



# TRUSTLINE



*The town that refused to die*

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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 final edition of TrustLine for 2006

IN THIS issue we focus on communities where people have rallied to work together, taking control of their own situations and finding local solutions to local issues.

It's easy for us, when we talk about philanthropy and its role in the community, to focus on the 'big ticket' grants. But in the area that ASB Community Trust serves there are thousands of communities where there are dozens of groups, made up of hundreds of volunteers and staff who are passionate about making their community a better place to live. They are quietly and determinedly setting about making things happen.

One of the joys and unique privileges of being a staff member or a trustee of a grant making Trust is that communities share their dreams and aspirations with us.

One example is when a group of us recently met the local people at the Moerewa Rugby Club, where ASB Community Trust assisted with the costs of renovating the club house.

Each of the members talked to us about the significance of this project to the town. Not only had the women's team won the Northland women's rugby championship, but the community now had access to a weatherproof, accessible, community facility.

Moerewa's Ngahau Davis, who helped establish He Iwi Kotahi Tatou Trust, has talked about his vision of "turning a town around".

That is where ASB Community Trust can play a role – identifying communities where people are hurting, but where there are passionate and committed community leaders who are working for change, working with young peo-



/ ASB Community Trust CEO Jennifer Gill

ple, working on community enterprise, working to harness the creativity and energy that lies within every community.

Our challenge at ASB Community Trust is to spend our funds as wisely and fairly as we can, while acknowledging that we cannot meet all of the needs of all of our communities.

As Aristotle said many years ago: "Anyone can give money away or spend it, but to do all this to the right person, to the right extent, at the right time for the right reason and in the right way, is no longer something easy that anyone can do. It is for this reason that good conduct (in such matters) is rare, praiseworthy and noble."

## Grass-roots priorities at rugby club

WHEN new residents arrive to fill the latest Takanini housing developments they'll find a flourishing rugby club ready to welcome them.

The area is one of Auckland's housing growth hot-spots and the Ministry of Education expects about 5000 students to be living there by 2020.

Down at Papakura's Bruce Pulman Park, Ardmore Marist Rugby and Sports Club already has over 450 young players in 24 junior teams and it is about to increase its available playing fields from five to eight.

Junior club president Robert Burton says Ardmore Marist is leading Counties-Manukau rugby in showing steady growth in player numbers.

"The bottom of our player pyramid is very broad now," he says. "We're getting a lot of

growth in five, six and seven-year-old player numbers - and they are staying."

The club has five senior teams and there are no gaps in the age groups.

Robert says the club puts strong emphasis on being friendly and family-oriented.

Fees are kept low - \$45 a player, or \$75 for a family - and the focus is kept on local rugby rather than expensive overseas trips.

Strong management and good coaching are the other keys to Ardmore Marist's success.

"If you've got a good coach and manager, you've got a good team," Robert says.



/ Player numbers continue to grow at the Ardmore Marist club.

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

■ This year ASB Community Trust has granted the club \$25,437 to help pay for junior uniforms and equipment.

## More challenges ahead: Trust prepares for 2007

THE Trust's offices will close for the Christmas break on December 22 this year.

Office hours resume on January 15, with the Board of Trustees to hold their first meeting in February, 2007.

Exciting challenges will continue for the Trust next year, with staff working to build closer relationships with partner organisations and better understand the communities we are working with.

Staff numbers will grow, with the Trust planning to advertise for specialist grants advisers in the Maori and Pasifika sectors.

These new staff will help us target assistance where it is needed most and their efforts will compliment work we have commissioned to analyse needs in all the sectors in which we work.

Later in the year we will hold our annual public meetings in Auckland and Northland.

Building on this year's success, we will use the meetings to not only report on the Trust's annual results, but to showcase the work of those in the not-for-profit sector working to make our region a better place to live.

The Auckland meeting will be held on August 27 and the Trust will be in Northland on September 23.

# Applications for major capital grants top \$45m

APPLICATIONS totaling \$45 million have been received for the Trust's annual major capital projects funding round.

By the October 15 closing date the Trust had received 16 applications for the \$10 million set aside for major projects this financial year. Although client confidentiality means the Trust cannot name the applicants, applications from throughout the Auckland and Northland regions range from just under \$1 million to more than \$17 million.

The system was introduced for the first time this year, but will now become an annual process, so similar major grant applications can be compared, assessed and decided on.

The funding round is aimed at big regional projects, such as facilities in the sport, recreation, arts and culture sectors where applicants are requesting around \$1m or more.

These will usually be projects that have already received significant financial support from other sources, with at

least 65% of funds already secured. This year's applications will be measured against yardsticks including: how much community support the applicants have demonstrated; what impact and positive outcomes are expected; sustainability; ability to access other funds and value for money.

Some of these applications will go on to stage two, when applicants will be asked for more information on the project's feasibility and sustainability. This will be reviewed by professional external assessors, who will report to the Trustees in late February.

A final decision on grants will be made at the Trust's March board meeting and applicants will be informed in early April.

Applications for 2008 can be lodged with the Trust from September 1 2007, although we welcome letters of intent at any time.

**A final decision on major capital grants will be made at the Trust's March board meeting.**

## Businesses help scholarships grow

GROWING support from the business community has allowed First Foundation to increase the number of tertiary scholarships it offers students from low-decile schools.

At a grand ceremony held at Auckland's Sky City in November, the Foundation announced that 32 scholarships will run in 2007 – up from 21 in 2006.

Each student is matched with a corporate sponsor for the next four years, with the sponsor helping pay university fees and providing paid holiday work. The Foundation gives each student a personal mentor, coaching through their last year at school in preparation for university and it administers savings schemes.

First Foundation general manager Nicki McDonald says the aim is to help academically gifted and financially disadvantaged students achieve their potential in tertiary education.

Those nominated by their schools get an immediate boost to their self-confidence and the realisation that their dream could become a reality.

"The nomination gives them the confidence to go on," she says, "it gives them the self-



*/Nineteen Auckland students gained 2006 scholarships. Scholarships were also awarded in Wellington and Christchurch.*

belief to work toward their dreams."

ASB Community Trust has recently granted the Foundation \$114,000 to help in its drive to increase corporate sponsors – who are critical to the programme's success. Even though the number of scholarships has increased from three in 1998 to 32 in 2007, many students are turned away simply because not enough sponsors can be found.

Ms McDonald says sponsors, which range

from small organisations to some of our biggest corporations, see the scholarships as a way to "help the community in a meaningful way".

"But some are surprised at the pay-back they get," she says, "talking of how inspirational it has been to see students developing into fine young people committed to sharing their success."

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

# Early graduation for HIPPY kids

GRADUATION day comes early in South Kaipara – this month a group of five and six-year-olds pulled on their capping gowns.

The ceremony marked the end of a two-year programme with HIPPY – the Home Interaction Programme for Parents and Youngsters – that has given them a head start for school and learning.

The programme supports parents as they become actively involved in their child's learning. Parents and children work together with storybooks, puzzles and learning games that help children become successful learners.

"The programme builds on the bond between parents and children," says South Kaipara HIPPY Coordinator Bernie Malizia. "HIPPY believes parents play a critical role in their children's education, so it offers support that builds upon parental strengths, so parents can provide their children with necessary skills and confidence to begin school with a positive attitude toward learning."

South Kaipara parent Ruth Young says it has given her confidence as her child's first teacher.

"It's the one place each day where my child and I are one-on-one, connected, engaged and feel a sense of purpose. It certainly is helping both my child and I grow personally."

The programme runs at 21 sites throughout New Zealand and Manurewa primary teacher Robyn Burgess agrees it gives children a head start. "There's just something about HIPPY



*/ Some of HIPPY's first South Kaipara graduates celebrate their success.*

children. They've got the foundations for learning. They've got a lot of skills," she says. "Sometimes it is not always obvious or measurable, but it shows in how they approach things. And the programme follows what we do at school – they can do things like sequencing. It gives them a really good start."

And it's not just the children who benefit.

"What HIPPY does for the parents is awesome," says Robyn. "They gain confidence and learn skills. Parenting skills are learnt as a consequence of the programme. They become aware of how kids learn and how to support them."

[www.greatpotentials.org.nz/hippy.html](http://www.greatpotentials.org.nz/hippy.html)

■ In August, ASB Community Trust granted HIPPY South Kaipara \$27,216 towards running costs.

## Reaching out to South Auckland

IMPROVING parenting skills among South Auckland residents is a priority issue for Pasefika Mana Social Work Support Service.

The not-for-profit group works with some of New Zealand's most at-risk families, helping the Pacific Island community develop stronger relationship skills.

CEO Maria Levi says her social workers give parents better tools for discipline, as well as general directions and guidance for parenting.

"The main thing we're seeing is family stress," she says. "When there are two parents out working, just trying to make ends meet, there is not enough time for the children, no rules and poor parenting skills."

Pasefika Mana's Life Skills Programme, La'u Puletasi, focuses on the needs of Pasefika women and families. The service provides parents with a three-month programme which includes counselling and dealing with crisis issues, including sexual abuse.

■ This year ASB Community Trust granted the group \$30,000 toward running costs.

## A streamlined skate system

A STREAMLINED governance system is part of the secret behind strong growth in Auckland's ice hockey scene, says the Auckland Ice Hockey Association.

Marketing director Bernie Gouldstone says that after 20 years in operation, the Auckland clubs voted three years ago to amalgamate.

"The big advantage with this structure is the elimination of duplication of effort, with only one board of directors, rather than each club having their own administration," he says. "That means all our efforts can be channeled into growing and improving the sport."

"It has reduced the cost of administration and made the leagues more competitive, with a draft system for selecting players for teams, which has resulted in more even competition and a higher quality of games."

This year the Association had 200 junior

players – up 26 on last year – from six to 18-year-olds.

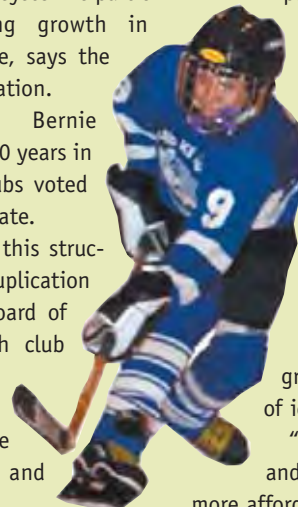
Each team has a minimum of an hour's training on the ice each week, plus an hour-long game and extra training for elite players in representative sides.

"This year we were also able to run special goalie clinics to improve the skills of our goalies for all junior grades," Bernie says.

A \$20,000 ASB Community Trust grant this year subsidised the cost of ice time for junior players.

"This means all players benefit and, by making participation a little more affordable, we are able to attract more players," Bernie says. "For the players who earn a place in an Auckland or National rep team, reducing the cost means the best players can be selected, rather than those who can afford it."

[www.aiha.org.nz](http://www.aiha.org.nz)



## SeniorNet - spreading the IT message

THE demand for computer know-how has seen many of Auckland's SeniorNet learning centres lowering their membership age to 50.

Ann Candler, Secretary of SeniorNet Glenfield Inc, says the centres have traditionally taught computer skills to those 55-plus, but found younger users were also challenged by the fast pace of technology.

"We have women who want to get back into the workforce after their families have grown up. For others, their children have left home, moved out of town and say 'send us an email if you want to keep in touch'.

"Many older people may feel they're being left behind by technology and the computer age," she says, "but SeniorNet brings older adults and computers together in a friendly, fun and stress-free way."

There are now more than 100 centres throughout the country. SeniorNet Glenfield has 200 members who begin with classes that introduce them to computers and move on to Internet use, maintenance, security and XP tips and tricks. Once they pay a \$35 annual membership fee, classes cost \$2.50 an hour and a manual costs \$5. There is no charge for repeat courses.

"SeniorNet is intended for older adults who want to know how to use a computer and join



/ Glenfield SeniorNet Chairman Alan Efford, tutor Jill Te Kauru and committee member Annette Efford get to grips with XP.

the technological world," she says. "Classes are friendly, student numbers are kept small and the tutor is always the same age as the students."

SeniorNet Glenfield is now teaching on the latest computers, running Windows XP, so participants can apply what they learn to their own machines at home.

As well, invited speakers join monthly meetings to introduce new ideas that are of interest to older adults.

**www.seniornet.co.nz or ph 0800 736467**

■ In August, ASB Community Trust granted SeniorNet Glenfield \$25,539 for new equipment.

## City dominates 2006 songwriting awards

AUCKLAND showed its strength by dominating the Play It Strange National Secondary School Songwriting Competition this year.

While Anna Macdonald, from Dunedin's St Hilda's College, was the top individual songwriter, Auckland's Lynfield College took School of the Year title for having four songs in the top 50. In total, students from five Auckland high schools were among the top 10 songwriters.

Run by the Play It Strange Charitable Trust, the awards recognise the incredible talent of New Zealand's young songwriters, says the Trust's CEO, Mike Chunn – himself a former member of Kiwi bands Split Enz and Citizen Band.

"For the first time in our history, we have a popular music industry where local artists singing original songs are outperforming the Anglo-American imports. And this celebration is happening at all levels," he says.

The organisation aims to encourage young performers to develop interests and skills in song writing and musical performance.

It also runs the Songnet website



/ John Pulu (fourth from left at back) and his Otahuhu College musicians. John wrote the 5th placed song "Run Away From My Troubles".

(www.songnet.co.nz), where young songwriters get help in mastering their craft. Students can submit songs for feedback from an expert songwriter, ask questions and chat online with fellow young songwriters.

Once a year the Trust also runs a Band of Strangers concert, where young musicians get the chance to perform with top bands. This year the Auckland Town Hall event included

**"Play it Strange is about young people celebrating life through the music they play and write."**

/ Mike Chunn, Play it Strange

students performing with headline acts Yulia, Steriogram, The Exponents and Deceptikonz.

"Play It Strange is about young people celebrating life through the music they play and write," says Chunn. "The concerts give the student performers the night of their lives. But more than that, it gives us, the audience, a musical experience we will never forget."

**www.playitstrange.co.nz**

■ ASB Community Trust granted Play It Strange Trust \$28,841 towards its running costs this year.

# Kawakawa – the town that refused

Once a bustling service town for the Far North, Kawakawa fell on hard times during the '90s. But a strong community spirit has put the town back on track.

KAWAKAWA is proving to be more than a whistle-stop town for tourists on their way to the Bay of Islands.

Although its main claim to fame in recent years has been the beautiful Hunderwasser toilets, this tough little town that refused to die is brim-full of ideas to transform itself into a tourism gem.

The vintage train will be running again this summer and the Far North's only heated swimming pool is to reopen before Christmas. Meanwhile, the area's young people are preparing to move in to the Nu Flo Youth Centre's extension, where hip hop and kapahaka groups will mix with martial arts clubs and students will learn traditional and modern carving techniques.

It's a far cry from the mid-1990's when Kawakawa seemed to be in close-down mode. In quick succession four banks pulled out, the dairy factory closed, while the freezing works and hospital were radically downsized. The district council moved its base to Kaikohe and corporations such as Telecom closed their local operations.

Kawakawa Community Trust Manager Margaret Wikaire says the town started to die.

"It was depressing. Shops were closed, closed, closed," she says.

In 1998 the last bank closed – and the town took action. The Community Trust was formed to promote economic, social and environmental



/ Kawakawa will live up to its 'Train Town' slogan again this summer.

development. The townspeople believed that Kawakawa could become a tourist destination in itself, rather than a stop-off on the way to the Bay of Islands.

This year a new art co-operative opened a shop on the main street, footpaths have been designed using Hunderwasser-style pavers, a website is being developed and a recent wearable art competition really brought the community together, Margaret says.

"In the last few months we've turned a corner," she says.

"People are starting to feel the difference that's been made."

The vintage railway will be part of this year's Christmas parade again, after being out of action since 2000, and train rides will again be offered this summer. Over at the station, work is to begin on a new 50m-long maintenance shed, where old carriages can be refurbished.

Bay of Islands Vintage Railway Trust Operations Manager Mike Bradshaw is overseeing the restoration of *Gabriel*, the 1927 steam engine, so the pride of the line can again take passengers from Kawakawa to Opuia. Mike is optimistic that *Gabriel* will be running again by the middle of 2007, making the train ride a focal point for Northland's tourists.

He says Northland Polytechnic is also interested in using the carriage restoration project as hands-on experience for students, who can learn everything from coachbuilding to painting and cabinetmaking, while they help put the vintage train line back on track.

"In the last few months we've turned a corner. People are starting to feel the difference that's been made."

/ Margaret Wikaire, Kawakawa Community Trust



/ Kawakawa Community Trust manager Margaret Wikaire, left, with youth workers Rachel Henare and Phillip Bristow.

# to die – now has a full head of steam

The nearby Nu Flo Youth Centre is another Kawakawa success story. Co-ordinator Phillip Bristow has seen a disused double-story supermarket building transformed into a second home for the area's young people.

Driven by ideas generated by the centre's youth committee, it will eventually have sound mixing facilities, an entertainment system to show movies, a commercial kitchen and a huge open space for dance practice and competitions.

Hip hop and kapahaka are big in the town, says Phillip, but he expects a recent influx of Pacific Islanders to add the richness of their cultures to the mix.

Margaret says the town has enjoyed strong growth recently, with new arrivals finding prices too high in nearby Kerekeri and Opuia. At Kawakawa they have affordable housing, but are still a short drive from the beach.

"It's great for Kawakawa because now there's a demand for housing and new blood in the town," she says.

Of course all this has not been achieved in isolation. Kawakawa may have more than its fair share of visionaries and workers, but it still needed money to make it happen. That support has come not only from the Far North District Council, but from the Lotteries Commission, Te Puna Kokiri, gaming foundations and the Ministry of Social Development.

ASB Community Trust has been involved too, putting \$221,000 into the pool project, \$450,000 into the youth centre development and \$176,000 into building the railway maintenance shed.

Knowing this funding is a hand up, not a hand-out, Kawakawa Community Trust is looking for ways to generate its own revenue.

It has set up a business providing labour to seasonal employers, with five vans taking people to agricultural jobs including oyster farms, fruit and vegetable planting and harvesting. Margaret says the Trust has had a total of 350 people on its books, mostly long-term unemployed, and most of them have gone on to full-time jobs.

At the youth centre, sports teams are expected to line up and pay for uniform cleaning in its commercial laundry, while its licensed commercial kitchen will be available for private and community event hire.

Over at the college, the swimming pool will be part of a facility that includes a weights room and squash courts. Community members pay an annual membership fee and then get 24-hour access with a swipe card.

Once the fiberglass coating is complete, Bay of Islands College Principal Bruce Devine says it will once again be the focal-point of swimming competitions in the Far North.



/ Vintage Railway Operations Manager Mike Bradshaw is overseeing the restoration of Gabriel.

The pool was a regular base for swim teams from throughout the bay until the 17-year-old heating equipment finally proved too costly to maintain. When it reopens, the pool will have efficient heat-pumps and an automatic cover to conserve heat.

Not that heat seems a problem in a town with ideas to burn and a vision for the future that's helping it to steam ahead.

**Once the fiberglass coating is complete, Northland's only indoor heated swimming pool will once again be the focal point of competitions throughout the Far North region**



/ The pool will be open in time for summer swimmers.

## Weed-war battlers make *problem part of the solution*

WILD Ginger, Tradescantia, Convolvulus – words to make any gardener shudder. But what if the problem could be part of the solution?

The Weedfree Waitakere Trust is trialling a scheme that could turn problem weeds into rich compost instead of landfill waste.

Community Projects Co-ordinator Neil Henderson says “Many tough weeds removed from gardens can’t be composted in the usual way because they survive the process and live to reinfest new ground. Instead, they have to be buried like nuclear waste deep in landfills along with household rubbish.”

The Weedfree Waitakere Trust’s latest brain-child is a giant bag made of light-proof weed matting that can be stuffed full of weeds which are then left to rot. The process might take a year or more, but in the end eco-battlers are left with rich compost that can be used to feed the saplings they’ve planted to replace the weeds.

“The beauty of it is that people can drag something like Tradescantia (Wandering willy), a plant that doesn’t set seed, down a steep hillside, stuff it in our black bag and leave it there. They don’t have to haul it long distances to bins or trailers, which only encourages it to spread further because every segment that breaks off can regenerate.”

Neil is always looking for novel approaches to the weed problem and he says creative land owners are always coming up with promising alternatives to the traditional spray and slash approach. One Waitakere resident has developed a technique that can kill the notoriously tough Wild Ginger’s root system in a month. The roots are crammed into a large barrel, covered with water and then concentrated natural enzymes and microorganisms are added.



/ Students from Henderson Valley Primary School show just how much the giant weed bags can hold.

“It’s a bit like making sour dough bread, taking a few scoops from the rotting mixture and transferring it to the fresh barrel. After a month, you can tip them out and let them rot. They won’t grow back. It certainly saves a trip to the dump”

The Trust also works with school groups throughout the Waitakere City area, educating students about problem weeds and how to eradicate them. Although it is an independent charitable trust, the Weedfree Waitakere Trust works closely with the Local and Regional Councils, helping landowners develop management plans to win the weed war.

“You’ve got to start small, but do it well,” Neil says. “Whatever you start, it’s got to be sustainable, otherwise you’ll get rapid reinfes-

**“Many tough weeds removed from gardens can’t be composted in the usual way because they survive the process and live to reinfest new ground.”**

/ Neil Henderson, Weed Free Waitakere Trust

tation and this can be expensive and discouraging.”

In an area rich in natural vegetation, he also advises landowners to work with the land. “It’s important to let the bush be bush; otherwise you’ve always got to put in a huge effort.”

**www.weedfree.org.nz or phone 826 4276.**

■ This year ASB Community Trust granted Weedfree Waitakere Trust \$30,000 towards its operating costs.

## 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

### 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.

partnership to achieve the widest possible level of participation.

### 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 only supporting pilot projects in Northland.