the role of Trust Chairman. Ken has been with the Trust since its inception in 1984. He will continue as a Trustee. Wayne Mitchell has taken up the position of Trust Chairman. Wayne has served with the Trust since 1988.



Our Mission
Christians Serving Through Outdoor Adventure

As 2009 progressed and the effects of the recession bite, it became evident that the Trustees were faced with a dilemma as to what to do with the Rockell Development. While titles were gained in early 2009 we had been unable to make any sales and were facing an increasing an interest bill that was being capitalised against the value of the properties. Fortunately we had borrowed our purchase and development cost from a benefactor and not a bank. After discussions with our benefactor we agreed that they should take over ownership of the property for the cancelation of all our debt.

This has been extremely frustrating to the Trustees who have put hours and hours of volunteer time into this project in the hope of a good return and greater financial sustainability for the Trust. However we were frustrated over and over again by the complexities and inordinately slow bureaucracy that surrounds the Resource Management Act which resulted in our projects completion running head long into the recession.

This is a disappointing result given the huge amount of effort the Trustees have placed into this project. On the plus side the fact that we have been able to get ourselves out of it with no negative financial impact on the Trust's operations or individual Trustees is a blessing. We just have to live with the loss of potential.



Training

During the year the Trust was invited to do a number of training programmes for Christian Camping New Zealand. The Trust is pursuing a greater role in helping the Christian Camping New Zealand's 70 plus camps to have qualified staff for their outdoor adventure activities.

Three staff attended a Skills Active Training programme and began the pathway to NZQA Unit Assessor status.

We continued our commitment to staff training and during the year saw staff gain New Zealand Outdoor Instructor Association awards in Kayaking and Bush.

Grants

We are grateful for grants from the following organisations

ASB Community Trust
SKYCITY Community Trust
IBM
John Ilott Charitable Trust
Community Wellbeing Fund
Community Organisations Grant Scheme
Skills Active
JR MacKenzie

Mainland foundation
CCC - Comm. Dev. Scheme
Canterbury Community Trust
George Service Jones Trust
Farina Thompson
NZ Post
Pub Charity

Emerging Needs

At the end of 2009 are;

to continue to focus on areas that enhance the financial sustainability of the Trust
to continue to grow company and individual sponsorships particularly for Journey programmes
to find qualified staff for Christchurch

Conclusion

2009 was our 26th year of operation. We continue to be extremely grateful to the range of community trusts and individual supporters who get behind the Trust. This has seen us weather what has been one of our more difficult years.

As we head into 2010 the Trustees are looking at different ways of structuring the Trust to enhance its work and its long term sustainability. We continue to enjoy the backing of a very proactive Trust Board who despite the set back of 2009 are looking positively to the future.

We have also employed some new staff who will join us in early 2010 and we are grateful for the continued positive feedback from our clients that our services are valued.

Reviewed by;
Lyndsay Simpkin - Trust Director

