



THE SUPPORTED
LIFE STYLE
HAURAKI TRUST

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

29 AMAZING
YEARS



To enable our Whānau to live the lives of their choice





CONTENTS

WHO WE ARE	A YEAR AT A GLANCE	OVERVIEW	COMMUNITY SPACES
Legacy	5 Operational Snapshot	Where the Money Came From	8 Artsider 10
Our Approach	6 Life Stylers in Service	7 Where the Money Went	8 Originalworx 10
Our Purpose	6 Support Hours	7	EquiLibrium 10
Values	6 Life Stylers Active in the Community	7	Cafe 11
	Celebration Meetings	7	Music 11
	Staff Achievements	7	Farm 11
	Number of Staff	7	
	Events Delivered	7	
	Staff Training	7	
SNAPSHOT OF SUCCESS	CELEBRATIONS	A WORD FROM OUR LEADERS	LOOKING FORWARD
Staff Stories	13 Events	22 Acting Chairperson Report	25 Key Developments 29
Life Styler Stories	16	CE Report	26 Business Associations 30
Family Stories	19	Board Members	27

LEGACY

1994 - 2024

The Supported Life Style Hauraki Trust was started in 1994 by Peter Rutherford and Murray Lynds.

Peter had been working in the psychopedic institutes of both NZ and Australia and felt strongly that there had to be a better way of providing services to people with different abilities. Murray's background was in management.

Thames was considered an ideal location, at that time, as a town that had the right kind of scale and plenty of available property. Creating social cohesion is part of the suite of values which have always been an important 'lens' that helps inform the way the Trust operates.

The Trust Deed has two clear objectives:

- a) The provision of quality support services for people with impairments and/or people who are disadvantaged; and
- b) The promotion and maintenance of the personal and cultural identity of those persons and to assist them to achieve maximum physical, psychological and spiritual wellbeing.

In its early days, the Trust concentrated on working with men with challenging behaviours. Peter and Murray recognised early on that often these so-called challenging behaviours were an attempt at communication. Learning to understand what the person was asking for or communicating and then offering real choices was the underpinning of the Trust philosophy from the beginning. The Trust expanded its previously all male population with the first woman moving into the Trust in 2004. From relatively small beginnings the Trust now provides services to around 89 people who are being supported in a range of ways.



OUR APPROACH

Rights based approach:

We support our whanau to participate to the fullest extent possible in the decisions that impact them; to be empowered to live lives of their choice and to do so in an environment that is non-discriminatory; promotes individual responsibility; provides dignity of risk; and supports equality.

Collaborative and flexible services:

We recognise that every person is unique and to preserve individual identity we have a creative, tailored and non-hierarchical approach to service delivery. We value solutions from our whanau and we're also outward looking, constantly drawing on external expertise to improve and enhance our services.

Life style plan model:

We encourage interdependence and co-creation of lifestyle plans. We support self-advocacy and provide independent advocacy support if required.

Lifelong support:

We provide support akin to that of family, building trust and a sense of belonging within our whanau. We offer lifelong support, including end of life services. We never give up on our people.

OUR PURPOSE

Is to enable our whanau to live lives of their choice.

The Supported Life Style Hauraki Trust is based in Thames and has been operating since 1994.

The purpose of the Trust is to provide quality support to people with mixed abilities and those who are rehabilitating from traumatic brain injuries. One of our key objectives is encouraging quality relationships and interactions with the wider community and helping people reach their goals.

Based in Thames, the Trust provides a variety of services supporting people with a broad variety of disabilities. The majority of support provided is residential, with 80 out of the 88 people we support receiving full residential support. The Trust also provides vocational services at different locations around the Hauraki Area.

We have a staff of 138. Most of these are full time staff. We also have a small but steadily growing core of volunteers many of these are young people from the Thames community who are exploring a career in supporting people.

VALUES

Our work is guided by our Values.

RESPECT



Recognition of the feelings, wishes and rights of others

INTEGRITY



The quality of being honest and fair

COURAGE



To be brave and confident enough to do what you believe to be right

INCLUSIVENESS



Creating the opportunity for everyone to feel that they are valued and that they belong

THE YEAR AT A GLANCE

LIFE STYLERS IN SERVICE



2023 - 88 / 2022 - 92

SUPPORT HOURS



2023
166,586 Direct support hours delivered

LIFE STYLERS ACTIVE IN THE COMMUNITY



2023 - 100% engagement with the local community

CELEBRATION MEETINGS



2023
33 Celebration Meetings

STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS



2023 - 45% of staff achieved at least Level 2 in Career Force or above.

NUMBER OF STAFF



2023 - 138 / 2022 - 132

EVENTS DELIVERED



2023
19 events. / 2022 - 16 events

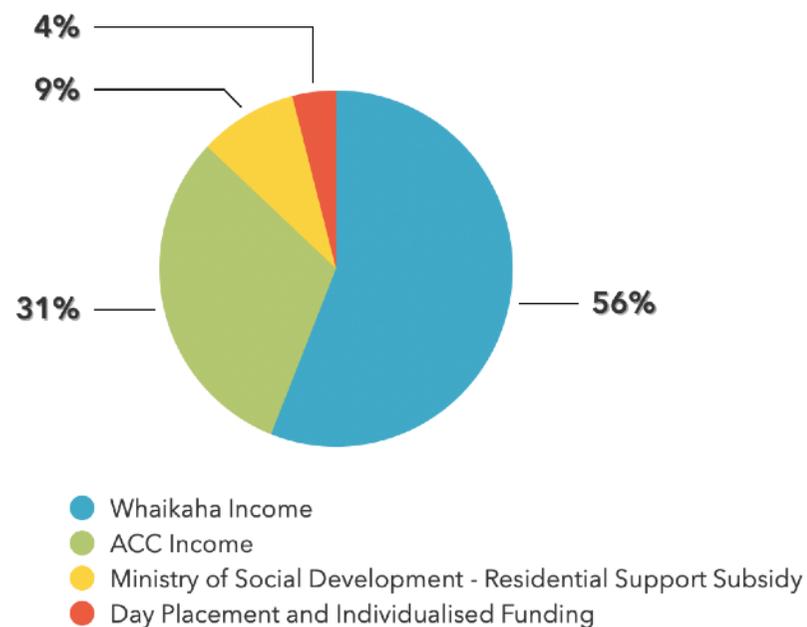
STAFF TRAINING



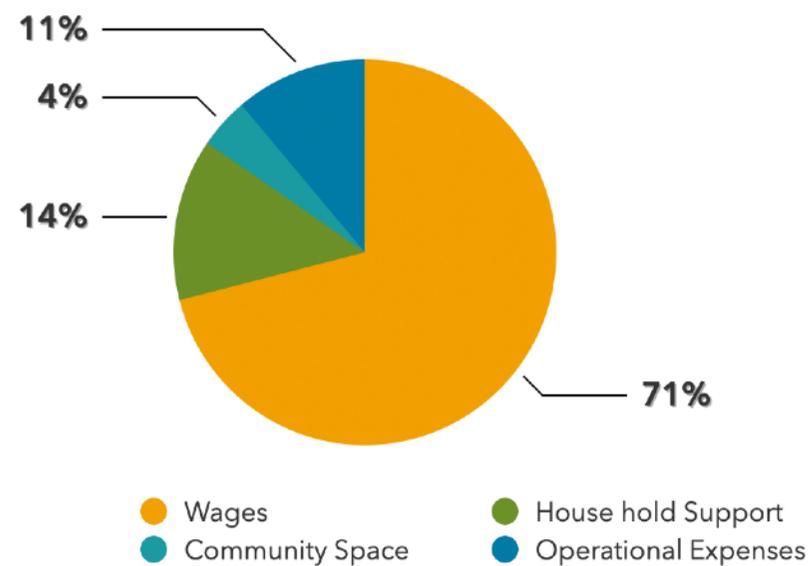
2023 - 6,048 staff training hours

OVERVIEW

WHERE THE MONEY CAME FROM



WHERE THE MONEY WENT





COMMUNITY SPACES

COMMUNITY SPACES



IN 2023

IN 2023

ARTSIDER

At ArtSider's we redefine creativity, making it not just an enjoyable activity but also a tool for self-discovery and self-expression. We are leaders in the field of arts and disabilities, establishing a model for a creative community guided by the principle that art/creativity/making and creating is fundamental to human expression and that all people are entitled to its tools of communication.



IN 2023

IN 2023

ORIGINALWORX

The primary purpose of this workshop is to provide support to create individual projects.

On a daily basis our woodwork tutor supports Life Stylers and Community members to turn a piece of wood and a humble screw into a cherished belonging.

Our Tutor is proud to support, direct and teach those who attend the workshop.



IN 2023

IN 2023

EQUILIBRIUM

EquiLibrium is a programme which aims to provide balance through interaction with horses.

The programme aims to support people from within the Trust and in the wider community to explore self reflection and confidence guided by horses.

This year EquiLibrium was greatly affected by flood damage from Cyclone Gabrielle and was unable to support as many people as it normally would.

COMMUNITY SPACES



IN 2023

IN 2023



CAFE

The Trust cafe has now been in operation for 26 years and has seen many revamps over this time.

The Cafe is considered the hub of the organisation and provides a chance to share meals together and enjoy different Theme Nights.



IN 2023

IN 2023



MUSIC

Music at the Trust revolves around education and participation.

Life Stylers have the choice to either engage in individual or group sessions.

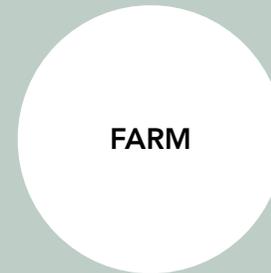
Learning to play instruments ranges from the drum through to the piano.

Every year Life Stylers produce their own original tracks contributing to the annual Christmas CD.



IN 2023

IN 2023



FARM

The Farm has been part of the Trust since its establishment in 1994.

With the purpose of focusing on learning through horticulture, animal husbandry or just a place to be with nature. We have a number of animals: goats, kunekune pigs, sheep, chickens and ducks.

In March 2023 we moved the farm from 139 Wharepoa Road to 3 Wires Road.

THEIR NAME

LIVETH

FOR EVERMORE



SNAPSHOT OF SUCCESS



STAFF STORIES

PAULA STYLES

I've worked in several areas across the Trust and have a lot of fond memories. The highlights would be the Life Stylers, they taught me how to look after them, and when I grasped that, it was amazing!

I was led by the Life Stylers, and it was hard not to love what I did. My love and adoration for the Life Stylers continues to be my driving force. But I've chosen to stick firm to the way I work alongside the Life Stylers. With life, also comes end of life journeys for some of our Life Stylers, the Trust for our Life Stylers is their 'Home for Life'. I felt it was a true gift and blessing to support our Life Stylers through their journey. Although it broke my heart, I learnt to settle into it, it was a heart centred experience.

The Life Stylers felt safe and keeping them comfortable till the end was an integral part of their journey. I learnt to settle into it, when previously I was a lot more feisty with it, I learnt a better way to deal with things and about myself, they taught me this, each journey has been very different but is still very much the same

Through this I was completely honest, transparent and vulnerable and getting the same back was huge. I worked alongside a good team of people, we had open, honest and hard conversations, from which developed beautiful friendships. When I say hard, for me to be able to best support someone through end of life, I need to know the facts, I don't want it sugar coated!



STAFF STORIES

WEPIHA WEBSTER

I moved back to Thames from Australia in early 2021 after spending 13 years over there. Never in a million years did I ever think I had what it takes to be a support worker as I came from a scaffolding and mines background. That was until I got the pleasure of working at the Trust. I started with the Trust in April 2021 working out at the farm. I got to meet the guys out there and absolutely loved it. I worked there for a couple of weeks before getting trained up as a one on one support staff, working there for just under a year and a half. I also did some time working on the night shift. Over that time at the Trust I formed good relationships with all the Life Stylers but due to family reasons I had to change jobs, unfortunately I missed the Life Stylers too much and came back after being away for under 3 months.

When I made my return I easily slotted back in with the Life Stylers which was good as I had really missed them. In this short time I have been with the Trust I'd like to think that I uphold the Trust values to the best of my ability and I can't see myself wanting to do anything else. Seeing our guys with smiles on their faces and living their lives happily definitely keeps me coming back. In this job I have also made some long life friends that have turned into whanau and that is a bonus on top. I know in this job years turn into decades and now I know why.



STAFF STORIES

CATH HERBERT

In 2001 Dennis & I were living in Sydney when we found out that totally unexpectedly & rather scarily, we were about to become parents. Then in 2003, after over 20 years of away from Aotearoa in London & Sydney, we returned to Thames. Skip forward 2 years to 2005 The Supported Life Style Hauraki Trust was looking for an Executive Officer. Didn't really know what an Executive Officer would do – but applied anyway. So that was the start of my long & very rewarding time at the Trust.

When I first started the office was in the shop front in Pollen St & I worked there with Murray Lynds. On 1 December 2005 Murray was down in Christchurch supporting the Thames Valley Special Olympics team when he suffered a fatal heart attack. This was devastating for the Trust as it was Murray who managed the day to day admin of the Trust. He left a huge gap.

Some of the highlights from the last 17 years. The Whanganui River trip, the Taupo Adventure weekend, the 20th Anniversary Celebrations, the day at the Kerepehi Marae, the Health & Disability Expos at Claudelands, the sort of Annual Trust Picnic days at Te Puru School, Fieldays & the Beach Clean. I have really enjoyed supporting the Beach Clean. We were a very committed team and over the years we would have picked up a lot of rubbish. Business House Bowls. We have been entering a team for many years now – generally unsuccessfully although twice we have managed to land a Runner's up Prize of \$75. Not sure how we did it? The Prize Money wisely invested behind the bar. Along with Dragon Boat Racing in Tauranga and Business House Netball Team off & on. But was wise enough to steer clear of the Touch Rugby & Futsal Teams. A good time to mention that the Lawn Bowls Team is the only Trust sport with a 100% injury free record.

I can't state strongly enough what a huge part the Trust has been in my life. I leave with very fond memories & have got to meet some fantastic people.

He waka eke noa *A canoe which we are all in with no exception.*



LIFE STYLER STORIES

SHERYL MASON

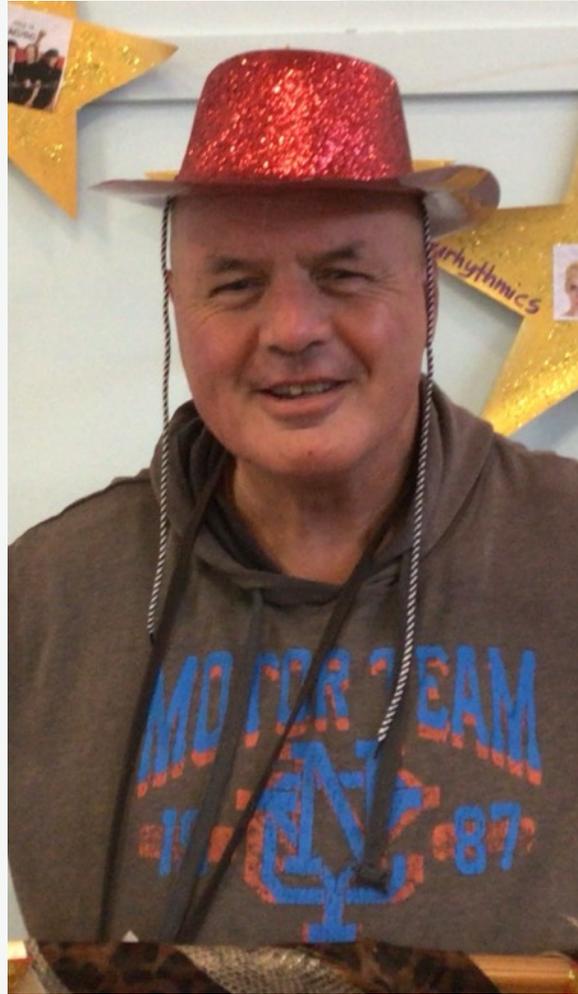
I moved into the Trust in December 2021, to 900 and it was the best move I've done. I like the feeling and have added little touches that are meaningful to me. I enjoy gardening, although I don't have a "green finger" like my mother, but I try. I've collected shells from the beach, painted tiles, used material, bright colours, splashes of paint and art pieces To decorate the raised gardens and make this area a place for me to sit, relax and enjoy the ambience.

I have 4 children who come and visit, they are understanding of me as I am of them. I do love being a mother. My Mum lives in Thames and I have close friends around me, we visit or catch up often.

I have a great fondness for animals having had my own "McDonald Farm" with lots of different animals. When I was 2, I had a fatal accident and later on in life I suffered a stroke and brain aneurysm which resulted in me being in a wheelchair.

I was previously placed in a Rest Home, this wasn't my choice until I came to the Trust.

I have made 900 my home, am very happy and thankful to the staff.



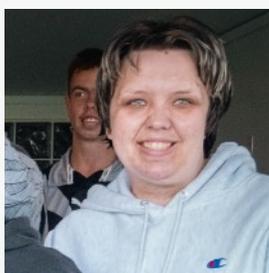
LIFE STYLER STORIES

SIMON ASHBY

I have been with the Trust since 2010. I consider the Life Stylers my friends, some of which I've lived with for a long time. My whanau is from Manaia, I'm very close to my family, we visit and keep in touch they have always looked after me.

I like to go for walks, I can be found at the Workingmans on a Friday where I have a meal and socialize with members of the club. I am a member of Special Olympics and I enjoy training and competing for Indoor Bowls and Bocce. I've been very lucky to have travelled, won medals, met lots of good people, its actually something I love doing.

Previously I use to clean the beaches of any rubbish, I miss Cath our end of year celebrations and our "fish and chips". I've worked in the Café as a Kitchen Hand with Starfish Enterprise, go to the Gym and St James Church. I've been delivering the Office Mail within the Trust for a long time, I do like my job. I'm always willing to give a helping hand, am always the first person to Roll Call helping set up the hall. I like the staff they a great bunch of people and am happy living at the Trust.



LIFE STYLER STORIES

JEAN BRANCH

I came to the Trust in January 2023 after living with my grandparents in Waihi. Currently I live with 2 other flat mates, we met before I came to the Trust but we get on well, it's fun and we've developed a good friendship.

When I was living at home with my grandparents, I wasn't that independent. I've learnt a lot through my grandparents and am very thankful. This has helped me to now make my own decisions/choices about what I want to do in my life.

Everything is going really good and I'm enjoying living at the Trust. I keep myself busy attending Equilibrium, Woodwork, Artsider, Swimming and the Gym. I particularly enjoy grocery shopping but now know I have to stick to a budget, but my friends/staff help me. I get on well with the staff and know I can approach them when I need. I'm glad that one of the staff is my Aunty so I still have that connection to family.

I was originally doing Health and Wellbeing Level 4 at Wintec and my placement was at the Booms Care Home – Thames. I got to work with the elderly, I really enjoyed being able to help and talk with them. Unfortunately I was unable to continue and am now looking at pursuing a course in Photography. I hope to find employment and am pursuing this avenue also. Overall I am enjoying my life and have made some great friends here at the Trust.



FAMILY STORIES

SIMON ASHBY FAMILY

This is what I've witnessed with Simon since he was transferred from Tokoroa to The Supported Life Style Hauraki Trust.

He absolutely loves it here, he used to love helping in the Cafe, he was disappointed when it ended, he also loved going down to the other place where you had the Computers that also ended, however this never fazed him, he found another outlet, I think it is emptying office rubbish bins, if my memory serves me correctly, he loves doing things.

He also loves where he is now housed, he tells me it's because he's close to work, café and town and not too far to walk now.

He has said that he misses the trips he used to go on to the Auckland Markets.

When he's on holiday here with us, I know when he's ready to go back, he sits out on the terrace and doesn't do his jigsaws, usually after almost two weeks.

I'm very happy with where he is as well.

Thank you for taking good care of Simon

Nga mihi
Di Halliday



FAMILY STORIES

JEAN BRANCH FAMILY

Jean has eased into her life with the trust very well. Her time is now spent with peers her own age, something she missed after leaving school.

Jean has become involved with new activities and spending more time outdoors, horse riding being one of her favourites. Today she is trying her hand at outdoor bowls. We had Jean home for a week and she could not wait to return. If Jean could find a part time job it would be the icing on the cake. Workbridge is currently helping in that regard. With the continued support of the Trust Jean is finding her independence.

Our experiences with the Trust have been great. From our first interview at home and those that followed we have felt at ease with everyone. We are also enjoying more time for ourselves.

Thank you all for the caring work that you do,
Regards,
Diane and Colli



CELEBRATIONS



FEBRUARY

Business House Bowls Competition

'Happy Days' involves a team of Life Stylers who compete in the Thames Business House Bowls Competition. This is their third year of entering this competition, they enjoy the competitiveness, socialisation and camaraderie but moreso beating the Staff Trust Team.



MARCH

Matthew's Farewell

Matthew has been living at the Trust for 26yrs and was leaving for another service. We dined at the GBD, shared stories and bid him good luck and farewell.



APRIL

Easter Celebration at Kuranui Bay

It was an overcast day at Kuranui Bay, Gazebo's set and the aroma's of the BBQ Cooking. We sang as the games were set and put in motion - Egg Race, Easter Scavenger Hunt Creation, Pin the Egg on the Rabbit and the popular Easter Egg Hunt. It started to rain as we were doing the Easter Egg Hunt but nothing dampened the hearts of beating everyone to those chocolate treats.



MARCH

Snapper Express Fishing Charter

A great outing that involves waking early, boarding the boat, enjoying the views and catching the MOST fish but also the BIGGEST fish. Eric the skipper is a "Top bloke, top boat and a fabulous time is had by all. Eric gives good tips, some good banter."



MARCH

Carla's Farewell

Carla also living at the Trust was returning home to Vanuatu with her family. We held a farewell at our Café, sharing stories, singing songs, dancing and ate afternoon tea as we wished her well on her next journey.



APRIL

Gary's Farewell

It was a day to farewell our very own Gary, everyone's Music Tutor/Expertise. Everyone gathered at the Café and shared stories, gave thanks, sang songs before sharing a wonderful afternoon tea.

APRIL

ANZAC Parade

Some of us attended the local Dawn Parade and Anzac Day commemorations that travels from Sealey Street to the Thames War Memorial Civic Centre.



APRIL

Memorial service for Aaron Cadman

We attended the memorial of a fellow friend Aaron Cadman who used to live at the Trust. His memorial was held in Hamilton, a small gathering with family and friends where we got to hear and share the many stories of who Aaron was to us.

A Trust celebration was also held for his friends not able to attend the Hamilton service. Aaron's family attended and were graced with stories, song, laughter and tears. A very touching ceremony shared by all.



MAY

King's Birthday

A celebration of King Charles III and Queen Camilla, a prayer and announcement opened by Brendon Wilkinson followed by a toast, everyone indulging in a high tea whilst listening to the great British Music and capturing the moment on this Kings Throne Photo Booth.

JUNE

Art Exhibition at Vessel

A wonderful start to Vessel's Art exhibition, showcasing some amazing artists creations inclusive of our Life Stylers. The pieces were for sale and Life Stylers were very happy to have sold some great creative pieces. The sale started from 10th June - 5th July and was held at 752 Pollen Street.



JUNE

Fieldays

A large and popular event where Life Stylers attend the largest Agricultural Event and the ultimate launch platform for cutting edge technology and innovation. Everyone enjoys the sense of camaraderie and excitement.

JUNE

Kapahaka Practice

An intrinsic link to culture and Māori identity, and the essential element of whanaungatanga, the importance of people and connectedness. Life Stylers who wanted to be part of our Kapahaka group identified waiata/haka they wanted to learn to perform at the Matariki Celebration and we practised once a week.



JULY

Poi Making Workshop

In preparation for Matariki we held a Poi making workshop and listened to waiata from Matatini. The Life Stylers were able to create their own Poi and talk about the history of Poi making - Together, Harakeke and Raupō created Poi. And that is, how the first poi was made from the strong leaves of the harakeke flax wrapped tenderly around the soft down of the native bulrush. Today the poi is made of materials of our time, but the story of the poi and its beauty and grace still lives on

JULY

Juergen's Farewell

It was a day to farewell our very own Juergen, who had been with the Trust for 18years. Everyone gathered at the Café and shared stories, gave thanks and performed haka before sharing a wonderful afternoon tea to bid him farewell.



JULY

Matariki Celebration

Hauraki Plains College Kapahaka Roopu were welcomed into our space by our Kaikaranga, where we were graced by a wonderful performance and repertoire of waiata and haka. Our very own Life Styler and Trust Roopu then performed waiata and haka then gave a Koha/gift to Hauraki Plains College Kapahaka Roopu. We all then shared a wonderful kai of Hangi, Raw Fish and Steam Pudding.



JULY

Winter Wonderland

A grand event held at the Grahamstown Hall, Life Stylers dressed to impress, arrived in style, danced to the beat of the music, posed in the wonderland photo booth and ate till their heart was content. A special thank you to those who supported to make this a great event. Make-up and hair products from Unichem and the warehouse, voucher for prizes from Pak n Save and Barrie Richards Auto Repairs for providing some amazing cars for Life Stylers to travel to the Ball. Congratulations to our King and Queen for 2023 - Quintin Chappel and Sunny Howett



AUGUST

Disco

A mixture of song and artist compilations and personal requests as everyone danced the afternoon away and shared afternoon tea. Some great dance moves and grooves, lots of fun and laughter shared by all.

A WORD FROM OUR LEADERS



VINCE ROSS

ACTING BOARD CHAIR

I am pleased to provide this annual report on behalf of Masele Siatu'u who is currently on leave from her position as Trust Chairperson.

2023 has been variable year. With Whaikaha still in its infancy there have been many changes made with more indicated. With the added complexity of an election year and possible change of government later this year, planning forward into the future for the Trust has required more in depth work.

Our strategic review, was an opportunity for the Trust to reflect on the last two years and also to review our alignment with the direction indicated by the EGL principles and United Nations Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities.

As part of that Strategic review The Trust has concentrated on creating a property strategy which has a long view out to 2054. As the Trust grew many property decisions were made in an organic way in response to needs at the time. This Strategy will allow for the needed flexibility whilst still maintaining a more solid framework for decisions as well as ensuring that our housing reaches and also maintains a high standard. As part of this work and

supporting the strategy going forward we now have a property committee who will over see the completion of this project.

I thank my fellow Trustees who have been available throughout this busy year providing support and guidance to the Chief Executive and her Team. It has been a busy 12 months with many projects reaching fruition.

The Trust and its success is dependent upon Life Stylers, family/whanau and staff all having a voice which is heard, understood and actioned. The Trustees value and encourage the ongoing relationship between these key stakeholders.

We look forward to the next 12 months taking us into 2024 as the Trust reaches its 30 years anniversary in July.

A WORD FROM OUR LEADERS



SAMANTHA LEE

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

On the scale of recent years 2023 was perhaps not one of the most challenging on the surface.

The challenges that 2023 brought happened more in the background. Pay Equity, ongoing relationships with Whaikaha, Te Whatu Ora and ACC, staffing, changing contract environments and a need to hear the voices of our Life Stylers and their whanau and family have been some of the drivers this year.

The UN Royal Commission of Enquiry into abuse in care released its draft report and it makes for sombre reading. It is a poignant reminder that the only protection for disabled people is for them to have their own voices and make their own choices, this is something that our Wayfinder approach plans to embed in the organisation. As New Zealand works through its commitment to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the report from the royal commission and the ENABLING Good Lives principles we remain committed to ensuring that the voices of the people we support remain centre to what we do and why we do it.

Whaikaha shares that commitment and continues to be our larger contract partner with its own challenges of growth and budget. This year Whaikaha created a structure which, it is hoped, will support the sector as it moves more towards its transformed system. Whaikaha has sent a clear message that they do not support residential services the way they are now and that we can expect some significant changes in these services as we move forward.

ACC and Te Whatu Ora remain relationships of great importance to us and while they too have undergone changes it has been a year of consolidating already positive relationships and we are thankful to them for their ongoing support of the work we do to support people.

The Support Workers (Pay Equity) settlements Act 2017 was due to end this year but has been extended until December 31 2023. This legislation has done much to improve wages for our valuable support workers and we hope to see some firm decisions made from government next year regarding the future of Pay Equity.

Our Trust location and the relating property strategy have been a big focus for us this year. Our move to the 608 building, the purchase of our lovely farm in the Maratoto valley and the subsequent sale of our smaller farm at Wharepoa Road have highlighted the importance having a property strategy. The subsequent development of a property subcommittee reporting to the Board will ensure that this strategy is kept live as the Trust moves forward.

Once again thanks go to the Board for their constant support and my deepest gratitude to all our staff, wherever they are in the organisation. Their ongoing commitment to the Trust and Life Stylers is what makes us great.

Mā whero, mā pango ka oti ai te mahi

BOARD MEMBERS



MASELE SIATU'U

Masele Siatu'u has been Chair of The Supported Life Style Hauraki Trust since 2018. Although previously unaware of The Supported Life Style Hauraki Trust, she was attracted to the Trust's purpose and values, joining the Board of Trustees in December 2017. As part of The Supported Life Style Hauraki Trust team she attended the NZ Disability Supported Network conference which provided an overview of the sector and some future opportunities and challenges.

Participating in developing Trust strategies for the future was an opportunity to leverage previous business experience in the context of our unique organisation and community.

She says it has been a privilege to be part of The Supported Life Style Hauraki Trust team and she looks forward to continuing her development and contribution.



KATINA CONOMOS

Katina Conomos is an independent contractor and consultant, specialising in strategy, corporate and project planning, and working with governing bodies. She presently works with a range of local government and not-for-profit clients throughout New Zealand.

Katina started her career in the arts industry, working as an orchestra and tour manager with leading arts companies in Australia. After gaining her Masters of Business Administration, Katina then worked in a range of government environments in Australia, at both the federal and state level in major event delivery.

Katina is a proud dual citizen of Australia and her adopted home, New Zealand. She has resided in Thames since 2010 and joined the Board of Trustees in December 2017.



EDWARD BENSON-COOPER

Edward Benson-Cooper is a successful business owner, company director, and health practitioner, managing a multidisciplinary health clinic and serving as the principal Chiropractor.

Having served on the Waitemata District Health Board (WDHB) and the New Zealand Chiropractic Board (NZCB), he brings a high level of governance and policy experience and holds a number of trusted positions on various Committees & Trusts, two of which he chairs and deputy chairs.

Edward joined The Supported Life Style Hauraki Trust in 2021 and has experience in the disability sector through his role as Chair of the Disability & Support Advisory Committee and involvement in various equity-focused strategies such as the prioritisation of Māori Health, shaping positive attitudes towards disability and incorporating a disability lens to facilities and programmes.

BOARD MEMBERS



BRENDON WILKINSON

Brendon Wilkinson spent 25 years as an Electronic Engineer before studying Theology eventually being ordained as a Priest, he has been a Vicar in Thames since 2017 with a heart for community, engaging in ways such as Chaplain to our Police, hospital, St Johns and our RSA. He is part of our local Iwi Ngati Tamatera, his family is from Paeroa.

He joined The Supported Life Style Hauraki Trust in 2022 encouraged by the heart of the organization and its vision to enable and encourage our Life Stylers. He is excited and proud to be a part of The Supported Life Style Hauraki Trust as it evolves with the ever changing health and disability sector.



MICHAEL NOONAN

Michael Noonan was Chair of The Supported Life Style Hauraki Trust from 2007 to 2018. Mike has 26 years experience in the not-for-profit sector. With a background in radio and TV, sales and marketing, Mike is an advocate with a strong network across various sectors. One of his other roles has been the establishment and leadership of the Coromandel Independent Living Trust, a charitable trust based in Coromandel Town, delivering a wide variety of Social Services and Community Development programmes. Mike has also supported a number of local and national organisations over the years such Moehau Nga Tangata Whenua Trust, SPAN Trust, Inclusive New Zealand, Coromandel Community Services Trust and Driving Creek Railway, Arts and Conservation Trust, by being a governing member. He is committed to developing organisations that will make a real difference to the communities of the upper Coromandel. Mike is a full member of the Blind Foundation and Blind Citizens Aotearoa.

In his spare time, he and his wife, Alison Carter, a former documentary producer, live on a 5.5 hectare block, restoring it to native bush, thereby encouraging the return of many indigenous birds to the Coromandel.



GORDON JACKMAN

Gordon Jackman moved to the Kauaeranga Valley in 2008 with his partner Catherine Delahunty from his hometown Gisborne, where he worked as an archaeologist for many years. Gordon joined The Supported Life Style Hauraki Trust board in 2010 motivated by his experience of disability, having contracted polio in 1956, and a lifelong commitment to advocating for the rights of people with disabilities. Gordon also had experience of governance in several Not for Profit organisations. In 2015 Gordon developed a strategic plan for Polio NZ which has lead him become their project manager in 2015, and then the CEO of the Duncan Foundation in 2017 (www.duncanfoundation.org). He is inspired by the work of the Trust and the acceptance and integration of the Trust into the Thames community and feels very privileged to be able to contribute to the Trust.

LOOKING FORWARD

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

3 Wires Crossing, Maratoto

We purchased a new property on the 9th December 2022 that we took possession of on the 6th March 2023. The property has 30 acres and a 4 bedroom house overlooking the acreage. Attached to the house is also a 2 bedroom self contained unit that is being used for respite for Life Stylers wanting to spend some time out in the country.

We initially made sure the house at this property was set up for Life Stylers moving from Wharepoa Road farm.

Since then we have been moving all of the farm animals, their homes and making sure the farm has the resources needed for Life Stylers to visit and have a great day out there. Check out some of awesome photos! There are some great opportunities at this property for Life Stylers, farm activities, horse riding, swimming and camping. But if you just want a quiet time away from town to enjoy nature that is there too.

A big thank you to all Life Stylers and Staff who helped move from 139 Wharepoa Road to 3 Wires Crossing, it certainly has been journey to date!



BUSINESS ASSOCIATIONS



Thank you for inviting me to write a testimonial for your Annual Report.

As you know, myself and my team have worked directly with The Supported Life Style Hauraki Trust for many years. We, initially were invited to help with the security system, and quickly grew our involvement with the wider tech and electrical needs of the Trust. Together, we have built an impressive portfolio of projects, but the relationship goes beyond the countless number of jobs. From a personal standpoint, working for the Trust has always fulfilled a passion of mine and becomes a favourite call. I'm happy to share that this has spilled over to the rest of my team. We all love being a part of the community. In addition to being treated with dignity and respect from the numerous people at the Trust with whom I deal with, the professionalism, along with the warmth and camaraderie exhibited is a testament to the Trust family. I look forward to our continued relationship.

Thanks again,

Sincerely

Brad Auld and the team at Adams Electrical



suplife.org.nz

Email

info@suplife.org.nz

Website

www.suplife.org.nz

Phone

0800 533 224

Address

608 Queen Street

PO Box 524

Thames 3540