

St Andrew's Presbyterian Church Newsletter

May 2024 – July 2024

Our Vision

- ❖ **Accepting all people**
- ❖ **Striving for Compassion**
- ❖ **Seeking to live out Christ's selfless love until we see God's justice realised**



Jill's Musings.....



Mōrena whanau,

Here we are in the Easter season, Christ has risen and we await the Wairua Tapu coming among us at Pentecost. It is poignant to marvel at the mystery of Christ's resurrection and that death and suffering (at the hands of the state) were not the last word. That within the darkness and death, something new was seeded that declares the new life Christ brings. Halleluia!

In the season of Lent, we as a faith community practiced gratitude as a daily discipline. We paused to notice at some time during the day all that we were grateful for. I found this practice very helpful, and I hope that you did too. Even on tough days when things didn't go well, it was great to discover that there were people and things happening that I was grateful to God for. This is a great thing for us to continue to do in our daily walk with God.

It is a goal of mine this year to encourage us as a faith community to grow deeper with God by cultivating spiritual practices. Another spiritual practice I want to introduce is the practice of generosity.

Paul writes to the church in Corinth "Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously." (2 Corinthians 9:6). We can so easily get into a mode of scarcity, of thinking that there isn't enough to go around and forgetting how generous God is. There is more than enough for everyone, it is often us who fall short when it comes to being generous.

Generosity, from a spiritual perspective, is not just about giving money or material possessions; it can be developed into a stance that includes offering your time, a listening ear, or doing something for someone. It might be offering words of encouragement. It's about having an open heart and a willingness to share the blessings you have received, recognizing that everything ultimately comes from God. By making generosity a regular part of your life, you might find yourself experiencing the profound spiritual growth and joy that come from aligning your heart with God's generous love.

Here are some ideas to help you with this spiritual discipline:

- *Pray for a Generous Heart:* Begin by asking God to cultivate a generous heart within you. Pray for the wisdom to discern opportunities to give and the strength to do so with joy.

- *Reflect on God's Generosity:* Meditate on God's generosity in your own life. Reflect on the ways He has blessed you and how you can extend those blessings to others.
- *Start Small:* Generosity doesn't always require grand gestures. Start with small acts of kindness and giving, and gradually increase your generosity as you grow in faith.
- *Share Your Journey:* Share your experiences of generosity with others. Encourage fellow believers to embrace generosity as a spiritual practice, and together, you can strengthen your faith communities. Check out later in the newsletter how Linda Pollock has experienced God's generosity.

Go well with this!

Other News

We have had two St Andrews funerals in the last month, firstly **Rosaline Cole** who while she hadn't been at worship for a decade or more, was still connected with us through pastoral care visits. Secondly **Suzanne Seawright**, who connected with me last year and who was keen to be attached to St Andrews even though she was too unwell to leave the house. Our prayers and our love are with each of their families at this tough time.

We also had the interment of **Brenda Waring's** ashes beside the church here at St Andrews. It was a special occasion, a year on from her passing. Brenda left \$5000 to St Andrews, something that we are incredibly grateful for.

Junior and **Patty Macarthur** are taking a leave of absence from Parish Council, they have a lot happening their lives and will join us at worship when they can.

Sadly, **Jim Thompson** has decided to move on from St Andrews, we are so grateful for his ten years of being part of us. While Jim will no longer be at worship, he is happy to continue supporting us with IT matters. He will also continue to be on our pastoral care roll.

Yohanna Clayton is doing her Bronze Duke of Edinburgh at Karamu High School and as part of that needs to do some volunteering. She is going to be doing the sound for the next few months which is wonderful!

We are thrilled to have **Boi Daniel** and **Shaq Uelese** helping out with music. It is wonderful to have them expressing their gifts among us.

Maraekakaho

We had a wonderful Holy Week Intergenerational Event out at Maraekakaho with worship, kids games, lectio divina and a sausage sizzle. We are planning a community working bee for Sunday July 21st from 1.00pm to clean up the space, take down the fence, put in a gate and plant some fruit trees. We hope to have some more worship events out there too.

Women Ministers Hui

From May 14-17th I will be attending the Sylvia Jenkin Hui near Wellington. The late Rev Sylvia Jenkin was passionate about the ministry women had to offer and generously left a bequest specifically for ordained women ministers in the PCANZ. Part of the funding is being used for this gathering. When this ends I will be heading south to celebrate my Mum's 90th birthday and will be taking a few days annual leave, returning to work on Thursday May 23rd.

HB Pressies

For the past eighteen months it has been so good to meet once every six weeks or so with leaders from the other Presbyterian Churches here in Hawkes Bay as we find ways to work together. Some strong relationships are being built.

In October St Pauls, Napier are getting two new ministers Rev Dr Mark Johnston (80%) and his wife Rev Dr Carolyn Kelly (20%). Mark used to work for the Knox Centre of Ministry and Leadership and lead a retreat here in 2018. He and Carolyn are currently working in Glasgow where Carolyn is Head Chaplain of Glasgow University and Mark teaches in the Theology Department there. Hawkes Bay Pressies are looking at applying to Presbytery to employ Mark for one day a week to help equip our churches here and lead us in determining how we can work together to better enable our mission in Hawkes Bay.

There will be a Combined Pentecost Worship at St Columba's Havelock North
This will be at 4pm on **Sunday May 19th**. All welcome!

Blessings

Jill

Singing for Peace

We had a wonderful Singing for Peace event on April 22 expertly led by Boi Daniel. We sang songs of peace and were updated on the work of Relief Aid by Hastings born Mike Seawright (his mother's funeral was held at St Andrews two days before).

Relief Aid specializes in providing aid to areas experiencing war, where many aid agencies aren't able to offer. They work in Gaza, Ukraine, Syria and Afghanistan providing whatever is needed such as water, food, and medical supplies.

Relief Aid is staffed by local volunteers on the ground, eager to help out amidst all they are going through.

Amid the hard times we are experiencing in so many ways it was good to come together and sing. We raised \$700 for Relief Aid.

Notes from Parish Clerk..Jim Spall

Kia orana,

We are now well into the season of autumn, a favourite of mine with all the glorious colours that we get here in Hawkes Bay with our sunny days and cool nights. It is also of course the season of Lent leading into Easter and now the leadup to Pentecost. Our changing colours as nature slows down seems so fitting for Lent as we too are invited to slow down, take stock. And contemplate the journey of Jesus to the cross and what that means for us. Our Moderator, the Right Rev Rose Luxford, spoke in her Easter message about Resurrection Hope and how this continues to speak to us today. As a farmer I cannot but help make a connection with this time of harvest. After all the damage and despair a year ago brought on by the cyclone we have had a great harvest of apples, grapes and all of the other produce we are renowned for. This has been a word of hope into what was a situation of despair and a real gathering instead of brokenness.

Here at St Andrews and Maraekakaho we had some wonderful services over the Easter period. Our Good Friday walk from St Matthews to St Andrews was well attended and very meaningful as we read from scripture along the way. At Maraekakaho our Easter Event went very well with around 30 people present including 9 children. Easter Sunday was a celebration full of joy as we recounted the story of the empty tomb.

At March's Parish Council meeting our strategic focus was on the role of music in worship. We reviewed our strengths, weaknesses and opportunities with respect to music, recognising how central music is to our worship. We have an older congregation with very few people under 70 and council considered whether introducing new music could engage a younger generation and more people. Council is keen to trial this with Boi Daniel and Shaq Uelese joining us to complement Christine and Ngaire.

St Andrews has now become an "A Rocha Eco Church". This is a scheme run by A Rocha UK that helps equip churches to care for God's creation through their worship, buildings, land, community engagement and individual lifestyles. This very much fits into our existing values and programs such as the solar panel installations.

Parish Council also agreed to proceed with the mural designed by Brandon Blair after consultation with Jill and other church members. The cost will be reimbursed by the Heretaunga Hastings District Council.

At our April meeting Parish Council did some preparatory work for our Elders retreat on Saturday 4 May. We reflected on experiences of resurrection in the St Andrews Faith Community - there were many! Just some included worship, our study groups, the Common Good, the nesting of Genlend, and Bridging Hawkes Bay. At the retreat we will be reviewing our Mission Plan with the help of Rev Stuart Simpson, our Central

Presbytery Mission Enabler. Our Mission Plan was last reviewed in 2019 and since then much has happened - Covid 19, sale of the hall, cyclone Gabrielle, working with other Hawkes Bay Presbyterian Churches, and our engagement with the Maraekakaho community to name a few!

To finish I can only endorse the words of our Moderator " *This Easter may we all experience afresh the life -giving joy of being people of the resurrection and may that be something we in turn live out in our communities*

Christ is Risen, Christ is risen indeed"

Arohanui

Jim



Palm Sunday at St Andrew's Church

Photos by Catherine Park

The Generosity of God.... Linda Pollock

All my life I have been aware of the goodness and generosity of God. This has been made manifest in very practical ways and I have cupboards full of stories that illustrate God's generous provision for me in diverse ways.

I'm sure you too have stories telling how God provided money just when it was needed or help at the exact right time... that kind of provision is wonderful and is a reflection of the tender, practical care our God provides through each other and folks we might refer to as 'strangers' who, because of their kindness, have shown their membership in the Body of Christ.

God's generosity, however, is not restricted to 'stuff' or money or special acts of kindness. For me, God's generosity is summed up in that we can stand before Him naked, and I don't mean wearing no clothes! I do mean that we stand before God aware of our failings and shortcomings, aware of the shenanigans we use to disguise our questionable behaviour, conscious of the good things we do to deflect from the not-so-good, the so-called status symbols we hide behind, be that our house, bank balance, education, or job - whatever we use to try and distract God from the muck and the mire we are so comfortable wallowing in daily. ***That God's immense love is unconditional, without reserve, completely accepting of who we are - even before we say that formula-driven prayer of asking Jesus into our hearts, (What does that even mean?!!) is true generosity.***

When we glimpse the generosity of God it is incumbent upon us to return it to God through serving others. We are compelled to share our wealth - whatever that looks like and it is not identical for everybody. You may have little money, but you have time to visit a person who may be house bound. You may not feel comfortable standing up in front of the congregation, but you can volunteer to make the tea and coffee, or to arrange the flowers. You may not have the energy to do physical work around the church, but you could volunteer to do a wee job that is one of several someone else must do.

Generosity is a very interesting thing.....

I have discovered that the more I give of my money, my time, and my gifts, the more I get back! It makes no sense and yet it is true. But then it makes no sense that God would love us, cherish us, want the absolute best for us, without expecting anything in return. It makes no sense that we can do nothing to make God love us more or love us less than God already does. Our God is an 'upside-down' kind of God and I love that about Him!!

I invite you to look for ways in which you can reflect the generosity of God - that may mean you sit down first and count your blessings! I urge you to start increasing your generosity in church and in all aspects of your life... and wait and see how good our God is.



While we have been awaiting Linda's visa to come through to enable her to take over the roll of Community Minister, running Bridging Hawkes Bay, things have been a bit quieter.

Our small number of volunteers have been going out and meeting people affected by the cyclone who are very much appreciating the care and listening ear offered.

Once Linda's visa is confirmed BHB will begin recruiting more volunteers to begin training. If you know anyone who might be keen, do get in contact with Linda.

While Linda was here on her sabbatical for the last six months, her rent was paid for by BHB in return for her preaching at St Andrews, as well as at St Johns one Sunday a month. This freed up some time for Jill to devote to BHB.

MOVIES IN MAY



Monday 13 May 2024 - "Golda"

The Event Cinema, Havelock North

Time: Morning Tea 10.00am

Film starts at 10.30am

Please contact Carley if you wish to go.

Financial Position of St Andrew's

Revenue and Expenses

For the month ended 31 March 2024

Account	Mar 2024	YTD Actual
Revenue		
Car Park Rental	1,599.34	14,846.21
Church - Weddings & Funerals	0.00	1,971.75
CWS Christmas Appeal (192)	0.00	15.00
Donations - General / Church	0.00	450.00
Donations / General - Common Good	0.00	494.40
Fundraising Church	0.00	0.00
Hire - Church	2,393.50	16,385.93
Hire - Hall	2,291.67	21,150.29
Offering - Internet	3,273.00	32,718.00
Offerings - Envelope	315.00	4,269.00
Offerings - Plate	465.30	3,764.80
PSS Offering - Guardian Angel	17.00	276.80
St Marks Rent Revenue	0.00	4,720.85
St Marks Manse Rent	1,600.00	16,400.00
Hall - Electricity Use	623.01	6,238.72
Dividends Received	0.00	720.00
Grants Received	0.00	5,000.00
Interest Received	7,377.17	22,660.00
Total Revenue	19,954.99	152,081.75
Operating Expenses		
ACC Levies	0.00	225.63
Advertising	170.00	330.00
Assembly Assessment	912.11	8,208.99
Bank Charges	0.00	22.74
Building WOF Levy	0.00	434.78
Cleaning Supplies	0.00	0.00
Common Good - expenses	0.00	480.33
Computer Expenses	46.20	571.45
CWS Christmas Appeal (388)	0.00	(99.00)
Donations	(450.00)	(570.00)
General Expenses	168.97	1,535.01
Insurance	0.00	27,911.47
Light Power & Heating	868.12	9,983.18
Minister - Relieving	0.00	868.15
Ministers Beneficiary Fund	475.74	4,281.66
Ministers Stipend + Accommodation Allowance	9,710.66	71,152.32
Minister's Supervision Fee	140.00	630.00
Postage	0.00	243.48
Presbytery Levy	30.43	1,947.43
Printing & Stationery	218.02	1,333.24
PSS Offering (399)	30.00	270.00
Rates	0.00	7,683.77
Repairs & Maintenance - Church	133.92	3,205.15
Repairs & Maintenance - Hall	240.00	5,384.65
Seminars & Conference Expenses	0.00	0.00
St Marks (Operation)	140.00	3,020.38
Telephones, Internet & Wifi	173.92	1,601.80
Wages - Host	2,980.60	20,730.26
Worship Expenses	0.00	56.78
Rates - St Marks Manse	0.00	2,276.56
Grants	0.00	5,000.00
Church Worship	122.89	463.96
Insurance - Manse	0.00	1,800.00
Total Operating Expenses	16,111.58	180,984.17
Surplus/Deficit	3,843.41	(28,902.42)



**St Andrew's has joined
a number of other
churches by becoming
an eco – church**

All Creatures Lament

All creatures of our God and King
Lift up your voices; let them ring
Fill the earth with lamentation!
Cry out abuses of our pow'r
Tell what we lose with every hour
To our greed and depredation
Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy
Lord , have mercy!

All creatures winging in the air
Cry out the failures of our care
Fill the sky with lamentation!
Shout through the clouds of smoke and
ash
Choked with the fumes of poison gas
Tell us of our degradation
Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy
Lord have mercy!

All creatures hidden in the seas
Lift up your anguished prayers and pleas
Fill the sea with lamentation!
Teach us to see your wonders now
Help to make a holy vow
Here to halt your devastation
Lord, have mercy! Christ, have mercy
Lord, have mercy!

All creatures dwelling on the land
Join as we lift each heart and hand
Fill the world with lamentation!
Mourn the destruction of our home
Weep with the fear of worse to come
Hear the groans of all creation
Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy
Lord have mercy!

Authors: The Porter's Gate



Now that we are an **Eco Church** it may be useful to remind ourselves of what we can **“Reuse Reduce Recycle”** in our daily lives

The Environment Centre (201 Southland Road Hastings, open Monday-Friday 9.30am-4.30pm) is a great place to check out and the staff is very helpful. The Centre takes lots of things, including aluminium coffee pods (well-dried), ink cartridges and mobile phones, Colgate toothbrushes and toothpaste tubes and Glad Snaplock bags, clingfilm and foil (these need to be clean, otherwise they contaminate other recycling). There is a soft plastic collection bin, which you can also find at some supermarkets.

If you can't get to the Environment Centre you can bring to Church some things the Council won't take at the gate, such as metal bottle tops and batteries. Ideally please keep button batteries (hearing aid, watch) separate from other types, and throw away batteries that are corroded.

You're right if you think that plastic bottle tops fall through the hole in your Council recycling bin. Well, they won't if you push them inside the clean plastic (milk) bottle first! Easy to do when the plastic is warm from washing.

We have recycling bins at church which Carley puts out on Recycling Day. It doesn't take much if we all do our bit to **“Reuse, Reduce and Recycle”** instead of letting it go to landfill.

LET'S HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE! THANK YOU!



Instant coffees lead to a homeless hub returning \$2.6m in social value

Marty Sharpe
April 09, 2024,

Every morning and every evening dozens of people flock to a hall in central Hastings for a meal. They eat, drink, talk (if they like), confide in experts about ailments or worries, then help tidy up before dispersing to whence they came.

These are the city's homeless, the needy, the disadvantaged, those who have nowhere else to go. In the warmer months about 40 will turn up for a meal. In the colder months it can be 90.

They tend to be solitary beings and are at varying degrees of comfort in the communal setting. More often than not their pasts have involved combinations of trauma, mental illness, substance abuse, and neglect.

The twice-daily assembly has about it a frisson that feels never far from the surface.

Overseeing events in St Andrew's Hall is Warren Heke. He is a church pastor, and while what he does here is unquestionably analogous with his faith, he maintains a line between the two.



Warren Heke

No-one entering the hall is showered with sermonising, no-one has to attend a church service or hear Warren talk about God and no-one is given religious brochures or bibles.

The small Spanish-mission style hall is home to Warren's Hastings Church, but is also home to the Kuhu Mai community hub, operated by the associated Connect Community Trust.

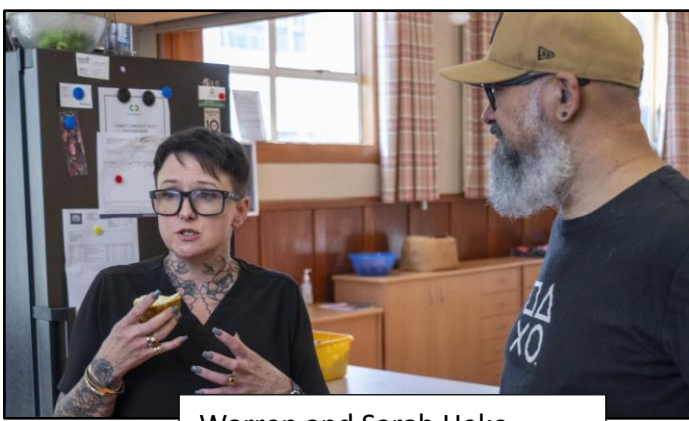


A quiet spell at Kuhu Mai after breakfast

The hub has received all sorts of plaudits in recent years (it got an award at last year's [Local Government conference](#), and was a finalist in the MBIE [sustainable business network awards](#)), which is great because it validates the hub's raison d'être.

But the accolades are fleeting and the demand at the hub is constant and growing.

The hub's genesis lies in a few cups of instant coffee given to a few homeless people Warren found hanging around the church entrance. It was in 2015, when the church was based in a building on Hastings' main road, Heretaunga Street. Warren, who'd become a pastor after



Warren and Sarah Heke

30 years working in IT, decided to open the church doors to anyone wanting a cup of coffee and a chat.

“I kind of came to the conclusion that our entire purpose as a church was to love people. So then I asked the question ‘well who are we supposed to love?’ and it seemed to me it should be the people on our doorstep. So I opened the doors,” Warren says.

Before long the church was providing meals on Sundays, and it soon became very evident that Warren and his parishioners had tapped into a need that was going unmet. There was a sizeable swathe of people in the city sleeping rough, going hungry, and avoiding any sort of assistance

“We adopted a philosophy of ‘we will be generous and require nothing in return’. That, for me, would show evidence that we were being kind. We weren’t going to ask these people to sit and listen to me talk, or make them walk out of here with pamphlets. Gradually word got around and we soon had 30 people turning up for meals,” he says.

It wasn’t without challenges. Some parishioners weren’t keen on this idea and parted ways with the church. And in the early days, before a sort of implicit modus operandi came into play, things were not always very ruly. There were flare-ups, police had to be called a few times, and retailers and citizens were not enthused about congregations of homeless people gathering in the city centre.

“To be honest it was the wild west for a while. Complete chaos sometimes because we really didn’t know what we were doing at that time,” Warren says.

“I was determined to treat them like people. For ages they wouldn’t really acknowledge me. They’d grunt, look at the ground, and get their food. Later they’d say hello, shake hands, even hug. That broke down a lot of social anxiety,” he says.



Sunday meals became daily meals of breakfast and dinner, and Warren and other volunteers were starting to develop a routine that worked well for all involved.

Then Covid hit. Warren, who by then had become something of a recognised authority on issues facing the homeless community, was contracted by Hastings District Council to coordinate its Covid

response for the homeless. This saw him and his team find temporary housing and provide food for those who had nowhere to go in the lockdown.

After Covid the next challenge was finding a more suitable building. Partly because the old building they were using as a church was well past its best, and partly because the council was in the throes of spending \$40 million on upgrading the nearby opera house precinct, and it would really rather visitors weren’t rubbing shoulders with Warren’s homeless crowd.

Years of to-ing and fro-ing went past before Warren contacted the Presbyterian Church about the St Andrew’s hall, which looked perfect. The Presbyterians were happy to rent out the hall. The church sold the old building to the council and moved into the hall in August 2022. Negotiations to buy it are ongoing.

Over time the hub has become more than a place to get food. Warren's wife Sarah, a nurse, would spend many hours volunteering at the hub and tending to medical needs. Volunteers would assist those coming in with their dealings with government agencies such as Work and Income and the Ministry of Social Development.

"Health is our big target. We feel that health is a bit like addiction in that it used to be viewed as a behavioural problem. People were seen as bad people for doing drugs whereas now it's seen as a health issue. That's similar to chronic homelessness.



Warren and Sarah Heke outside the St Andrew's Hall, Hastings, home of Kuhu

All the people we're dealing with have probably been into houses 5-10 times over the last couple of years.

They don't last. Building more houses isn't going to fix this problem," Warren says.

Word continued to spread and demand for the service grew. The council, which had started funding the hub's work, was joined by Anglican Care Waiapu, which had visited the hub, seen the work being done, and was very interested in contributing. This funding, bolstered by donations and grants, meant Warren could be on a salary and could even employ others.

Today he has six staff who help with the day to day running, the cooking, cleaning, driving and so on.

Sarah is now based at the hub as clinic manager every day. She is joined by a nurse practitioner from Te Whatu Ora, who can prescribe medicines, for two days a week.

Other organisations, government and non-government, were not always sold on what the hub was doing.

"Other agencies would hear about us through our clients. Someone from one of the agencies would turn up to see what we were doing, they'd take a look round and think 'oh yeah, it's a soup kitchen', then leave. It's not a soup kitchen. The food is secondary to what we're doing here," he says.

In time, they came around. Now members of these various agencies will spend time every week in a designated area in the hub where they can meet and talk to their clients individually.

Given the difficulties there can be in locating these people, let alone getting them to make an appointment, this in itself has been something of a breakthrough.

The hub now has 180 registered clients. Of those about 70-80 are regular visitors. Others are sporadic visitors and some only come in very rarely.

Volunteers at the hub come and go. "We used to have a lot more, but what we found was that volunteers could have a different motivation for what they're doing and often come in with an assumption that they know the answers, and might expect something that doesn't happen. It's not for everyone," Warren says.

"When people ask if they can volunteer, I say sure. They ask if they'll be washing dishes or cleaning or whatever. I say well actually all of that is taken care of by the guys themselves, and I ask if they can just sit out there with the people and listen to their stories. That's helping.

I tell them we don't need them to do anything and just tell them to be in our space and be themselves," Warren says.

Funding, naturally, and as always with any such venture, is the fulcrum on which everything else balances. It costs about \$370,000 a year to run the hub including food, staff, rent and a whole range of other costs. About 10 % of that comes from the council and about 30% comes from the Anglicans. The rest comes in as donations and grants.

As well as funding, the Anglicans and council provide professional and legal advice and expertise in fields such as grant applications, policy development and preparing business cases.

"We didn't know anything about funding applications or anything like that in the early days. I was pretty dumb," Warren says with a laugh. "We were just thinking 'this is what we need to do so lets just do it'. We'd pull stuff together.

When we started it was costing about \$10,000 to provide lunches. That came from parishioners and gifts from strangers who just turned up and saw what we were doing and wanted to contribute," he says.

It's all well and good to be doing good things, and to get the accolades and attention for doing so, but the fact of the matter is that without ongoing funding and commitment the hub would cease to exist.

Traditionally, and typically, prospective recipients of funding are required to quantify the value they generate. That can be difficult when it comes to running something like a hub for the homeless, but it still had to be done, in some form.

Faced with that quandry, Warren was advised to contact ImpactLab, a company that specialises in analysing organisations and calculating their SROI, or Social Return on Investment. In a new report, based on analysis of Kuhu Mai from August 1, 2022 until April 30, 2023, ImpactLab calculated the hub had generated a total social value of \$2,636,432, with a social value per person engaged of \$22,728.

