



ASB Community Trust

Te Kaitiaki Putea o Tamaki o Tai Tokerau

supported by **ASB**

# TRUSTLINE



FOLLOWING THEIR DREAMS

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*ASB Community Trust was established in 1988 following the sale of its shares in ASB Bank Ltd. The Trust is grateful to ASB for its ongoing support.*

## *Kia ora and warm Pacific greetings. Welcome to the November 2007 edition of TrustLine.*

**T**his issue of TrustLine will be our last for 2007, so we've filled it with stories about inspiring groups doing amazing work in our community. We hope they'll give you another reason to celebrate as you prepare for the holiday season.

Included in this edition is news about the Building Better Schools project, which is encouraging businesses and schools to create mentoring partnerships. As the project's Programme Director Lorraine Mentz explains it, "we're building a movement and we're seeing the aspirations of children changing".

Another group helping our children to dream big dreams is Otarā's Computer Clubhouse 274. To use founder Mike Usmar's words: "The brilliance of these kids outstrips the school curriculum – it's getting them excited and thinking about 'what can I do when I leave school.'"

Throughout our region, groups like these are turning their visions into reality and making our community a better place to live. At ASB Community Trust we believe the role of philanthropy is to make sure innovative projects receive the funding they need to make that happen.

We also know how important sport is in New Zealand – it's part of the social glue that keeps us together. Whether it's in the gymnasium, on the netball courts or on the water, one of our core goals is to ensure people of all ages can participate. In this issue you'll read stories about recreational groups that share our vision for Auckland and Northland.

Another part of our mission is to develop a strong relationship with community and volunteer groups, so they are clear about ways we can help. We aim to make our operation as transparent as possible, so we'll continue to use TrustLine and our website to keep you informed of any changes.

## *Research to guide grant decisions*

THE first of a series of research report summaries will be on our website in November.

The four-page "think-pieces" will give an overview of background work we have commissioned into the sectors we help fund.

They will help the Trust, and other private funders, take a more strategic approach to grant-making. The aim is to ensure that



/ASB Community Trust CEO Jennifer Gill

*"A community development worker who can engage with a funder's interests and passions will start to build a fruitful relationship."*

Any skillful community development worker knows that it's essential to learn as much about a potential funder as they do about the community they work with, so materials such as our newsletters and annual report are a vital resource. They are building blocks for a long-term partnership.

A community development worker who can engage with a funder's interests and passions will start to build a fruitful relationship for long-term support. Through the pages of TrustLine, we invite you to learn more about what drives us.

funding focuses on programmes which improve social outcomes and make our community a better place for everyone.

The first report will be on the refugee and new migrant sectors. The next will be sport and recreation. This document will include a summary of the research and case studies where applicable.



/Guests are called into Hokianga's Te Whakamaharatanga Marae.

## Marae meeting a first

**T**he Trust took its annual public meeting to the Hokianga for the first time this year. The September meeting also marked another milestone – the first time the Trust has ever held its public meeting on a marae.

“I don't think I've ever seen so many Maori attending one of our meetings,” commented long-time Trust Chairman Kevin Prime when he addressed the Hokianga gathering. Around 160 people travelled to Whakamaharatanga marae for the event, perhaps half of them Maori.

At the end of the meeting, Trust staff set up information tables for each of the sectors we fund and spent time talking with guests and finding out about community projects planned for Northland.

The Auckland public meeting, in August, drew about 350 people to Auckland Muse-

um's new roof-top event centre for a day that included a capacity building expo. The Trust invited a dozen key community support organisations – such as the Charities Commission, Funding Information Service and Community Waitakere – to the expo.

We used both events to report back on investment and grant-making results for the 2007 financial year, but both meetings reflected our commitment to add value to public meetings.

Planning is already under way for next year's events, so please let us know about ways we can make them more useful to you.

***“I don't think I've ever seen so many Maori attending one of our meetings.”***

– Kevin Prime

## Parents key role models: new grants advisor

NEW ZEALAND needs parents to take up their mantle as role models more seriously if our children are to succeed, say new Trust Grants Advisor Jay Farris.

Jay says the Trust is in a unique position to engage more diversely with the issues that communities face each day.

“A third of our population (in Auckland) will soon be Polynesian,” she says, “so we need to change the language of engagement.”

Jay brings with her over 20 years of experience in Community Development, 11 of those years as a Community Development Advisor with the Local Government and Community Branch of Internal Affairs in Wellington.

As a Samoan with family links to Maori, South Pacific, North America and Europe, she understands cultural diversity and believes the best strategic approach to community development is to listen and engage community to identifying solutions towards addressing their needs.

Jay's key focus will be the Pasifika communities. She will be working in the Health and Social Service Sector and working on Pacific strategic and policy development.



Jay Farris

## Investment advisors retained after review

AFTER a review this year, Russell Investment Group has been retained as the Trust's investment advisor.

Our investments, now worth over \$1 billion, provide the income stream that funds the annual grants programme, so it's important that they perform strongly. For this reason Russell Investment, which has a long history as investment advisor for the Trust, was this year compared with other potential advisors.

After analysis of the candidates, the Trust decided that Russell remains the best choice.

A long association means it has developed a sensitivity to our business and together we have created a robust reserving policy. Under its guidance the Trust

has devised a prudent investment strategy that has seen an average 8.8% return since 1994 and the Trust has been able to make more than \$600 million worth of grants since it was formed in 1988.

As part of the decision-making process the Trust brought on board consultant Susie Weaver. She was involved in the interviews and provided analysis for the assessments.

Susie, who has been a Government Superannuation Fund Authority board member since 2001 and is now a principal of Weaver Consulting Ltd, will remain as an expert consultant as the Trust continues to develop its investment strategies.



Susie Weaver

# Results for learning business

A drive to build management capacity and improve educational outcomes in Auckland's low decile schools is already showing "overwhelming" results, say the people behind the Building Better Schools through Business Partnerships programme (BBS).

An initiative of the Committee for Auckland's Future Auckland Leaders programme, BBS partners businesses with low decile schools. It encourages them to share their governance, leadership and management skills and apply them in a community environment.

"This is not about imposing a business model on schools," says Programme Director Lorraine Mentz, "It's about businesses becoming aware of the complex challenges in schools and finding ways to build capacity and assist at management and governance levels. Schools drive the agenda; there's an enormous amount of mentoring and professional development going on."

The steering group is made up of business and educational leaders, many of them alumni of the Future Auckland Leaders programme.

With seed funding from the Lion Foundation, the Committee for Auckland ran three pilot programmes. The Rongomai Primary/Westpac partnership was the first signed up.

"Since then we've had a further 5 partnerships and expect four more by the end of the year, with 11 more in the pipeline," Lorraine says.

Some of New Zealand's biggest companies are involved: names like Westpac, KPMG, ASB, Deloitte, Tonkin & Taylor, McConnell Ltd and Telecom. No money changes hands – the value is in the skills businesses bring to a school's board table.

"Corporate social responsibility is an important value with these companies. They know that schools are the heart of the community and they want to be involved with their community," Lorraine says.

Jan Dawson, KPMG's National Chairman, says the programme "gives us a reason to celebrate: we are capacity-building in the true sense of the word...and laying the bricks for stronger communities."

Deloitte Chairman Nick Main echoes that, saying that "part of Auckland being a



/Edmund Hillary College Limited Statutory Manager Judy Hucker, left, signs a memorandum of understanding with KPMG National Chairman Jan Dawson.

**"Good governance is having an effect that's filtering right down to the children."**

– Lorraine Mentz

world class city will be strong educational institutions, a high level of engagement of its citizens and intolerance for highly skewed opportunities dependant of the suburb you were brought up in."

The teams work on issues such as leadership skills, property management, mentoring and professional development – wherever schools decide they need to grow capacity.

"It's like an arranged marriage," Lorraine says. "We align the needs of a school with a business that has the right skills. They then sign a memorandum of understanding for three years and begin working together."

Penrose High School Principal Iva Ropati says "the opportunity to work alongside a successful organisation and to benefit from its specific experience and skills has been invaluable to a developing secondary school that aims to be a 'school of first choice' in our community."

BBS knows that improving governance skills doesn't happen overnight. In fact, no measurable impact was expected for at least seven years. But the first school, Rongomai, is already turning its results around.

Eighteen months ago only 6% of 12-year-

olds could read at their chronological age level. After a year working with Westpac the figures had risen to 33%. After 18 months it was 72%.

"Good governance is having an effect that's filtering right down to the children," Lorraine says. "The businesses work with boards, principals and senior management, in turn teachers' attitudes have become more positive and that's having a waterfall effect."

Results like these have the Ministry of Education taking notice, with MOE Regional Manager Bruce Adin saying the Ministry is interested in encouraging wider development of BBS.

It's also winning praise at a political level, with recently retired Manukau Mayor Sir Barry Curtis commenting that it "brings together two worlds that would otherwise never meet...it's a two-way exchange of cultures and values".

Lorraine says the programme is on a rapid growth curve and welcomes more businesses signing up.

"We're building a movement," she says. "We're seeing the aspirations of the children changing and I'd urge all businesses to come on board and demonstrate their corporate social responsibility."

■ **Email [Lorraine.mentz@aucklandnz.org](mailto:Lorraine.mentz@aucklandnz.org) or phone (09) 300 5598.**

■ **In September 2007 ASBCT granted Committee for Auckland \$150,000 to help run and evaluate the BBS programme.**

# Otara teens follow their dreams

Children at an Otara drop-in centre are working on robotics programming that is normally the preserve of second year university students.

The youngsters, mostly from the local Maori and Pasifika communities, get free access to the latest technology and are encouraged to apply it in ways that interest them. Robotics is one option, but a suite of powerful computers running industry-standard design software allows them to follow their dreams wherever they take them.

Founder Mike Usmar says Computer Clubhouse 274 (CC274), at Clover Park Middle School, equips children as young as 11 with “useful tools they can actually use.

“The brilliance of these kids outstrips the school curriculum,” he says, “and it’s getting them excited and thinking about ‘what can I do when I leave school’. They now have a portfolio of skills, of things they can do.”

Expert volunteers encourage them to “seize the opportunities that access to computer technology can provide”, he says.

“The clubhouse encourages young people to work as designers, inventors and creators. The model puts the learners in the driver’s seat and empowers them to design and create pathways that are relevant to them.”

CC274 is part of a worldwide network of



“The brilliance of these kids outstrips the school curriculum.”

clubhouses set up in under-served communities and licensed to the Boston Museum of Science and Massachusetts Institute of Technology. It is the only one in New Zealand, but it has big expansion plans – including a wi-fi internet network so Otara children can take the technology to their homes, empowering communities via information and communication technology.

“We want the kids to go home with technology and breath it into the family,” Mike says. “Rather than providing short-term workshops in basic skills in ways that are prescriptive, CC274 opens up a whole range of activities and programmes that connect people across ages and cultures.”

Project Manager Kane Milne gives a practical example of how the children are applying their skills. Recently the clubhouse

expanded its working space “and the clubhouse members were involved right throughout the process.

“In fact, using 3D modeling tools, clubhouse members were able to design the expanded clubhouse and create different layouts and colour schemes. It was based on these designs that we settled on our final layout. Members also got involved in painting murals, walls and our new green screen,” he says.

“This expansion has had real benefits already, allowing us to have multiple teams working in the clubhouse on different things, like our new Robotics group, without having to cram them into tiny spaces.”

■ [www.clubhouse274.org.nz](http://www.clubhouse274.org.nz)

■ In April 2006 ASBCT granted CC274 \$160,000 toward programme and project costs.

*“We want the kids to go home with technology and breath it into the family,”*

- Mike Usmar

## Research confirms brain development risk

Family violence and trauma has long-term implications for the brain development of children and young people who witness it, says The Brainwave Trust.

Paediatrician and Brainwave trustee Dr Robin Fancourt says recent neuroscience research has proven that early experiences have a far more decisive and lasting role than was ever previously imagined.

“The first three years of life last forever,” she says. “At birth the baby’s brain is only 15% developed. Most of a baby’s brain development actually occurs after the birth – in the first three years of life. It is the child’s experiences during these years that enable the brain to grow.”

The trust now has a team trained to take this message into the community. They present multi-media resources which explain how children can reach their full potential.

Working with groups such as Plunket, Barnardos, the Police, Cyfs and educational institutions, they spread information about the importance of the first three years.

Trustees and staff include doctors, teachers, academic and business professionals who volunteer their time to spread the message about amazing new findings in brain research. That research emphasises the importance of early experiences on infant brain development.

“In particular, it is relationally-rich experience which provides children with the ‘brain-food’ they need to grow into happy, secure and well-functioning adults,” Robin says. “Poor experiences during this time can have lasting negative effects on a child’s brain...and who they become.”

Brainwave also provides mothers of newborn babies with a Cuddlewrap which has, in

four languages, four key messages:

*I love it when you cuddle me*

*I love it when you talk to me*

*I love it when you sing to me*

*I love it when you smile at me*

*Do you know you’re building my brain when you do this?*

The pack includes a booklet explaining how a baby’s brain develops and what parents can do to stimulate growth. Robin says the wrap is often the only thing a new mother has to take her baby home in.

■ [www.brainwave.org.nz](http://www.brainwave.org.nz)

■ In September 2006 ASBCT granted the Brainwave Trust \$65,085 for operating support and training.



# Peggy proves she's all ears

Angus McDonald reaches over and bangs another pin into his map. “That’s 51,” he says proudly. Fifty one hearing dogs at work throughout the country.

Angus is the Auckland-based Recipient Support Manager for Hearing Dogs for Deaf People. Together with his dog Peggy, he runs public demonstrations of hearing dogs at work and he helps new owners get the maximum benefit from their new companions.

“So what do hearing dogs do?” I ask him. “I know about guide dogs helping the blind, but how do hearing dogs help the deaf?”

Angus laughs as he explains that the first mistake many people make is thinking that dogs for deaf people are deaf dogs. In fact, they’re the ever-alert ears of their owners, on duty 24-hours a day.

“My dog Peggy, she’s my alarm clock,” he says. “Six o’clock every morning she wakes me up and I take her for a run.”

So what else does Peggy do?

“If I’m expecting a visitor, she hears the door bell and comes to alert me by putting her paw on my leg. I don’t know what she’s heard – she could be telling me about the microwave, the oven, or I’ve left the fridge door open. I say ‘where?, where?’ and she leads me.”

Angus tells me about a family of four, all profoundly deaf, who now have a hearing dog. If the doorbell goes, or the dog hears the baby crying, it goes to the nearest person and alerts them.

“Even if the kids are fighting upstairs, she will find one of the parents and lead them to the trouble.”

For the most dangerous of situations – a fire – the dogs are trained to react in a specific way.

“If the fire alarm goes off, the dog comes up and alerts the owner,” says Angus. “But when you say ‘where?’ the dog lies down. That’s your warning to get out of the house,

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/Angus McDonald with his hearing dog, Peggy.

because you don’t want the dog leading you into a fire!”

Angus, who is himself profoundly deaf when he doesn’t have his cochlear implant activated, conducts the initial interview when a request comes in for a hearing dog. He finds out why the applicant wants a dog, assesses whether the house and neighbourhood is suitable and that the new owner is ready for their responsibilities.

If the assessment goes well, basic training of the dog takes six months, including understanding sign language for commands such as come, sit and stay. Then the new owner spends a week in the training centre, bonding with their new companion.

After the dog goes home with its new

*“Even if the kids are fighting upstairs, she will find one of the parents and lead them to the trouble.”*

– Angus McDonald

owner, Angus keeps in contact and regular visits make sure the training is complete. After a year, most new teams are operating independently.

“Most of our dogs come from the SPCA, but provided they are good with people and good with sounds, we can train them,” he says. “Most people want small dogs. A lot of our clients are older women living on their own. They live in a small house, so they want a small dog. And the dogs are also a companion, a friend, so it’s important that the dogs are good with people to begin with.”

Hearing Dogs for Deaf People now has seven volunteers working in Auckland. Fifteen dogs have been placed with deaf people in Auckland and Northland, 36 elsewhere in the country and 9 are in training. The organisation is funded by grants, donations, its own fundraising and merchandise sales.

– Russell Joyce

■ [www.hearingdogs.org.nz](http://www.hearingdogs.org.nz)

■ This year ASBCT granted Hearing Dogs for Deaf People \$35,640 to train three dogs for people in Auckland and Northland.

## Gymnasts jump for joy

When US forces left behind their Auckland training gym after WWII, few would have expected it to still be in use 60 years later.

But this year the venerable building, in Mt Roskill's Keith Hay Park, made way for a new regional gymnastics facility which now houses the Tri Star Gymnastics club, the Vortex Aerobics club and the Extreme Trampoline club.

Tri Star Chairperson Grant Price says the Auckland Regional Gymsport Centre, officially opened in September, is now the regional centre for gymnastics and has been chosen as the venue for next year's secondary schools' national champs.

"It gets used all day. We have pre-schoolers and schools in here in the daytime, recreation and competitive training after school, right up to about 9pm at night, and holiday programmes during the breaks.

"On Thursday night break dancers, retired gymnasts – some in their 70's – stunt people, dancers and the like, cross train and have fun together. It is a place for all gymsport recreation."

Grant says that having other clubs using the facility has proved complimentary, with elite members of the trampoline team learning from the gymnasts and vice-versa.

"We're finding that the community is

building as people train together."

Gymnastics has been recognised by SPARC, the national sport promotion body, as a foundation sport where children learn balance, flexibility and strength – skills essential to sport they might move on to later in life, such as the karate club which also shares facilities in the building.

The centre allows up to 50 gymnasts to be active at once and the gymnastics club is growing rapidly from its current 800 members.

"When we were building the numbers did drop, but we've been able to access the new building since early June," Grant says. "We're now finding that people are willing to travel from all over Auckland to train here because we've got such good facilities."

■ [www.tristar.org.nz](http://www.tristar.org.nz)

■ In 2004 ASBCT granted Tri Star Gymnastics \$1.35m to help build the new regional facility.



/Tri Star Gymnastics club members hone their skills.

**"People are willing to travel from all over Auckland to train here because we've got such good facilities."**

– Grant Price

## Young yachties clean up

THE TRUST'S grassroots sports funding paid big dividends this year, with young yachties cleaning up at the Optimist world champs.

Since the Trust started grant-making almost 20 years ago, regular small grants have been helping yacht clubs put training boats on the water throughout the region.

This year that long-term support was repaid on the international stage when Chris Steele won the world Optimist champs, Alexandra Maloney was third overall and the top girl racer, while Optimist national champion Logan Dunning-Beck took ninth place.

All three teenagers are from Auckland yacht clubs.

The August competition, raced in Sardinia, Italy, drew 250 competitors from 60 countries.

But just to get there the kiwi team had to fight through 400 New Zealand contenders who wanted a place in the team.

"The Optimist class is one of the most keenly contested in the world," says Yachting New Zealand CEO Des Brennan, "and these are the best results New Zealand has ever had – top in individual, girls and team aggregate."

## A rich source of resources

*Continuing the series of articles highlighting useful resources, this month we look at DonateNZ.*

COMMUNITY groups are tapping into thousands of dollars worth of free goods through the DonateNZ website.

By monitoring donations being offered, or even listing the kinds of goods they need, not-for-profits are finding resources such as art supplies, clothing, electronic equipment, toys and stationery.

The site links up individuals or organisations that have surplus goods they want to give away with recipient groups such as schools, play centres, and social service organisations.

Launched last year by Aucklander Claire Sawyer, DonateNZ allows good causes to register on the site and, after paying a \$100+GST annual fee that covers the site's operating costs, they can monitor a stream of available resources.

It works in a similar way to other exchange-based websites, with two main sections: offers, where donors list goods they wish to give away, and needs, where recipients list goods they want.

"Matching what people need and what other people don't need is about recycling and reusing, minimising waste and saving money," Claire says. "It's a step toward a more sustainable New Zealand and it's amazing what people need that would otherwise end up at the dump."

Claire gives an example of a Papakura print company which chose to donate excess stationery on the website instead of sending it to the dump or selling it off cheaply.

"Within minutes of the products being put on the site the donations were being accepted left, right and centre," she says. "I've never seen any item accepted so fast."

■ Find out more at [www.donatenz.com](http://www.donatenz.com)

**DonateNZ**  
A great way to give and receive



# Arts entrepreneurs source of pride

A group of talented arts entrepreneurs, all from Manukau, are working to turn their creative business ideas into reality.

ART source, a new development programme aimed at Manukau City's creative people, has selected five participants for the inaugural programme in 2007:

- Claire Cowan (Howick): music composer
- Leilani Kake (Otara): multi-media artist, video and film-maker
- Terry Koloamatangi Klavenes (Manurewa): visual artist, graphic designer
- Vela Manusaute (Manurewa): actor, comedian, writer, theatre and music producer
- Carol Stainton (Wiri): fashion designer

Between now and March next year, ART source is providing them with an individualised programme of development, including mentoring, networking and support, business skills and strategy development.

Vela Manusaute (writer, actor and producer of *Once were Samoans* and *Kila Kokonut Krew's KTV series*) is looking forward to setting up a dedicated screen production house that will take Manukau to the world through film and TV productions. "Here we're full of rich stories," he says.

Even though Vela's already producing sell-out theatre shows and successful music releases, he sees value in being selected.

"It's fantastic to be enterprising with art,

it's great. I'm able to start making a living out of something I love doing. Being part of the ART source programme is fantastic; to use all the resources Manukau has to offer. It's another step up to getting to what I want to do.

"We need to get money from our art so we can live. It's still a long journey away but the striving to succeed is huge," says Vela.

Developed by the Arts Regional Trust: Te Taumata Toi-a-Iwi (ART) in partnership with Manukau City Council, ART source is a unique programme focusing on the emerging growth of the arts and creative industries in Manukau city.

"The five individuals selected for 2007 are already inspiring in what they've achieved so far. They represent a range of backgrounds and creative areas – ranging from classical co-

position to multi-media art to comedy," says Candy Elsmore, ART project director.

"In the selection process, they have demonstrated a passion for their work as artists and a need to back up their talent with

practical business skills and planning support," she adds.

ART source will be offered again in mid 2008 to a new round of participants.

ART source's sister programme, ART venture is also well underway.

The programme, which targets experienced creative producers who are well advanced with their initiatives, began in March 2007. Recently

applications were called for participation in the innovative programme for 2008. Over 30 applications were received from creative people throughout the Auckland region and the selection process is now taking place.

■ For more information about both the ART source and ART venture programmes, visit [www.artsregionaltrust.org.nz](http://www.artsregionaltrust.org.nz)

■ Earlier this year ASBCT granted the Arts Regional Trust \$165,000 toward ART Source and ART Venture project costs.



Vela Manusaute

*"I'm able to start making a living out of something I love doing."*

– Vela Manusaute

## Applying for a grant? Here's how

**Our mission: to enhance the lives of everyone in our region by wisely allocating, equitably sharing and responsibly managing the resources that we hold in trust for present and future generations.**

### Environment and Heritage

To increase the quality of life of current and future generations in this region, the Trust supports projects that preserve heritage and protect the environment.

### Sport and Recreation

Projects that encourage participation in sport and recreation are our focus, particularly the participation of the young, the old and promotion of health and fitness.

### Education

Our focus is on innovative projects and programmes that are generally not eligible for government funding. We will, however,

work in partnership on projects that meet our criteria.

### Health and Social Service

We want to address social issues, improve equity and reduce poverty, making communities better places to live, particularly by supporting women and families, children and young people, older people and those who experience disability.

### Arts and Culture

We support projects that aim to foster access, engagement and experience, together with cultural opportunities for all. We work in partnership to achieve the widest possible level of participation.

### Who can apply?

*Incorporated societies and charitable trusts which have been operating for at least 12 months.*

### How to apply

*Download an application form and funding guideline from our website, [www.ASBCommunityTrust.org.nz](http://www.ASBCommunityTrust.org.nz) or phone 0800 272 878.*

### Economic Development

Working in partnership with local and central government, Maori and Iwi organisations, we want to identify projects which encourage social development and economic growth. As this is a new funding area for us, we are initially working with small pilot projects.

### Closing dates

There are two closing dates a year for all sectors. See our website for details.