



TARARUA REAP

Rural Education Activities Programme

ANNUAL
REPORT

2024

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Top left and bottom right: VP Photography - 2024 Schools'

Kapa Haka Competition

Middle: Steve Bowie - TDC Photography competition

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TARARUA REAP

Rural Education Activities Programme

This Annual Report covers the period 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024 and is presented on behalf of Tararua REAP (Rural Education Activities Programme) by Wendy Lansdown, Board Chair and Elaine Reilly, General Manager



Wendy Lansdown
Board Chair



Elaine Reilly
General Manager

OUR VISION

KO TE WHAKAKITENGA

Thriving, resilient, confident communities

OUR MISSION

KO TE UARATANGA

To provide opportunities for people, whānau and communities to flourish through quality life-long learning

OUR VALUES

NGĀ UARA

We provide high quality, fit for purpose, learning opportunities

We operate with professionalism, credibility and integrity

Communities are at the heart of everything we do

We value diversity and inclusiveness

We uphold the values of Te Tiriti o Waitangi

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

TE PAE TAWHITI

Build knowledgeable communities

Contribute to intergenerational learning

Strengthen our ability to create positive change

Prioritise respectful relationships and promote social cohesion

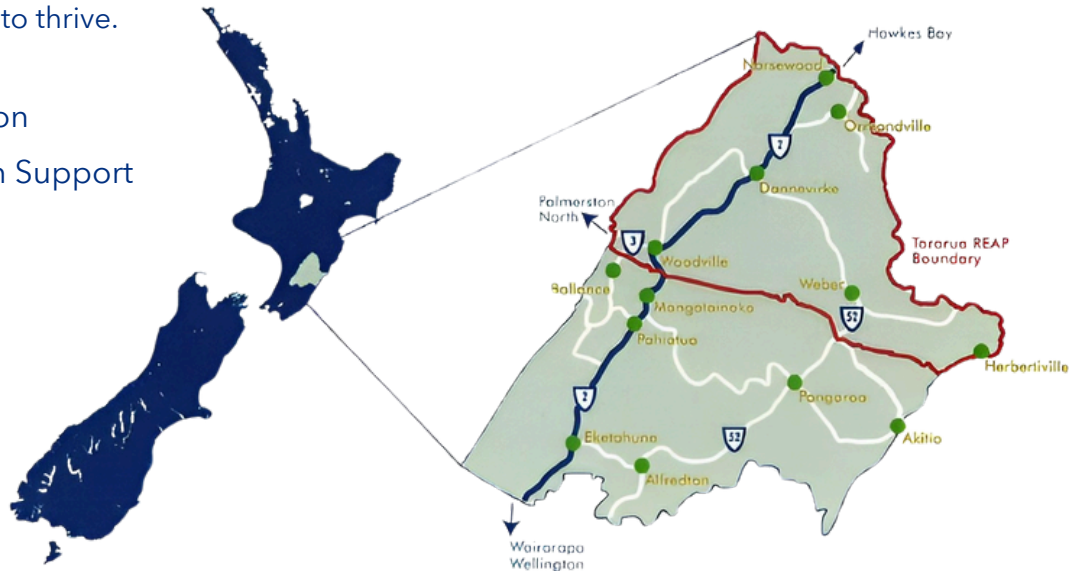







ABOUT US

REAPs are community organisations based on a philosophy of community development through education. Thirteen REAPs were established in rural areas between 1979 and 1982 to facilitate access to lifelong learning for people living in rural New Zealand.

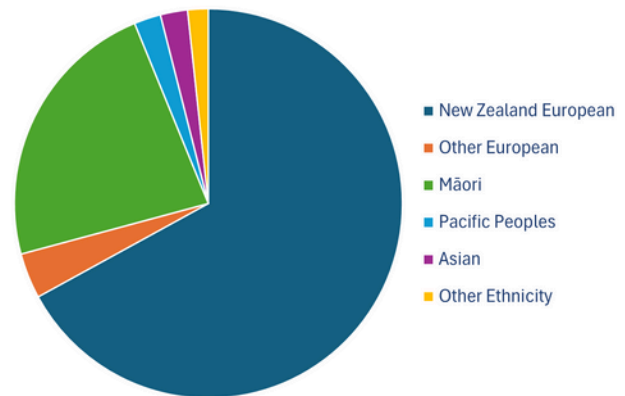
At Tararua REAP we embrace lifelong learning and are a provider, facilitator and broker of learning opportunities designed to help our community succeed. Education that is developed by the community, for the community gives our region fuel to thrive.

- Adult Community Education
- Early Childhood Education Support
- Support for Schools
- Parent Education
- Whānau Support
- Financial Mentoring
- Employment Support



Key Demographics*	Tararua REAP Area	All of NZ
 Total Population	11,694	
 Number of Families	3,006	
 Median Age	42.9	38.1
 Adults with post school Qualification	47%	54%
 Median Personal Income	\$34,557	\$41,500

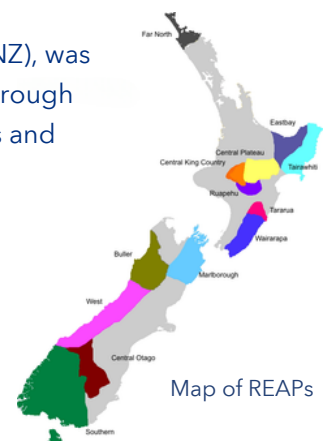
Percentage of our area's population that identifies with each ethnic group*



*Source: Stats NZ (2023). 2023 Census, Place and ethnic group summaries. Norsewood, Waitahora, Dannevirke East, Dannevirke West, Papatawa, Woodville and Owthanga areas combined.



The umbrella organisation of REAP Aotearoa New Zealand (REAPANZ), was formed in 2004. Their purpose is to strengthen the REAP network through information sharing and relationship building with funding agencies and interest groups. REAPANZ works intensively with government ministries, particularly the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Social Development.



Map of REAPs

OUR PEOPLE

BOARD MEMBERS



Wendy Lansdown
Board Chair



Scott Gilmore
Deputy Board Chair



Aroha Walker



Jenna Hutchings



Lee Bettles
Resigned December 2024



Donna Milner
Resigned April 2024



Maria Rāhui
Appointed October 2024



Rebekah Charlton
Board Secretary
Resigned June 2024



Angelina Hollows
Board Secretary
Appointed June 2024

TARARUA REAP STAFF



Elaine Reilly
General Manager



Kerri Verwaayen
Financial Manager



Alice Franklin
Marketing Manager



Lynley Densham
Customer Service
Manager



Tiaki Churchouse
Marketing and I.T.
Support



Caroline Gyde
Education Manager



Rose Bertram
Parent Support
Coordinator



Shelly Richardson
ACE (Adult Community
Education) Coordinator



Alyshea Bell
Strengthening Families
Coordinator



Melanie Oliver
Financial Mentor &
Education Support



Rozanne Jensen
Financial Mentor/
Team Lead



Deanna Veerkamp
Financial Mentor



Julie Walker
Financial Mentor &
Office Support



Kahlia Christison
Employment Support



Carmel Cole
Office Support

REPORT FROM BOARD CHAIR

"Tararua REAP would not be a successful organisation without its people."



Tēnā koutou katoa,

2024 saw a couple of changes in our Tararua REAP Governance Board. Long-serving Member, Donna Milner stood down from the Tararua REAP Board at the 2024 AGM. Donna's contribution to Tararua REAP spans sixteen years; she held various positions on the Board and was instrumental in appointing two high-quality General Managers. Lee Bettles stood down after three years on the REAP Board in December 2024. Lee worked well with our Financial Manager to bring a high standard of financial reporting to the REAP Board meetings. We warmly welcome our new board member Maria Rāhui, who brings Community Law experience and a wide range of governance skills to the Board.

The Board and Staff spent time reviewing the Strategic Plan to reflect the direction of REAP for the next three years. This living document is used in staff planning, course consideration and evaluation, and reported against to the Board.

The REAP Aotearoa Conference was held in Wellington in 2024 with a theme of Rural Connections. REAPs were originally established to provide rural communities with accessible and ongoing education, a mission that remains just as vital today. Looking ahead, there is a strong emphasis on future-focused learning that adapts to the evolving needs of rural communities. In alignment with this vision, the Board is actively working towards embedding Te Tiriti o Waitangi principles into all aspects of governance, ensuring that Tararua REAP remains equitable, inclusive, and reflective of Aotearoa's bicultural foundation.

Tararua REAP would not be the successful organisation that it is without its people. Thank you to our Staff who go the extra mile in serving our communities and thank you to our Board members for the time you freely give to attend meetings and champion REAP.

Ngā Mihi,

Wendy Lansdown

Tararua REAP Board Chair



Wendy presents Donna Milner with a leaving gift at the AGM in April, 2024

REPORT FROM GENERAL MANAGER

"Shared learning, shared humour and shared connections have put a smile on the faces of the REAP team, as well as those of our learners."



Tēnā koutou katoa,

On 1 January 2024, Tararua REAP stepped forward as a newly registered Charitable Trust, but without any change of focus to our mission to empower individuals, whānau, and communities through education and support. Our commitment to lifelong learning has remained steadfast, ensuring that the people of Tararua have access to quality opportunities that meet their needs. Of all the things I have been privileged to see this year, I have noted with delight that learning has been fun for so many. Shared learning, shared humour and shared connections have put a smile on the faces of the REAP team, as well as those of our learners.

Learning at REAP is fun. We never underestimate the power of ensuring that people are welcomed, looked after as whānau and have fun as they are connected to so many different learning opportunities: Budgeting, Oamaru Stone Carving, Whatu Kākahu, Toastmasters, Kapa Haka, First Aid, Picky Eating, Holiday Programmes, CV preparation, and Rongoa; just a selection of what was delivered in 2024.

But don't think that we don't take our education workshops seriously. The team works hard to ensure programmes are relevant to our communities, are well-designed and that our venues are professional, safe and appropriate. We ensure all our tutors are capable, clear of their purpose and able to guide learners carefully and competently through their course.

Please take the time to read about our programmes this year, and let us know if there is something that you'd like us to deliver. REAPs have provided a range of programmes for over 40 years because they are relevant in their community, but we need to hear from you to remain so.

Underpinning all our achievements are enduring and pragmatic relationships. We want to thank every one of our partners in this community who make the Tararua such a special place, including our new mahi with the Dannevirke Community Vehicle Trust, their wonderful volunteer drivers and many grateful users of the service. We look forward to deepening our partnerships even further this year, and continuing to ensure that learning is relevant and fun.

Our team at REAP are dedicated, talented and hard-working; they turn up every week to serve our communities. I am grateful for their energy, insights and mahi every day.

Ngā mihi nui, *Elaine Reilly*



Elaine continues her own learning journey at a First Aid course.

ADULT COMMUNITY EDUCATION (ACE)

TARARUA REAP
Rural Education Activities Programme

VOLUME

69

PROGRAMMES DELIVERED

82 IN 2023

9,197

LEARNER HOURS

10,806 IN 2023

913

LEARNERS ENROLLED IN
COURSES

1,110 IN 2023

513

LEARNERS WITH LOW OR
NO QUALIFICATIONS

564 IN 2023

QUALITY

97%

OF LEARNERS REPORTED
RELEVANCE TO THEIR NEEDS

97%

OF LEARNERS REPORTED
INCREASED SKILLS

97%

REPORTED CONFIDENCE TO
APPLY LEARNING

THE POWER OF LIFELONG LEARNING WITH ACE A TEACHER'S JOURNEY INTO SIGN LANGUAGE



In 2024 we introduced a beginner's Sign Language course to our ACE offerings. Among the course graduates was Angelica, a dedicated teacher from a local rural school. Learning sign language as an adult was both an exciting and humbling experience. She found that as a teacher learning something new, it gave her an opportunity to pass it on to her students so they could learn alongside her. The children were excited by the new challenge and quickly picked up signs, regularly using them in class. When asked, most of the class were eager to share that they were teaching their parents and siblings at home, with a small number even communicating with hearing-impaired relatives, reinforcing the value of this skill. These experiences outside the classroom also enabled the students to develop a heightened sense of empathy and inclusion as they learnt when and why sign language is used within our communities.

One of the families impacted by Angelica's class shared that their son is excited to share what he learns with two of his cousins. Each cousin comes from a different side of the family and has a hearing impairment. The mother of one of these hearing impaired cousins shared that "We have recently benefited from interactions with our nephew who is learning

'First Signs' alongside his classmates and teacher. Seeing Archie sign and share signing with his deaf cousin has been a real pleasure and eye opener, his excitement and inclusive spirit towards the language is a real credit to the teacher passing on this new skill she is learning."

In Angelica's classroom, sign language has become a natural part of daily life. The children use it to communicate during quiet times of learning and have learned to play 'Guess Who' in sign language. Angelica commented that their enthusiasm shines when they eagerly correct her when she forgets or mixes up a sign. The class's proudest moment came at the end-of-year prizegiving when Angelica's young students stood before the entire school community to perform the National Anthem in sign language.

For Angelica, learning sign language has been a rewarding career choice, enhancing her skills and creating a ripple effect of learning and inclusivity within her classroom and beyond. Seeing her students embrace this new way of communication and share it with their families was a reminder that lifelong learning has the power to transform. Angelica has continued learning sign language and remains dedicated to teaching her 2025 class, inspiring even more eager young minds.

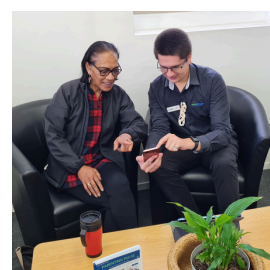


ADULT COMMUNITY EDUCATION (ACE)

TARARUA REAP
Rural Education Activities Programme

COURSES DELIVERED 2024

Are your Ducks in a Row? - Care Plan
Are your Ducks in a Row? - Funeral
Are your Ducks in a Row? - IRD
Are your Ducks in a Row? - Legal
Are your Ducks in a Row? - MSD
Basic Chainsaw Safety Training
Blended Families Workshop
Cooking on a Budget
Curriculum Vitae - How to write a CV
Daylight Savings & Kids' Sleep Solutions
Defensive Driving
Digital Devices Training
Getting Started with Graphs
"Good Yarn" Mental Health Workshop
Google Drive Training
Health & Wellbeing through Craft
Know the Code for Seniors
Learning through Matariki
Living Well with Rongoā
Meth Education & Solutions
Ngāti Kahungunu Kapa Haka
Ngāti Kahungunu Lifelong learning
Oamaru Stone Carving
Parenting your Teenager
Picky Eater Workshop Series
Plant-Based Cooking & Healing
"Shot Bro" - A Mental Health Discussion
Sign Language for Beginners
Spreadsheets - Next Steps
Spreadsheets 101
Stress-Free Summer with Triple P Parenting
Tiki's with Ron Te Kawa
Toastmasters
Triple P Parenting - Dealing with Disobedience
Triple P Parenting - Fighting and Aggression
Triple P Parenting - Help your child to listen
Triple P Parenting - Sleep Solutions
Wahakura Wananga
Whatu Kāhahu
Write My Story Workshop



VOLUME

11

SCHOOLS OUT OF 11 SUPPORTED
11 IN 2023

614

CHILDREN ENGAGED
752 IN 2023

498

EDUCATORS
ENGAGED/PARTICIPATED
225 IN 2023

20

EVENTS & INITIATIVES
DELIVERED
34 IN 2023

QUALITY

100%

OF LEARNERS REPORTED
RELEVANCE TO THEIR NEEDS

97%

OF LEARNERS REPORTED
INCREASED SKILLS

98%

REPORTED CONFIDENCE
TO APPLY LEARNING

NEW TARARUA LEARNING SUPPORT HUB

2024 was another busy and rewarding year supporting schools across the Tararua REAP district.

One of the year's most exciting initiatives was collaborating with the Ministry of Education, Early Childhood Education (ECE), Schools and other services to help establish a Learning Support Hub for the Tararua district. With a dedicated team of Learning Support workers now in place, Tararua is better equipped to assist educators, whānau, and children, ensuring our tamariki and rangatahi receive the support they need for improved outcomes. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed to making this vision a reality.



Tamaki Nui a Rua
Kāhui Ako

This year, we collaborated with Kāhui Ako to support Teacher Only Days, offering valuable professional development opportunities.

Sessions were well attended, providing a common understanding among educators across the region.

After discussions with Kāhui Ako lead principals, we organised a Wellbeing Expo for educators across Tararua. When teachers prioritise their wellbeing, they are better equipped to support the complex needs of their students, particularly those with special educational needs.

We hosted the Wellbeing Expo at the start of the school year, bringing together 78 educators for an engaging event. Attendees connected, listened to an inspiring speaker on self-care, shared kai, and interacted with a variety of stallholders.

With high attendance and overwhelmingly positive feedback, many attendees saw the Expo as a great way to start the year. Stallholders included masseurs, natural health practitioners, osteopaths, the local library, a gym, and many more. Following the event, 60% of these stallholders reported ongoing contact with teachers, reinforcing the lasting impact of the Expo.



Since the Expo, schools have regularly checked in with staff and encouraged a self-care culture. Teachers are proactively prioritising their wellbeing, taking time off when unwell and supporting one another. Principals are also approaching workloads with a wellbeing lens.

"Amazing, uplifting, I enjoyed it. Great speaker. Exhibitor groups were great around the outside. Just enough."

"Timing good and wasn't hurried. Learnt to say NO! Learnt to stay in my lane. I must think about myself and my time."

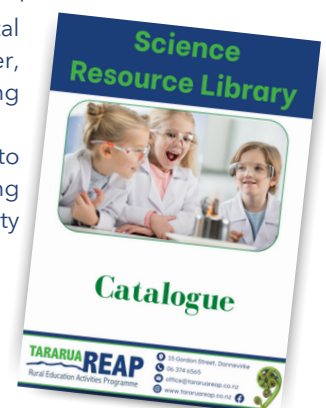
"Really cool, would go again. Good check-ins, just what we needed."

TARARUA REAP SCIENCE RESOURCE LIBRARY

In response to a request from schools, Tararua REAP established a science library to support science education in the region. Since its inception, our Governance Board has prioritised ongoing funding, allowing us to expand and enhance our resources based on emerging needs. The library features a simple lending system, and teacher feedback helps guide improvements.

In 2024, we added four metal detectors at the request of a teacher, further enhancing hands-on learning opportunities.

These resources are also available to homeschooling families, ensuring broader community access to quality science education materials.



SCHOOLS KAPA HAKA FESTIVAL

TARARUA REAP
Rural Education Activities Programme

THURSDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 2024

14

PERFORMANCE GROUPS

14 IN 2023

700+

ESTIMATED CHILDREN ENGAGED

EST. 695 IN 2023

4000+

EST. COMMUNITY MEMBERS ENGAGED

EST. 1200 IN 2023 (INCREASE DUE TO ONLINE STREAMING)



Photos by VP Photography

The pride and passion exhibited at the 2024 Schools' Kapa Haka Festival reinforced the importance of this event. Tararua REAP promotes educational opportunities in the small towns and rural communities across the district. This event helped everyone appreciate, value, and understand the rich history of Aotearoa and the culture of our Tangata Whenua. This aligns with our commitment to nurturing well-rounded, culturally aware individuals.

Live-streaming the event for the first time, allowed it to be viewed at schools, the Dannevirke Regent Cinema, and by parents at home or work. This expanded the event's reach and significantly boosted community engagement.



TARARUA REAP
Rural Education Activities Programme



Ngāti Kahungunu
ki Tāmaki nui-a-Rua



Tararua District
creative
COMMUNITIES *nz*

VOLUME

QUALITY

19

ECE SERVICES
SUPPORTED
10 IN 2023

588

CHILDREN ENGAGED
471 IN 2023

47

EVENTS & INITIATIVES
DELIVERED
34 IN 2023

96%

OF LEARNERS REPORTED
RELEVANCE TO THEIR NEEDS

89%

OF LEARNERS REPORTED
INCREASED SKILLS

141

EDUCATORS
ENGAGED/PARTICIPATED
168 IN 2023

215

PARENTS/WHĀNAU
SUPPORTED
124 IN 2023

96%

REPORTED CONFIDENCE TO
APPLY LEARNING



Mā te ahurei o te tamaiti e ārahi i ā tātou mahi.
Let the uniqueness of the child guide our work.

Early childhood education (ECE) plays a crucial role in laying the foundation for future learning and living. The first few years of a child’s life are critical for cognitive, emotional, and social development. Tararua REAP supports our ECE centres, playgroups, kindergartens, and in-home learning services to ensure the next generation receives the education they need. To guide our focus, we use the Ministry of Education’s five strands of Te Whariki in everything we do.

The highlight of the term was an exciting and interactive visit to the Dannevirke Fire Station. Families also discussed their home fire safety plans and learned how to seek help in an emergency. With over 80 participants, the event was a great success.



TE WHARIKI STRANDS

- WELLBEING | MANA ATUA
- BELONGING | MANA WHENUA
- CONTRIBUTION | MANA TANGATA
- COMMUNICATION | MANA REO
- EXPLORATION | MANA AOTŪROA



2024 saw growth in the number of playgroups we support, meaning more children engaged with new activities and more families supported with fresh learning experiences they can take home. ECE Coordinator, Mel, visits each playgroup with a different theme planned around Te Whariki Strands each term. Term Two’s theme was all about fire safety. The tamariki learned the importance of “Get Out, Stay Out” through an engaging mix of activities, including stories, collage, dress-ups and the ‘Get Out Stay Out’ song.

To support our local ECE centres we provided high-quality professional development for educators. In 2024, we partnered with ECE advisors from the Ministry of Education to deliver termly workshops in Dannevirke. We hosted evening sessions with kai creating a welcoming space. The response was fantastic, with full attendance each term. Brainwave training was delivered in response to requests from local centres. This was shared from a Te Ao Māori perspective of how the bodies and brains of our tamariki grow and develop.

Feedback from whānau shows the importance of ECE workshops in our rural communities

“We love these sessions as she brings new ideas to extend us and adding to our learning programme. The kids love it.”

“Mel demonstrated how easy it was to do an activity in a way I understand and could replicate. Will be able to help facilitate and lead future art and craft activities at playgroup.”

“Thank you so much for the beautiful learning story with photos of tamariki engaged in the learning at hand. Such a fun and captivating session for our Tamariki. This week, we set up a new stereo at our centre which will help us to explore, extend and enjoy more music.”

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES

WORKING WITH AND FOR WHĀNAU



15
NEW WHĀNAU
SUPPORTED
14 IN 2023

“I am grateful to have been supported by Strengthening Families.”



Strengthening Families is here to help when a family is presented with a complex set of challenges that require many players to understand and provide support.

One such case involved a whānau consisting of two parents and four children aged 11 to 17. All four of the children are neurodivergent, each with unique learning needs requiring tailored support.

This case study highlights the importance of collaboration, personalised support, and effective communication in addressing the educational needs of neurodivergent children. Ultimately, the whānau's proactive efforts, supported by the Strengthening Families process, resulted in positive changes for the children's educational experience, reducing barriers and creating pathways for success.

CHALLENGES:

1. **School Communication Issues** – Misunderstandings about the children's educational needs and accommodations, leading to frustration and delays in securing additional support.
2. **Neurodivergence & Learning Needs** – All four children are neurodivergent, with two of the children identified as needing extra learning support.
3. **Parental Stress & Overwhelm** – Difficulties in managing children's needs with limited resources.

The Strengthening Families process brought together whānau and service providers to coordinate support for the presented challenges. A structured approach allowed the family to set goals, improve access to resources, and ensure all agencies worked together, ultimately leading to better outcomes for the whānau.

OUTCOMES - IMPACT

- **Improved Educational Support** – Neurodivergent assessments completed with tailored support strategies and Individual Education Plans (IEPs) in place.
- **Enhanced School Communication** – Regular communication with the schools and Special Education Needs Coordinators (SENCOs) resulted in a better understanding of situations and a unified approach to the children's education.
- **Stronger Collaboration** – Coordinated support from multiple agencies addressing the family's educational, emotional and social well-being.
- **Empowered Parenting** – The parents attended parenting programmes giving them strategies to feel more confident in their ability to manage their children's needs, reducing their sense of overwhelm.

TOP 5 ISSUES FOR STRENGTHENING FAMILIES WHĀNAU

Parenting/Child Management
Parent/Caregiver's Mental Health
Child's Physical Health/Disability
Financial Hardship
Lack of Support
(Whānau, Community and/or Services)

Following the Strengthening Families process, all issues presented by whānau showed significant improvement.

VOLUME

QUALITY

IMPACT



12

FAMILIES COMPLETED THE 14 WEEK PROGRAMME

8 FAMILIES IN 2023

100%

OF PARENTS WOULD RECOMMEND OR STRONGLY RECOMMEND THE COURSE

"I was very stressed and was convinced I was going to be a lifetime smoker because of how stressful it was to deal with the kids. I am now a nonsmoker! The kids' behaviour has changed so much that it has been less triggering for me"



22

PARENTS COMPLETED A WORKSHOP OR ATTENDED A 1-ON-1 SESSION

25 PARENTS IN 2023

100%

OF PARENTS WOULD RECOMMEND OR STRONGLY RECOMMEND THE COURSE

"Good, enlightened. Just what I was after"
"Taught me a lot more about how to deal with situations, how to approach them better and how I can improve"



12

PARENTS COMPLETED A WORKSHOP OR ATTENDED A 1-ON-1 SESSION

7 PARENTS IN 2023

100%

OF PARENTS WOULD RECOMMEND OR STRONGLY RECOMMEND THE COURSE

"Dinner times in our house have gone from battles, tears (often my own), time outs, bargaining, bribing, and tantrums, to legitimately pleasant (most nights) experiences."



8

COMPLETED 1 PROGRAMME DELIVERY

100%

OF PARENTS WOULD RECOMMEND OR STRONGLY RECOMMEND THE COURSE

Parenting your Teenager

"Comfortable, engaging, the videos were good and humorous. Interactive. Helped us to be better parents for our kids."

In 2024 we delivered a range of parenting programmes designed to support identified needs in our community.

- The 14-week **Incredible Years** programme was delivered in partnership with Tararua Community Services in Dannevirke to a group of 12 parents.
- The ever-popular **Positive Parenting Programme** (Triple P) covers a broad range of topics. This year we used seasonal issues to advertise the various workshops, including "Sleep Solutions and Daylight Savings" and "Stress Free Summer".
- A new programme in Tararua REAP's parenting lineup for 2024 was **Parenting Your Teenager**, from the Toolbox Series. Parenting Coordinator, Rose Bertram completed her training in the Toolbox Series and gave the first delivery in August with great success. The programme had a strong focus on interactive activities during delivery, which was received well by participants.



Spencer, Holly and their parents are enjoying much happier meal times thanks to the Picky Eating Workshop.

- After a successful pilot in 2023, the **Picky Eating Workshop** continued to meet community demand through 2024. The workshop, run over three sessions, has successfully helped parents find solutions to their child's picky eating.

2024 RESULTS FROM THE INCREDIBLE YEARS PROGRAMME



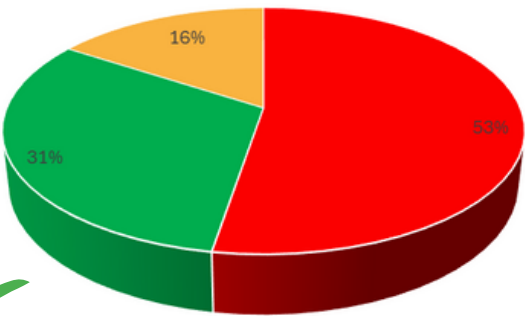
The Incredible Years (IY) Programme, delivered over 14 weeks, uses the Eyberg Child Behaviour Inventory (ECBI) to measure progress. ECBI assesses the frequency and severity of disruptive behaviours and the extent to which parents find the behaviours troublesome. An initial assessment sets a benchmark, with a follow-up assessment four months later to measure progress.

Each behaviour is rated according to two scales. As shown below, both scales showed vast behavioural improvements.

Intensity - in the frequency of behaviour.

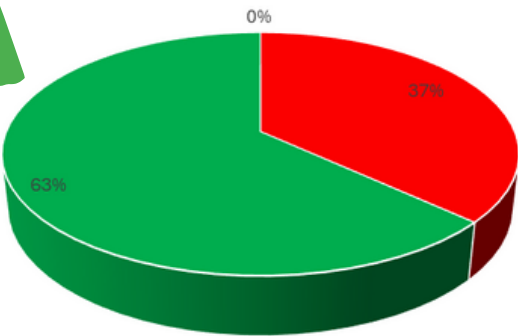
Intensity of Behaviour - Pre Course

Clinical Range Out of Clinical Range Borderline



Intensity of Behaviour - Post Course

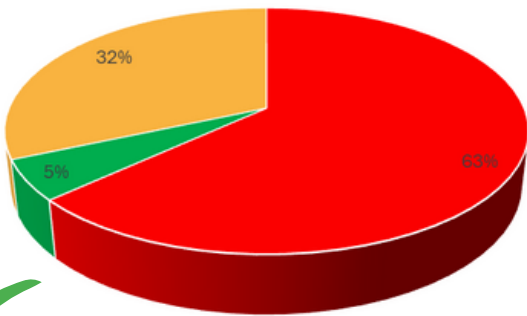
Clinical Range Out of Clinical Range Borderline



Problem - whether the behaviour is currently seen as a problem for the parent.

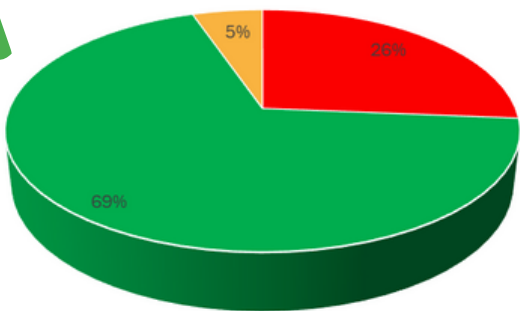
Problem Behaviour - Pre Course

Clinical Range Out of Clinical Range Borderline



Problem Behaviour - Post Course

Clinical Range Out of Clinical Range Borderline



Feedback from an Incredible Years graduate, father of a 7-year-old child:

"It has come to be like a friendship situation, where we talk about a problem, and try to solve our problems together, and it feels nice that there's no judgement. Everyone is just chilled. So I just wanted to say good on everyone."



IY graduates, 2024

BUILDING FINANCIAL CAPABILITIES



Tararua REAP Budget Services provides financial mentoring to individuals seeking to improve their financial capability. This service is delivered through FinCap, with support from the Ministry of Social Development. Our trained Financial Mentors offer free and confidential one-on-one assistance to individuals experiencing financial hardship. Budgeting Mentors support our clients to: reduce weekly cash-flow pressures, pay overdue bills, save for home ownership, negotiate with creditors, and offer specialised advice for KiwiSaver withdrawals, bankruptcy, IRD or WINZ support. In addition to addressing immediate financial concerns, the service focuses on enhancing financial literacy and long-term money management skills, ultimately improving financial resilience.

FINANCIAL MENTORS CREATING POSITIVE OUTLOOKS

Case Study: How a Financial Mentor helped rebuild a life after the effects of an online scam

When an elderly woman sought a food parcel through Tararua REAP’s financial mentoring service, red flags were identified by our financial mentor, setting a course of action in play that would significantly improve the client’s financial wellbeing.

During her first budgeting appointment, it was revealed that the client was struggling with two unpaid debts and was in the process of applying for a loan to send money overseas. Upon further inquiry, she revealed she was in an online relationship with a man she had never met, regularly sending him iTunes gift cards worth hundreds of dollars. As a result, she couldn't afford food.

With the client’s permission, the mentor involved the police and an IT expert. They secured her digital safety by cleansing her hacked devices and setting up a new SIM card to block the scammer.

The mentor developed a financial plan, helping the client clear her debts and cancel the loan application. With financial stability restored, she now has enough money for food and was referred on to an external agency.

“The client not only can buy food now but has enough money to become involved in local community groups. Her life has improved immensely.”

This case highlights the crucial role financial mentors play in restoring stability and well-being to individuals at their most vulnerable.

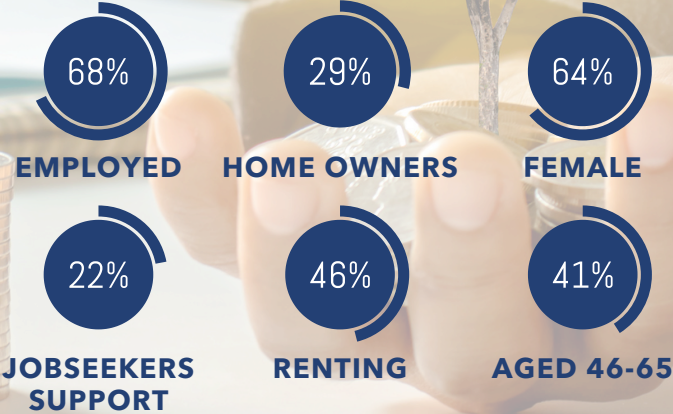
WHO HAVE WE HELPED?

Reasons Clients Sought Budget Mentoring

Increased Cost of Living	66%
Unexpected Cost	29%
Job Loss	24%
Health Change/Issue	22%
Partnership Breakdown	14%
New Living Situation	13%
Mental Health	12%

**Many clients cited more than one reason for attending.*

Demographic Snapshot



EMPLOYMENT PLACEMENT SERVICES

BUILDING BRIGHTER FUTURES

In 2024, Tararua REAP Employment Services entered into a one-year contract with the Ministry of Social Development (MSD) to support long-term beneficiaries in securing employment or into furthering their education. Recognising the importance of Whakawhanaungatanga in building trust and engagement, our Employment Support Coordinator, Kahlia, developed a robust framework tailored to the unique needs of each client. This holistic approach helped guide clients and celebrated their progress, whether obtaining a driver's licence, attending job interviews, or cultivating a positive outlook on life.

Beyond the MSD contract, Adult and Community Education (ACE) funding enabled us to extend employment support services to the wider community. The economic downturn in 2024 led to increased demand for our services, with 94 CVs created and 26 clients receiving more intensive support, including one-on-one interview preparation and cover letter writing. Additionally, we strengthened our presence in local high schools, including Tararua College and Dannevirke High School, where we engaged with students about employment opportunities in the Tararua District and strategies for entering the workforce.



Robynne, Kahlia and Tracey

The Road Ahead: An insight into the new Te Ahu a Turanga Highway

Collaboration was a key theme of 2024. In partnership with Tracey Friend and Robynne Cload from the Dannevirke Chamber of Commerce, Kahlia organised a breakfast meeting, for local businesses to explore ways to promote Dannevirke as a destination, particularly in light of the new road opening in 2025. Guest speakers Aarin Bang (NZTA) and Phil Grant (New Zealand Natural Clothing Company) provided valuable insights, and the overwhelmingly positive feedback highlighted the community's appetite for similar future events.

"Beyond her technical expertise, Kahlia's approachable and supportive demeanour made working with her a pleasure. She was always responsive, patient, and willing to go the extra mile to address any concerns or questions I had. Her commitment to excellence and genuine desire to help truly set her apart."

"I have been on a benefit for roughly 6 years. I had lost my drive to work. I made an appointment with REAP and met with Kahlia. She had me motivated and in full time work within 3 weeks."



2024 MAHI

128

INDIVIDUALS RECEIVED
EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT

105 IN 2023

94

CVS DEVELOPED &
REFINED

60 IN 2023

26

INDIVIDUALS RECEIVED
1:1 INTERVIEW PREP

NEW

DANNEVIRKE COMMUNITY GARDEN



TARARUA REAP
Rural Education Activities Programme

PLANTING A SEED FOR COMMUNITY GROWTH

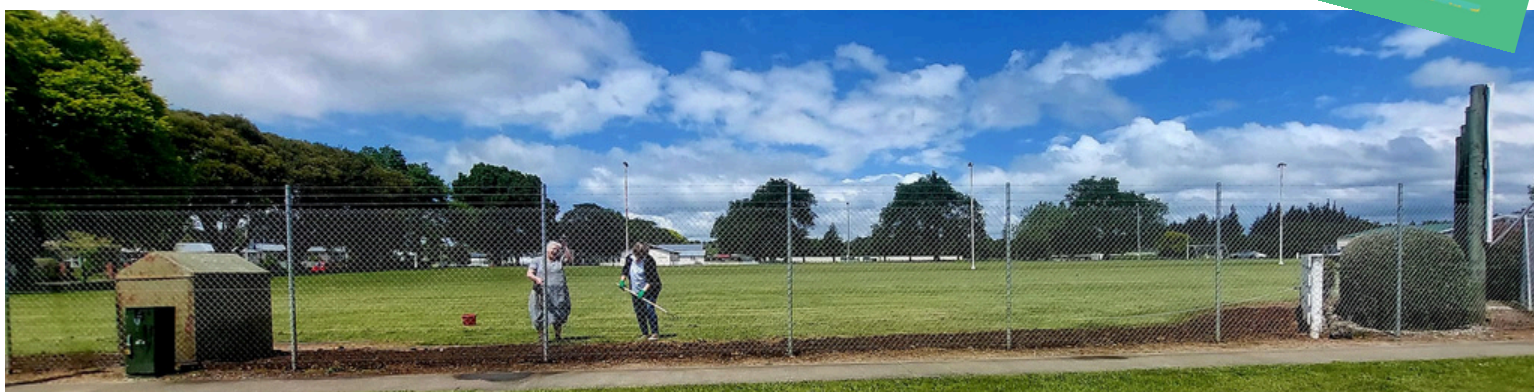
A strong community is built on shared experiences, collaboration, and a sense of belonging. With this in mind, the team at Tararua REAP saw an opportunity to support the development of a Community Garden in Dannevirke; a space where people could come together, grow their own food, and learn valuable skills in gardening and sustainability. We also knew that the most impactful initiatives are those driven by the community itself. Rather than overseeing the project directly, we chose to plant the seed and invite others to help it grow.

We put out a call for interest, inviting locals to a meeting at Tararua REAP. To our delight, a keen group showed up and as the discussion unfolded, it became clear that this would become more than a Tararua REAP project. It would be a community-led initiative, shaped by the local people who would nurture it.

With REAP's initial support providing connections, guidance, and some seed funding; and under the capable leadership of volunteer Tracy Winther, the group began making plans. With a piece of land, very kindly donated by the Dannevirke A&P Association, they set to work clearing the site. Generous local businesses donated a variety of materials, and the garden began to take shape, starting with an eye-catching row of sunflowers lining the High Street fence.

A growing number of enthusiastic volunteers attended working bees, all with the shared goal of creating a thriving garden in time for the Dannevirke A&P Show in February 2025.

With dedicated individuals happily taking the reins, the Dannevirke Community Garden is a testament to the power of collaboration and embodies Tararua REAP's vision of creating thriving, resilient and confident communities.



Ground is broken at the Community Garden and a row of sunflowers is planted to be ready in time for the Dannevirke A&P Show



Annual ESG (Environment, Social and Governance) Reporting 2024

1. Environmental - Carbon footprint and greenhouse gas contribution measurement

Travel Carbon produced	Power Carbon Produced	Carbon Offsetting Activity	Net Carbon Footprint
4.15 tCO ₂ e	2.06 tCO ₂ e	0 tCO ₂ e	6.21 tCO ₂ e

2. Social – Rights-based social change contribution measurement

Social measurements are primarily focused on the core purpose of our organisation through the services we provide. As a lifelong learning kaupapa, our golden circles help us focus our measured contributions to social good:

Our WHY: We exist because rural communities have the right to quality education that fulfils their aspirations.

Our HOW: We use local knowledge and relationships to connect, develop and empower people.

Our WHAT: to deliver lifelong learning activities that are responsive, contextual and collaborative.

3. Governance – Strategic Statement of review and commitment around sustainability

Tararua REAP’s ESG (Environmental, Social, Governance) Statement:

Tararua REAP is committed to being a sustainable organisation in all facets of our work. Our Strategic Plan monitors our ESG, while our Risk Management Policy includes mitigations for our carbon footprint and notes the risk that climate related events pose to our organisation.

THANK YOU!

Tararua REAP would like to
acknowledge and thank our
funders and sponsors for

2024



TARARUA REAP

Rural Education Activities Programme

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