

ANNUAL REPORT

SHARE THE MAURI AND THE MANA OF THE MAUNGA

2022 – 2023

PRESENTED BY MAUNGATAUTARI ECOLOGICAL ISLAND TRUST

Sanctuary
Mountain®
MAUNGATAUTARI



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 12 MONTHS



15,452 visitors
Again awarded the Gold Qualmark sustainable tourism business award



2nd February officially opened Manu Korokii Profile Group Education Centre



38 kilometres of fence modified for kākāpō arrival



Two takahē chicks, Waiti and Waitā transferred to Burwood Takahē Breeding Centre



Biodiversity Team completed training on Anchor Island in prep for kākāpō arrival



43 copper skinks released into Te Tūi a Tāne, Southern Enclosure in May



400 volunteer hours contributed to the kākāpō fence modification



45 trail cameras installed to detect pests



93.7% gender diversity workplace



Received a Plant Pass Certification for our native plant nursery



Two biosecurity stations installed



111 western brown kiwi were translocated out of Sanctuary Mountain® Maungatautari.



61 kiwi transferred to Tongariro and 50 kiwi transferred to Wellington making it the largest kiwi translocation ever in New Zealand



96 people participated in Rongoā Rākau tours



Kākāpō proofed 1,500 traps



140 fungi and lichen species uploaded to iNaturalist



1,108 shrubs and trees planted

LEADERSHIP REPORT

We are very pleased to present our Annual Report for the year to 30 June 2023. It has been another year of outstanding achievements for our team of Inspired Kaitiaki at Sanctuary Mountain® Maungatautari, with some very exciting developments to report on.

Last year, we expressed our optimism for stronger visitor numbers in 2023 as the challenges of COVID-19 began to ease. We've certainly seen this come to fruition with visitor numbers totalling 15,452, our strongest visitor year since the beginning of the pandemic. In the year ahead, we expect to see international visitor numbers continue to recover alongside growth in our education and visitor programmes.

In February, Waipā Mayor Susan O'Regan officially opened Manu Korokii Profile Group Education Centre. At the opening ceremony, we were reminded of Sir David Attenborough's words: "No one will protect what they don't care about, and no one will care about what they have never experienced". Manu Korokii will help over 3,500 education visitors to experience our world-class project each year – fulfilling a core element of our purpose to "Share the mana and mauri of the maunga".

Maungatautari's kiwi population has continued to boom in recent years, and it gave the Trust and mana whenua Ngāti Koroki Kahukura much pride to commence the outbound translocation of North Island brown kiwi to other predator-controlled sites around New Zealand. It was particularly special to translocate the first of these manu to Ngāti Hikairo ki Tongariro, who contributed the first founder birds to Maungatautari in 2005. In total, we translocated 111 birds this year across sites in Te Whanganui-a-Tara and Tongariro. This mahi will continue in years to come, and along with mana whenua, partner Save the Kiwi, and receiving iwi across

the North Island, we will be part of a programme that aims to eventually recover a thriving kiwi population across Te Ika a Maui.

A significant milestone in the recovery of the maunga was reached with the reintroduction of critically endangered kākāpō in July. At the time of writing, ten male kākāpō have been successfully released in the sanctuary in partnership with Ngāi Tahu, the Department of Conservation's Kākāpō Recovery programme and a broad community of supporters and contributors.

This marks the first time kākāpō have lived on mainland New Zealand for close to 40 years – a significant step forward for the recovery of this Ngāi Tahu taonga species and Maungatautari.

Of course, these achievements continue to be underpinned by our outstanding team of Inspired Kaitiaki. Our very dedicated and passionate small team of staff and a large team of volunteers worked tirelessly this year to support a busy visitor season, recover from the impacts of Cyclone Gabrielle, prepare for the arrival of kākāpō and commence the outbound translocation of kiwi.

We thank Andrew Peckham (Landowner Trustee) for his time in the dual role of Trustee and part-time CEO during 2023. Andrew and the Board have worked together to redefine our leadership arrangements, and we look forward to welcoming our new full-time General Manager, Helen Somerville, in October 2023.

We welcomed three new Trustees to our Board during the year – Kate Mauriohoooho (Mana Whenua Trustee), Rosanne Matheson (Community Trustee) and Gavin Williamson (Community Trustee). We also acknowledged the contribution of retiring Trustee Mary Jensen and the passing of Nico Mouton (Landowner Trustee), who significantly contributed to Maungatautari as an advisor, friend, volunteer and Trustee over many years.

Finally, we acknowledge the ongoing support and partnership of our supporters, funders, visitors and neighbours. You've helped us to deliver another great year of achievements and continued the long-term journey to restore Maungatautari. We value and appreciate your partnership. Nou te rourou, naku te rourou ka ora ai te maunga – with your basket and our basket, the mountain will flourish.

Ngā manaakitanga



Don Scarlet, Co-Chair



Norma Taute, Co-Chair

"No one will protect what they don't care about,
and no one will care about what they have never experienced".

– Sir David Attenborough



KIWI RETURN TO THEIR WHENUA



This year was a significant milestone for kiwi at Sanctuary Mountain® Maungatautari and kiwi conservation in Aotearoa New Zealand. The original Kōhanga strategy was to release 500 birds, however, surveys over the past two years have revealed that our resident kiwi population is booming! With an estimated 2,000 kiwi, there was no need to introduce more. After 18 years since the first four kiwi chicks were gifted from Ngāti Hikairo ki Tongariro to Ngāti Koroki Kahukura to begin to create the founder population, 2023 was the first year of returning kiwi back to their whenua (homeland).

Over two months, the massive undertaking involved kiwi conservation dog teams, night-catching teams, volunteers, and staff. In April this year, the first kiwi to leave were released into the foothills of Tongariro, joining an established kiwi population – the same place those first four members of the

founding population originally came from. In May, another 50 kiwi were released into the hills of Mākara, southwest of Wellington. These birds are helping to create a new kiwi population in another area where kiwi were locally extinct until just a few months ago.

With 111 kiwi translocated to two sites, it was the largest kiwi translocation ever in New Zealand. With up to 300 to be translocated next year, efforts will be directed towards efficiency and improvements to the current programme. They will be led by Save the Kiwi with support from Sanctuary Mountain® Maungatautari staff and volunteers. In addition, Biodiversity Ranger, Craig Montgomerie, also oversaw the monitoring of more than 50 kiwi on transmitters that were awaiting translocation and the careful transfer of 17 eggs to Wairakei for hatching at the Crombie Lockwood Kiwi Burrow with 16 of those successfully hatched and released back to Sanctuary Mountain® Maungatautari.

In April this year, the first kiwi to leave were released into the foothills of Tongariro, joining an established kiwi population – the same place those first four members of the founding population originally came from.



MANU KOROKII PROFILE GROUP EDUCATION CENTRE OPENING

On Thursday 2 February, a kawanga whare (opening ceremony) was held to bless Manu Korokii Profile Group Education Centre with the rising sun. Close to 100 supporters, sponsors and iwi marked the occasion, with the building blessed by mana whenua led by Ngāti Koroki Kahukura Trust co-chair Karaitiana Tamatea and blessed by Tahau Thompson and Maihi Bennett of Ngāti Hauā. The ceremony was also marked by Waipā District Council Mayor Susan O'Regan cutting the ribbon with Sanctuary Mountain® Maungatautari Co-chairs Don Scarlet and Norma Taute.

The name Manu Korokii was gifted by Ngāti Koroki Kahukura, reflecting the flight of a songbird and the mātauranga (knowledge) that is imparted through our education facilitators, not to mention the manu that sing their songs across the maunga. After a year of construction and more than five years of planning, it is great to see this extraordinary vision finally become a reality.

"The education centre is a warm, modern and a calm place to learn. We enjoyed hearing local stories about New Zealand and our wildlife, going up the tower and learning about the structure, smelling the lures, feeling the furs and seeing the taxidermy animals."

– Matamata Christian School

Shortly after the opening of the new building we experienced a record number of education visitors in March, totalling 741. Now, nearly 1,500 people have experienced an education programme in the new building. The space has also been utilised for staff and volunteer training and inductions, and we have hosted three science presentation events for community groups within it. Thank you to the incredible support of sponsors and the community who have contributed to the project. We would also like to thank and acknowledge Pukeatua School for hosting our education programme in the Matapihi classroom on their school grounds for many years prior to this.

The Profile Group Education Centre was designed by Cambridge's Antanas Procuta of Paua Architects and built by Wes Cooper and his team from ASAP Contracting Limited.



Tēnā Koutou to our generous manu Korokii Education Centre sponsors...

ASAP Contracting Limited • APL (Profile Group Ltd) • APL (Whyte) • Aerial Scaffolding Ltd • Autex Industries • BCD Group Ltd • Bowers & Son Concrete • ColorCote Steel • David William Steele Trust • Dimond Roofing Ltd • Duffield Murray Consultants Ltd • Flow Consulting Ltd • Harrison Grierson • Innerscape Consulting Ltd • Interface Carpet Floor Tiles • Jacobsen's Vinyl • Kaimai School • Keyland Ltd • Kings School Auckland • Macdonald Industries Ltd • Milestone Foundation Ltd • Morrinsville Intermediate School • Mother Earth (Profile Foods Ltd) • Newton Consulting Ltd • Ngāti Koroki Kahukura • NZ Lotteries Commission • PAUA Architects Ltd • Pub Charity Ltd • Pukeatua School • Sage Consulting • Star Safety Ltd • Strathmore School • Trust Waikato • Valder Conservation • Waikite Valley School •

KĀKĀPŌ PROJECT



Fence modification

Sanctuary Mountain® Maungatautari is very excited to be welcoming kākāpō in the second half of 2023, a significant milestone of returning kākāpō to the mainland for the first time in close to 40 years. Trials of a barrier to stop kākāpō from climbing out of the pest-proof fence started in 2010. With the support of iwi, our community, and generous funders, Sanctuary Mountain® Maungatautari secured the funding needed to modify the fence. Twelve years after trials began and after eight months of hard work, the final version has been installed around the mountain. Led by Sanctuary Mountain® Maungatautari Assets and Operations Team, over 30 people have assisted in completing this project.

The modification required over 10,000 steel brackets, custom making over 10,000 steel shrouds to go around fence posts and fitting a heavy load lifter to two utes. The final task involved individually measuring each section of fence to the nearest 5mm and then cutting and fixing a 380mm high colour steel sheet to it. Over 50 pedestrian and vehicle, gates have also had sheet steel added to them to make them kākāpō-proof. Up to four teams of rangers working simultaneously and over 400 volunteer hours have led to the completion of this installation work in one of the wettest summers.

Congratulations to everyone involved in bringing this kākāpō fence modification project to fruition. Preparing the maunga for kākāpō is another outstanding example of what can be accomplished through collaboration between iwi, Department of Conservation, Sanctuary Mountain® Maungatautari staff, landowners, volunteers, donors, and our supporters.



Anchor Island and Whenua Hou kākāpō training

In preparation for kākāpō arriving, staff participated in training with the Department of Conservation's Kākāpō Recovery team and volunteers from Auckland Zoo. Training involved locating kākāpō and conducting health checks including transmitter changes. This essential time spent training in the field enabled hands-on learning of protocols for handling kākāpō, fitting transmitters, and tracking the bird's using telemetry. This also enabled the building of essential relationships between iwi, Department of Conservation, the Kākāpō Recovery team and our biodiversity team. Sanctuary Manager, Bodie Taylor, visited Whenua Hou, and both Biodiversity Team Leader Janelle Ward and Biodiversity Ranger Dan Howie visited Anchor Island.

Traps and bait stations

The Biosecurity Team modified the existing pest control methods and tools to ensure they are safe around kākāpō, including kākāpō proofing 1,500 traps.

Twelve years after trials began and after eight months of hard work, the final version has been installed around the mountain.



VISION & STRATEGIC GOALS

1

Sanctuary Mountain® Maungatautari is widely recognised as a world class conservation project.

By 2026 we will have:

- Improved our ability to keep the fenced reserve essentially free of pest mammals.
- Re-established breeding populations of native species historically present.
- Consistently monitored changes and facilitated research to improve our understanding of the maunga.
- Shared the 'lessons from the maunga' so others may benefit from our experiences.
- Contributed to the 'halo' of inter-connected habitat across the Waikato landscape.
- Maintained a motivated and diversely skilled group of volunteers.

2

Maungatautari is an internationally recognised eco-tourism destination.

By 2026 we will have:

- Developed a set of guided and interpreted tours that evocatively weave the ancient story of Maungatautari.
- Encouraged and supported our hosts and guides in telling Maungatautari stories to consistently high standards so that they will be enjoyed and remembered long after visitors have departed.
- Facilitated and contributed to a Sanctuary Mountain® Maungatautari education programme to bring about an awareness in conservation and ecological restoration.
- Encouraged and facilitated regular visitation by local residents, ensuring their continued engagement in, and support for our project.
- Created necessary infrastructure and maintained it at a very high standard enabling visitors to get the best possible experiences, be safe, and leave having been entertained and well informed.
- Promoted Sanctuary Mountain® Maungatautari as a premier destination in the itineraries of in-bound tourism operators.

3

Productive partnerships are a feature of our success.

By 2026 we will have:

- Consolidated Sanctuary Mountain® Maungatautari as a model of effective co-governance in which kawa and tikanga of mana whenua is reflected in all that we do.
- Maintained strong relationships with our neighbouring landowners, based on mutual understandings of shared interests.
- Nurtured skills and confidence of our volunteers as conservation professionals, recognising they are the lifeblood of our organisation and underpin the on-going success of Sanctuary Mountain® Maungatautari.
- Continued to encourage and facilitate inputs and support from our partners, ensuring that their interests are appropriately reflected in our directions and activities. Our family of partners and donors will have grown, reflecting recognition of the opportunities provided by Sanctuary Mountain® Maungatautari, and the perceived value in partnering.

4

Sound financial management by the Trust and continued donor support, underpins increasing economic viability of the Sanctuary Mountain® Maungatautari project.

By 2026 we will have:

- Improved the financial viability of the project through continuing to meet the requirements of our current donors and encouraging further organisations to join our family of donors, contributing to our strategic goals.
- Grown the diversity of our revenue streams to support our sustainable, viable enterprise.
- Secured additional funds for key capital investments and maintenance, visitor facility development, education facility development, upgrading of tracks and other vital infrastructure.
- Consistently applied appropriate business practices and demonstrated transparency and accountability to our partners and stakeholders.

VALUES / UARA

INSPIRED GUARDIAN

KAITIAKI WHAKAMIIHARO

ADVOCATE OF THE MOUNTAIN

HEI KANOHI MAUNGA

WHO IS A CARING TEAM PLAYER

HEI RINGA WHAAOMOOMO,
HE RINGA RANGITAAMIRO

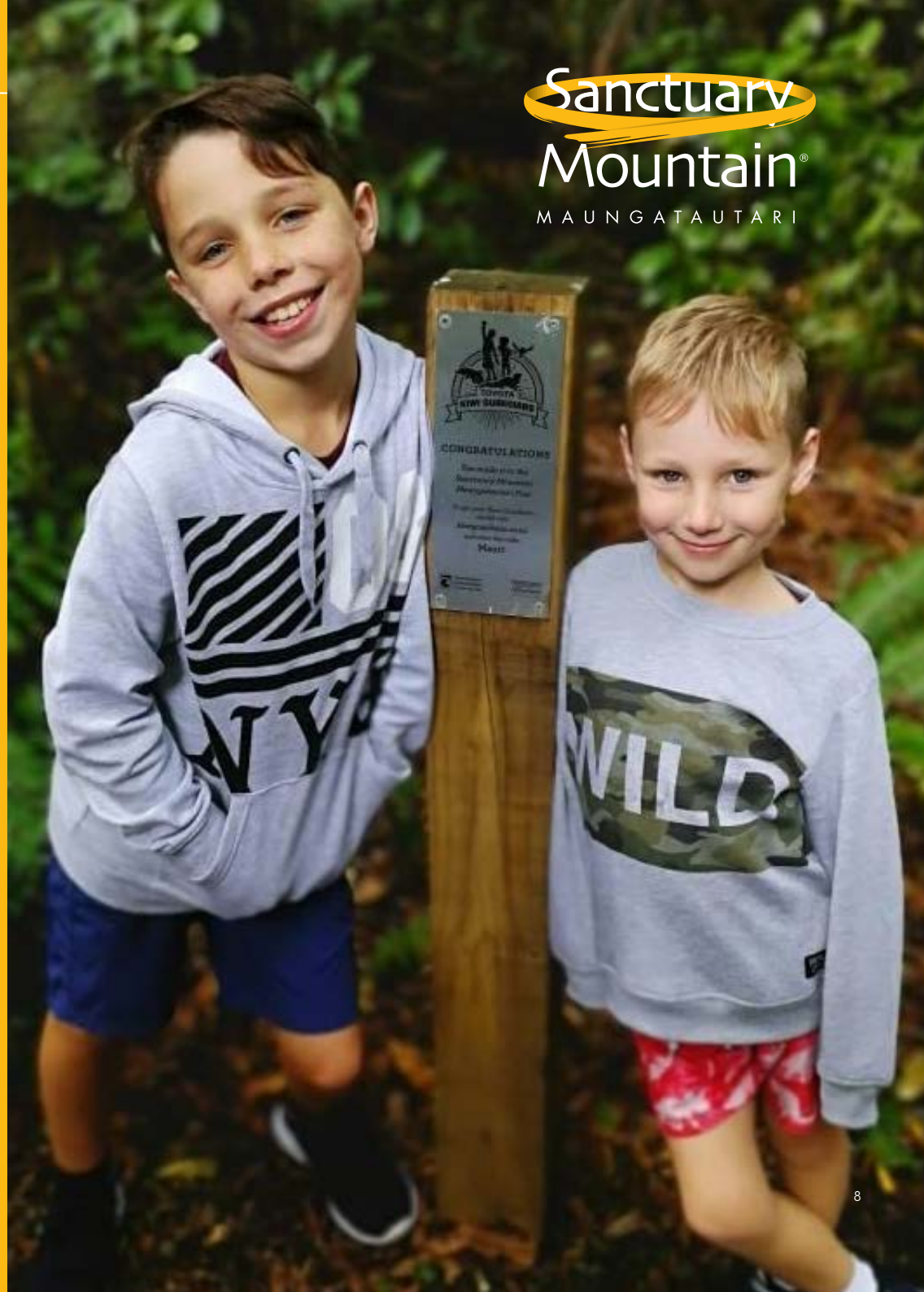
ADAPTABLE, ENCOURAGING DIVERSITY

KIA TAUTOKO NGAA URUTAUNGA,
KIA HAPAHAAPAI TE MIRO-RANGARANGA
ME TE AKONGA-KUMEROA

AND LIFELONG LEARNER

TIIHEI MAURIORA

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MAUNGATAUTARI



INSPIRED GUARDIAN

KAITIAKI WHAKAMIIHARO

We are all guardians of the taonga species that call Maungatautari home. The sanctuary is an outstanding example of restoration and one of the most biodiverse forest areas on mainland New Zealand. We are proud of our work that significantly increases the viability for rare flora and fauna to become self-sustaining populations.

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CARING FOR THE SANCTUARY'S SPECIES

Some of the notable species translocations, monitoring and survey work conducted this year included:

Translocations

Copper skink, *Oligosoma aeneum*

43 copper skinks *Oligosoma aeneum* were released into Te Tūi a Tāne southern enclosure in late May 2023. This was a multi-agency salvage translocation from a housing development in Hamilton and involved collaborating with Hamilton Zoo, which held the skinks for a month for quarantine and disease testing. The skinks were released within the vicinity of permanent lizard survey transects, so hopefully, they will be picked up in future surveys. They are not a new species to Maungatautari, with repeat Copper skink sightings in many locations, including the Tutarium, in the Tautari wetland.

North Island kākā, *Nestor meridionalis*

Two North Island kākā *Nestor meridionalis* were transferred from Waiheke Island Native Bird Rescue to recover in our aviaries before being soft released to the southern enclosure. This involved setting up a new dedicated rehab volunteer team, which worked very well.

Species monitoring

Hihi, *Notiomystis cincta*

The annual hihi survey was conducted by Hihi Conservation Officer Mhairi McCready from July to October 2022 over 40 days. The sightings and banding information are used for the mark and recapture survey. Mhairi sighted 35 birds, of which eight un-banded birds were captured and fitted with unique leg colour bands. Hihi continue to be elusive at Maungatautari and the latest survey results put our population at 57 (35-99) birds, a continued decline in the past few years. It is possible that a good year of breeding could turn this around. The next two years will see a concerted effort to discover more about what is inhibiting the expansion of hihi at Maungatautari and explore management options to help bolster the precious population.

Titipounamu, *Acanthisitta chloris*

Titipounamu are challenging to monitor as these tiny birds feed high up in the canopy and have distinctive high-pitched calls that can be difficult to hear. They also have started to disperse more widely from original release sites. For this reason, experienced contractors were engaged to assist with the 2022 pre-breeding survey. They found at least twenty pairs of birds, with at least another three single birds. Similarly, the staff and volunteer survey in March 2023 detected approximately 44 birds in total, but the survey was affected by poor weather and only weeks after Cyclone Gabrielle. To date, data from several surveys shows that 25 of the original 80 birds have been resighted. With a short life span, higher numbers of un-banded (Maungatautari hatched) birds are showing up in the surveys, which will quickly outnumber the marked birds. As such, the next pre-breeding survey is likely our last time to spot banded birds, and we have engaged species experts for this survey in September – October 2023.





Hochstetter's Frog, *Leiopelma hochstetteri*

Due to various complexities, EcoQuest was unable to complete the second part of the triennial frog survey in November 2022. It was decided to repeat this survey in 2023. The first half of the survey was completed in April, and the second part is due in November 2023. Biodiversity staff visited the EcoQuest campus this year and were really impressed by their programme and the willingness to engage with Sanctuary Mountain® Maungatautari to support our frog surveys, potentially helping to initiate or support other biota monitoring in the future.

Mahoenui Giant Wētā, *Deinacrida mahoenui*

The arboreal Mahoenui giant wētā continues to be detected annually around the southern enclosure and usually not too far from their original release sites. Sightings are reported to the biodiversity team leader who keeps records and sends these to the Department of Conservation and Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research. A new permanent survey plot will be initiated in late 2023 to formalise the monitoring of this unique species.

Bat research

Bat colonies

This year, Otago University summer research intern Fiona Collie initiated a new bat survey. With twenty-one recorders placed out over the summer for several weeks, we were delighted with Fiona's results, which had over 14,000 passes by long-tailed bats (*Chalinolobus tuberculatus*). Whilst there were no detections of lesser short-tailed bats (*Mystacina tuberculata*), that result was not unexpected and gives us further data to explore reintroduction of short-tailed bats in the future.

Fiona's research also generated heat maps of likely (general) locations of roosts, which we can further investigate, providing us with the framework for regular repeat surveys in future to monitor our long-tailed bat population.



Lizards

A permanent lizard survey in the northern enclosure was initiated, targeting likely gecko sites. This is an ongoing tracking card survey with the hopes of detecting rare species such as the Duvaucel's gecko, though, to date, no gecko prints have been found.

Fungal foray

This year Sanctuary Mountain® Maungatautari hosted the Fungal Network of NZ (FUNNZ) for their annual fungal foray. The group goes to different sites each year, and this is the first time that we have had dozens of dedicated mycologists gathering a large amount of species information in a short space of time. Results are being uploaded to iNaturalist and institutional databases - with over 140 fungi and lichen species uploaded to iNaturalist, this is more than double what was reported two years ago. Visit iNaturalist and search Maungatautari Ecological District to view some of the amazingly diverse fungi found at Sanctuary Mountain® Maungatautari.



Active Species Management

Sugar water continues to be provided three times a week, rain or shine, to our beautiful resident hihi population. There are six current feeders and funding has been sought to install a seventh feeder. Three feeders are in the southern enclosure and three on the Over the Mountain/Quad track at the PAB, BND and Mangahoi intersections. Cameras on some of the feeders help gather sightings information as well as volunteer and visitor sightings in the southern enclosure.

Takahē continue to delight our visitors, staff, and volunteers. We still have our two resident breeding pairs. Both pairs hatched a chick successfully this year, but only the Tautari wetland chick survived. The Coopers chick likely had exposure to the significant rain events we experienced in January 2023. The Tautari wetland juvenile is male, bringing our total number of juveniles raised to 21. We are hopeful for a great breeding year in 2023.

The Tuatarium has had a lot of maintenance work to reduce over-abundant tree cover and provide lovely, dappled sunlight for the tuatara and helps to improve visitor experience. Ongoing vegetation maintenance and weekly water supply to the ponds and pools in the enclosure continue to be provided via our dedicated Wetland Custodian volunteers.

Maintaining the maunga

It was exceptionally wet for the North Island over the spring and summer period, delaying maintenance on tracks within the sanctuary and the surrounding 47-kilometre fence line. Only basic maintenance was able to be achieved this year, due to costly repairs being over and above our annual budget.

Call-outs

Staff attended 110 call-outs, a decrease from last year's 129 call-outs. Maintenance such as vegetation clearing, arborists removing trees before they fall, annual shelterbelt trimming and



volunteer and Department of Conservation staff assisting with vegetation trimming have contributed to the reduction in call-outs.

During Cyclone Gabrielle, four sections of Xcluder® pest-proof fencing were damaged, totalling 25 metres, requiring full replacement.

Events Centre lighting upgrade

The lighting within the southern enclosure's Event Centre, was requiring renewal and a full switchboard upgrade. The upgrade will allow the facility to be used more effectively for wellness workshops and Nature & Nosh tours.

Pest incursions and monitoring

Over the last 12 months, pest control has been front of mind for our biosecurity team. Ensuring we maintain our pest-free status is critical for the impending arrival of kākāpō and the wider sanctuary strategy. The team and volunteers have worked closely to keep the ngāhere's pest-free status while steadily making improvements to pest detection and removal systems.

A significant piece of work involved installing 50 new trail cameras into the pest monitoring network thanks to funding from The Mazda Foundation and The Stout Charitable Trust. Despite not trapping pests, they indicate the location and identify pest movements for more efficient trapping. In addition, the team have modified pest control equipment to ensure the sanctuary is safe for kākāpō.

Breaches and incursions

The sanctuary's staff and volunteers have diligently monitored for pests, responded to incursions and fence breaches, and made numerous improvements to the processes and systems for managing biosecurity. Over the year, 17 fence breaches and 22 pest incursions were successfully resolved.

ADVOCATE OF THE MOUNTAIN

HEI KANOHI MAUNGA

Sanctuary Mountain® Maungatautari connects with local communities and visitors from afar, who are equally encouraged to visit, participate, and enjoy the rich natural heritage of this mighty Waikato maunga. Advocacy of the maunga and the conservation of our unique biodiversity is at the core of our role through our visitor services and experiences.



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Connecting our visitors

Connecting people with nature drives our visitor services team at Sanctuary Mountain® Maungatautari. We aim to create positive, authentic, and direct experiences in the environment on Maungatautari that enable visitors to discover more and encourage them to become advocates for nature too.

Visitor numbers

In the first quarter of the financial year, we continued to feel the effects of COVID-19 on visitation numbers. However, it was comforting to see international travellers return and visitor numbers increase over the summer period, especially given it was a very wet summer. We were thrilled to see 15,452 visitors, of which 27% were international travellers and achieving our target of 12,000 visitors. February recorded a record income from visitors of \$38,431.

Guiding programmes

We are pleased to see guided tour numbers have lifted from 1,771 in 2018/19 to 2,754 in 2022/23. The return of international travellers also meant the return of Inbound Tour Operators (ITO) seeking guided tours, contributing to this figure. The strength of our guiding team is their ability to share their kōrero authentically. There are themes that they all cover, but each guide has their own experiences they interweave into the tours they deliver.

Engagement online

We focused on creating regular social media content on our channels, sharing species knowledge, sanctuary updates and profiling tours and visitor experiences. Social media allows us to connect with audiences locally and globally. Our follower numbers are steadily growing.

Retail

Our retail shop sales continued building, and we introduced new product ranges. We had some great results, including our largest retail month in April, with sales of \$5,058.

Signage

New directional signage for the southern enclosure included integrating te reo Māori. The directional signage helps visitors find their way to the entrance to the southern enclosure from the visitor centre. Three road signs were also installed between Cambridge and Pukeatua to help visitors navigate to the sanctuary from Cambridge through Roto-o-Rangi.

Reviews and rating

We have maintained our TripAdvisor five-star rating, accumulated from a total of 249 reviews. We also received feedback from visitors through Rezdy (booking system), showing 95.57% are very satisfied to extremely satisfied with their visit. The survey also asks how likely people are to recommend Sanctuary Mountain® Maungatautari to a friend or colleague. The results from provides us with our Net Promoter Score (NPS). The NPS measures customer experience and can predict business growth.

The score for Sanctuary Mountain® Maungatautari for the calendar year of 2022/2023 is 82. Based on global NPS standards, above 70 is considered world-class.

Recognised for our work

We were thrilled to again be awarded the Qualmark Gold award. A Gold Sustainable Tourism Accreditation identifies those businesses leading the way in making the New Zealand tourism industry a world-class sustainable visitor destination.



Inspired Kaitiaki

We are incredibly grateful for the support of our Inspired Kaitiaki members, who contribute regularly to support our ongoing conservation work.



Initiatives for environmental sustainability

Green team

Launched this year, the sanctuary's Green Team comprises motivated staff members and volunteers focused on making Sanctuary Mountain® Maungatautari more environmentally sustainable. They met several times to create actions on ways to reduce waste and carbon dioxide emissions. Projects included using cotton hand towels instead of paper towels in staff bathrooms and kitchen areas, running a sustainable lunch box competition and further education on composting food scraps and staff room bins. Purpose-designed waste bins were also purchased for the new education centre.

Cardboard tracking cards

Tracking cards on the main mountain monitoring lines comprise nearly 160 litres (70 kg) of landfill waste annually. We received \$3,000 from Waipa District Council's Waste Minimisation Fund to contribute towards purchasing seven trail cameras. The trail cameras will replace tracking card use on some of the main mountain monitoring lines, reducing the overall waste. This initiative also saves staff and volunteer time and captures key data over a more extended period, not only of potential pests but also of taonga species. A permanent camera network covering the fence line was completed in November 2022. Cameras are also used to investigate pest presence in connection with fence breaches and pest incursions.

Scrap metal recycling

A nine cubic metre scrap metal bin is on permanent loan from Central Metals and is located at the operations depot for metal recycling. Central Metals generously picked this up and swapped

it out with a new bin at no cost. We have sent away 18 cubic metres of scrap metal this year.

Rain sensor

A rain sensor was installed in the native plant nursery to regulate the watering of plants, and this has reduced electricity use by 78%.

Ditch the four walls for an outdoor boardroom

Launched in 2020, the Bush Boardroom is a collaboration between Sanctuary Mountain® Maungatautari and Kylie Rae of Nature & Nosh Tours. Offering a range of unique and unplugged corporate experiences, the Bush Boardroom packages include guided mindful hikes and ancient forest highlights tours, culminating in a workshop or planning session at an undisclosed location on the maunga with a large table under an open native canopy.

"The Bush Boardroom has hosted companies like Fonterra, Gallagher, Sentinel Homes, Convex and Cheal Consultants".

Plant Pass accreditation

We have received a Plant Pass certification for our native plant nursery in February. Plant Pass is a voluntary biosecurity certification scheme to help plant producers identify, control, manage and avoid biosecurity risks. Our nursery raises eco-sourced natives and undertakes plantings around the maunga to help vulnerable trees, birds, insects, and fish flourish. We also provide native plants for sale, to our community as well. A huge thank you to all the volunteers who have put in the mahi to make this possible and Daltons of Matamata, who annually supply us with compost.

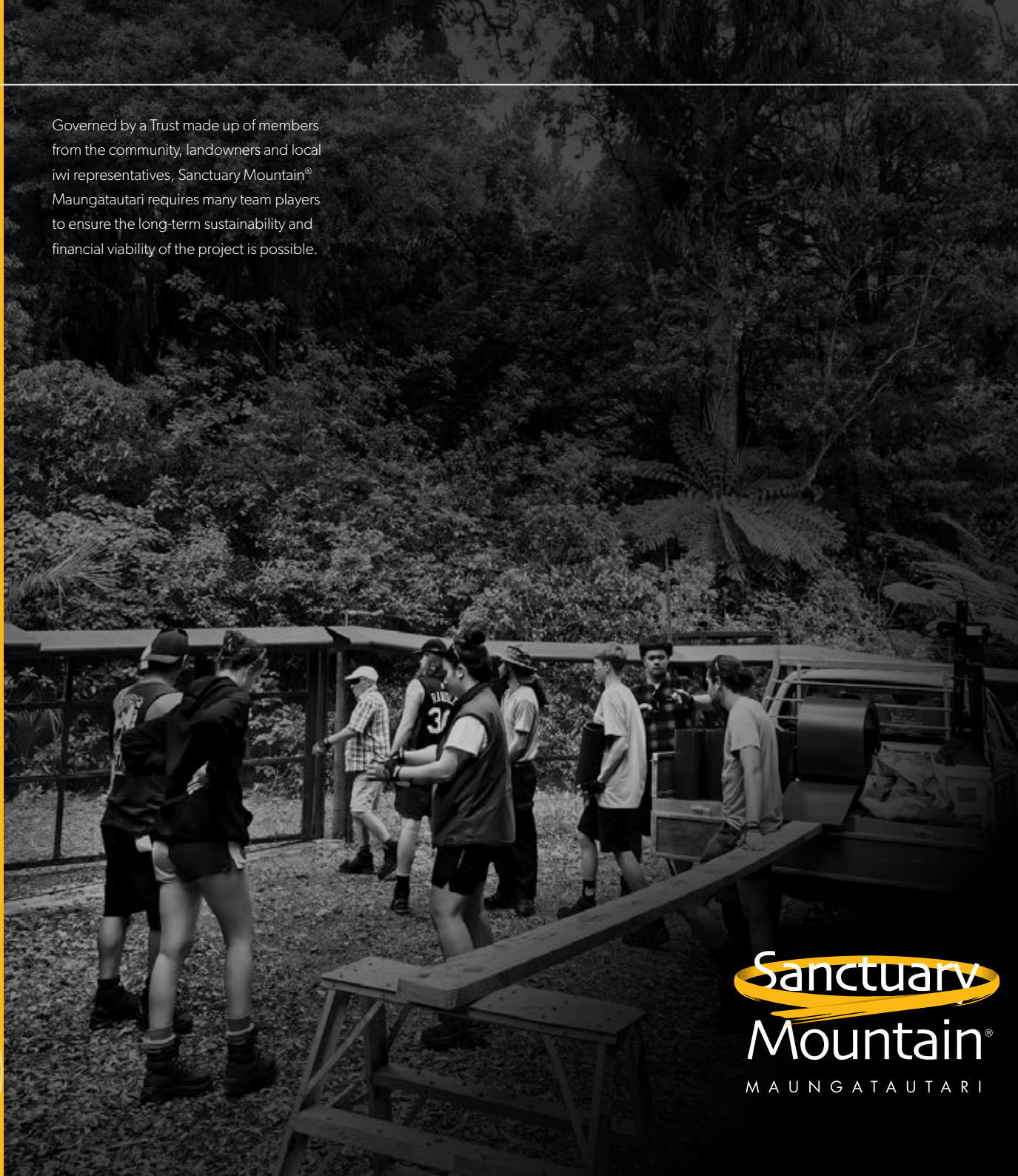
How often do we take the opportunity to be mindful before racing off to the next meeting? In our world it's unheard of, so to spend the day in the pristine environment of Sanctuary Mountain® Maungatautari was an absolute privilege. Nestled amongst the trees with the (at times very loud!) sound of native birds all around us, talking about the finances didn't really compare! Kylie is a great host and passionate about her work and the food was amazing. We can't recommend this highly enough.

— Rebecca Hawke, Cheal Consultants CEO.

WHO IS A CARING TEAM PLAYER

HEI RINGA WHAAOMOOMO
HE RINGA RANGITAAMIRO

Governed by a Trust made up of members from the community, landowners and local iwi representatives, Sanctuary Mountain® Maungatautari requires many team players to ensure the long-term sustainability and financial viability of the project is possible.



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Strengthening relationships with DOC

In April the installation of the kākāpō barrier was completed, with the objective of keeping these precious manu within the sanctuary. However, there was still work to be done. In places vegetation had grown against the fence line interior, so that it could form a bridge, and possibly allow kākāpō to bypass the barrier.

In response, Department of Conservation teams from both the Waikato and Maniapoto offices arrived at the maunga in June, providing vehicles, tools, and plenty of people power to clear back vegetation along a stretch of fence line in the sanctuary's northeast. The enthusiasm, professionalism and speed of these teams was remarkable, and much more mahi than expected was completed.

Volunteers are the ultimate team players

Through their generous efforts, volunteers embody the core values that define our organisation. Each volunteer plays a vital role in preserving and enhancing the sanctity of Maungatautari, and their dedication is truly commendable.

We have a total of 192 volunteers who contributed 14,749 volunteer hours supporting staff with day-to-day activities, including pest control and monitoring, planting and releasing nursery work, maintenance of our visitor areas, species surveys and visitor engagement.

During the year, work included:

- Refined onboarding procedures empowered new volunteers for meaningful engagement
- Collaborative workdays with Te Awamutu College cultivated future environmental stewards
- Continued to foster unity among volunteers with communication platforms
- The Wetlands Custodian team bolstered vital wetland preservation
- National recognition through Volunteering New Zealand shoutouts celebrating our contributions
- Volunteers transitioning to staff roles exemplified our dynamic community's growth. New roles included canister filler/monitoring cupboard, traps and canisters, kākāpō fencing and custodians of the wetland.

"Their collective efforts not only enrich the sanctuary but also enhance our community's understanding and connection to the environment. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to these dedicated individuals who give their time, passion, and skills to preserve and protect Maungatautari for generations to come."

Volunteer Coordinator – Lian Buckett.



Mana whenua led partnerships

*“ka tangi te titi, ka tangi te kaka, ka tangi te kākāpō,
ka tangi te kiwi Tihei Mauriora!”*

Translocation of taonga species

The translocation of kiwi this year has been a significant partnership between Sanctuary Mountain® Maungatautari, Save the Kiwi and mana whenua. Translocating kiwi from the sanctuary requires the appropriate processes. Tikanga and iwi-to-iwi relationships are met with ritual, protocol and respect for an ancient process of tākoha (gifting).

Led by Ngāti Koroki Kahukura (NKK) in partnership with Ngāti Hikairo ki Tongariro, staff, volunteers and Save the Kiwi were part of translocating 61 kiwi out of the sanctuary back to Tongariro. In May, another 50 kiwi were released into the hills of Mākara, southwest of Wellington, in partnership with Capital Kiwi and Taranaki iwi.

During the year, two more iwi have visited Sanctuary Mountain® Maungatautari to tono (apply) from Maungatautari again NKK was there to respond to the cultural reciprocation on pōwhiri.

Tono Process

The tono process is a reciprocal mana-to-mana agreement between NKK and other iwi. Over the past 12 months, significant work has been undertaken to start the process of tono with Ngāi Tahu, creating a consistent presence in the decision-making process in the arrival of kākāpō. This has required face-to-face and verbal discussions that carry the cultural and holistic aspects of the translocation.

*“Kotahi te kakaho, ka whati, ka pūia ngā kakaho e kore e whati.”
“One reed will snap under the pressure, but together united,
can never be broken.”*

Ongoing work

Along with all our supporters NKK continue to contribute across the organisation in all areas of the Maungatautari vision. Such efforts cannot be named individually as there are too many to mention and it would not be right mention one without the other. The saying that best embodies these sentiments not just for Mana Whenua, but for all is a whakatauāki from Te Puea Herangi (Princess Te Puea).

Tikanga practices

With the guidance and support of mana whenua and Sanctuary Manager Bodie Taylor, the team continued to work hard to integrate tikanga practices and values from mātauranga into all areas of business.





Employing rangatahi on the maunga

Jobs for Nature – Mahi mō te Taiao

Sanctuary Mountain® Maungatautari was the recipient of a \$589,416 three-year funding package through Jobs for Nature in 2021. Now, two years into the funding period, our four full-time rangers are well on their way to receiving full training in becoming experienced rangers in pest and species management and infrastructure maintenance as part of the scheme.

Over the past year, we have completed the following outcomes that contribute to our funding goals:

- **61 km fence maintenance (target 47 km).** This involved fence inspections, replacing O-rings on the surveillance wire, cleaning the hood of lichen, building two new up and overs and replacing pop rivets on the hood.
- **690 m fence upgrade (target 1040 m).** This included replacing whole sections of fence that were damaged due to tree fall and upgrading the fence, particularly around the Southern Enclosure. We fell short of the milestone due to Cyclone Gabrielle and the reprioritising of resources on upgrading the fence to make it kākāpō proof.
- **100 km track maintenance (target 98 km).** Our rangers maintained existing tracks including the internal fence, quad bike and many monitoring tracks on the main mountain.

The four rangers were trained in Light Utility Vehicle (LUV), Grow Safe and first aid. Two rangers also learnt telemetry and kiwi handling skills, mostly done as volunteers. These skills helped locate and catch kiwi for translocation to Tongariro and Wellington.

Working in the outdoors

Helping Sanctuary Mountain® Maungatautari meet its conservation goals is a rewarding role for Ranger Caitlin Stoyel-Wiggins who is part of the Jobs for Nature scheme.

The variety of her job is a real drawcard, where no two days are the same. “A lot of my role is working with both the Biosecurity and Operations and Assets teams. We get stuck in and do anything from fence building and weeding to trap-setting and even track maintenance,” says Caitlin.

Before joining Sanctuary Mountain® Maungatautari, Caitlin was studying a Certificate in Conservation Operations with Toi Ohomai. Her studies were hands-on, providing her a great range of skills including how to drive quad bikes and light utility vehicles, operate and maintain a chainsaw, use agrichemicals and manage pest control, and build and maintain tracks, fences and other conservation facilities.

She loves working outdoors and sees a future for herself in some sort of conservation fieldwork. “I love doing a job that makes a difference. I’m aiming to work more in species conservation in the future,” says Caitlin.

Caitlin was also one of two rangers who received telemetry and kiwi handling training this year. Caitlin uses this skill while walking on the maunga to help locate kiwi and kākāpō. This is invaluable in keeping our taonga species safe and a skill she can use as a future leader and kaitiaki (guardian).

Caitlin says one of the best things about the sanctuary and working in the team is getting to work with such passionate people.

“All four of our Jobs for Nature rangers are still with us.

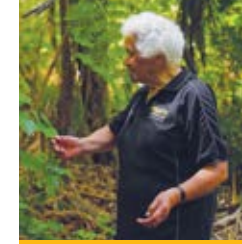
This is a result of a good whakawhaunaungatanga, ongoing training and support, opportunities to specialise and a great place to work.”

– Warwick Prewer, Ranger and Reporting Analyst

ADAPTABLE, ENCOURAGING DIVERSITY

KIA TAUTOKO NGAA URUTAUNGA,
KIA HAPAHAAPAI TE MIRO-RANGARANGA
ME TE AKONGA-KUMEROA

By encouraging diversity across all aspects of our organisation, we can strive to connect as many people as possible with the maunga. We embrace diversity and inclusivity in our programmes and activities that contribute to enhancing the social, physical, mental and spiritual well-being of our visitors and community.



Health and well-being

Sanctuary Mountain® Maungatautari's well-being programme is aimed at individuals and companies to support their overall well-being needs. Whether that is seeking to address stress and mental fatigue, feeling grounded in nature, building a team, or exploring creativity, there are many ways our programmes help address the stresses of everyday life.

National Hauora Coalition

We hosted 20 staff from the National Hauora Coalition in December, where they participated in our Living Connections experience. The session interwove learning of the healing properties of plants, an immersive wellbeing experience focusing on the senses to explore the ngahere, and a gentle movement practice to relieve stress. The workshop finished with a joyous rendition of Tutira Mai Ngā Iwi. The group expressed how enjoyable and healing the experience had been and a follow-up session was delivered to their colleagues in February 2023.

Diversity of health and well-being programmes

Joyce works part-time as a visitor centre coordinator and a guide alongside Wellness and Guiding Programme Coordinator Rosie Cahalane. Together, they have developed several programmes, including the new Living Connections experience,

"I saw a call for visitor hosts in Maunga Matters ngahere at a time when I needed something new in my life, and I began volunteering one day a month. That turned into one voluntary day a week on the reception desk, and I joined the visitor centre staff in 2016," says Joyce.

Joyce is a professionally trained Eco therapist who promotes mental and emotional well-being by guiding clients into an increased awareness of themselves and the natural world.

"I work with groups to give them a new experience of the forest that reduces stress and revitalises the body and mind. I encourage them to slow down and use all their senses, allowing them to

experience being in nature in a truly health-giving way," says Joyce. Rongoā Rākau is another programme that has continued to develop this year. The popular tours started in 2022 by collaborating with Sanctuary Mountain® Maungatautari and mana whenua. This year, we welcome Jamie Hiriaki as a guide. Jamie had been supporting whaea Ringi Morgan-Fifield, who leads our monthly Friday tours, and the addition of Jamie to the team now allows us to offer Saturday tour dates.

"From a child, my grandmother, nana and great-aunts would use rongoā for healing and after becoming a mother and being influenced by my work in a kindergarten that followed a Rudolf Steiner holistic approach to education and living, my passion for rongoā was reignited", says Jamie.

Over the last 12 months, 96 people have participated in these intimate tours. Visitors have enjoyed the tikanga aspects of the tour and its positioning in Te Ao Māori.

Safety-conscious culture

Health and safety is an organisation-wide priority that is embedded in our working culture.

Safe Work Register (SWR)

Our SWR reporting system has been in place for a full year. Over the past 12 months, 1,416 staff, volunteers and contractors have checked in using SWR.

Toolbox Sessions

Safety Toolbox sessions were more important than ever with the addition of the kākāpō fence rangers joining the team. Daily fence toolbox meetings were held at the Operations Depot detailing the section of fence they were modifying. Weekly toolbox meetings continued, along with weekly team lead and monthly full team health and safety hui's.

LIFELONG LEARNER

TIIHEI MAURIORA

Education is one of Sanctuary Mountain® Maungatautari's key priorities. We offer facilitated education and learning programmes for early childhood, primary school, secondary school, kura, tertiary and teacher professional development. Personal development is also a priority, and we try to find ways to offer staff and volunteers opportunities to learn.





Learning opportunities

Mother Earth education programme

Despite cancellations of schools (totalling 240 students) who had been scheduled to visit, mainly because of weather and teacher strikes, the education programme interacted with 2,894 students, and 805 adults, totalling 3,699 education visitors to the maunga. The education programme was responsible for around a quarter of the visitation to the mountain. In addition, some school groups have donated time, money and/or resources to the mountain after experiencing an education programme. A total of 132 school sessions were presented, and more students engaged in education programme activities at events such as Kids Greening Taupo and the Te Awamutu Museum's Tui & Tama Club Eco Expo as well as via online education. Including all events where the education team interacted with people, 5,390 people had the opportunity to experience our education programme last year.

Rototuna Junior High School visit

A highlight this year was a visit from Rototuna Junior High School in May. Teachers Haylee and Katie co-teach a Year 10 group of students, and they created a unit of learning that combined concepts of conservation genetics with the skills involved in smartphone and DSLR photography. They introduced their unit of work to students by taking them to the Wildlife Photographer of the Year exhibition at the Waikato Museum. Then, they visited Sanctuary Mountain® Maungatautari to learn about the conservation genetics involved in species recovery work. Their visit also included exploring the forest to enable students to practice the photography skills they'd learned at school. Their unit of work culminated in a written report, and photography collections were created around their chosen theme. Lead Educator Tali and educator Anne Devlin then attended their school arts evening to view the photography boards on display and help congratulate the photography competition winners. A talent show was also part of this evening, and donations were collected on the night that were kindly donated to Sanctuary Mountain® Maungatautari.

Educational tours

This year has seen international student tour groups begin to return through New Zealand ISA, Haka Educational Tours and international university groups. We have continued providing field trip opportunities for the Bay Conservation Alliance Cadet and BLAKE Inspire programmes.

Professional days

Two fully subscribed teacher professional development days were held in partnership with the Department of Conservation, sharing the unique ecology and biodiversity of Maungatautari and conservation resources available for teachers to use. One in September – Conservation Education and Biodiversity and one in May – Conservation Education and Wellbeing.

We contributed a field trip experience exploring the biodiversity of the maunga and rongoā rākau to the inaugural Science Wānanga ki Parawera Marae. The University of Otago Division of Sciences, in partnership with Parawera Marae and others, brought rangatahi together from four local schools/ kura and whānau and rangatahi from Parawera Marae. The wānanga explored the strengths of western science and mātauranga Māori around themes of wai and kai.

We also provided a field trip for the SciCon 2023 Science Teacher's conference for 34 teachers nationwide.

"We just wanted to say another massive thank you to you and your team. We had the best time last week! It was really nice talking to the kids today about it. They all loved it. Not only the photography aspect but just taking the time to be out in nature and enjoy it all at a slower pace. It's something that lots of them don't get to do regularly".



Research projects

Sanctuary Mountain® Maungatautari works with universities and other partners to collaborate on research projects, supporting researchers to contribute to global conservation goals and outcomes.

Invertebrates

Kelly Greig, an Auckland University PhD candidate, has been studying beetles from the Zopheridae family to observe the diverse cuticle structures of these beetles and better understand their camouflage capabilities.

Tuatara

Cam Hoffbeck, a University of Auckland PhD student, is studying the microbiome of captive vs. wild tuatara and took cloacal samples of 30 tuatara from two sites at the end of January 2023. This was also a good chance to health check our tuatara and all those captured were looking in great health!

North Island kākā

Neil Fitzgerald from Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research is conducting a long-term study, 'Where do kākā go?' and included the capture of a Sanctuary Mountain® Maungatautari juvenile in early 2023 that has a GPS tracking device monitoring the young bird's movements. Results from his study are likely to be published in 2024, but interim results have shown kākā are regularly flying significant distances around the North Island.

Flora

University of Waikato graduate Margaret Dickinson has a concession permit for native tree phenology studies that continue in the northern aspects of Maungatautari. Margaret gave an excellent talk at our research seminars this year, highlighting some of her findings – many of them previously unknown, such as the timing of fruiting and flowering of Mangeao and Tawa and the impacts of invasive mammals, using Maungatautari as a comparison site.

Fungi

Mycologist Dr. Ian Hood continues his fungal community research titled: Wood colonizing polypore fungi in podocarp hardwood forest on Maungatautari reserve. Ian has recorded many new species (to Maungatautari) and produced some fantastic bound copies of his research findings that are available to view at the Visitor Centre.

Staff and volunteer development

Training

Staff and volunteers have also continued to receive training to ensure they hold quad, 4WD, LUV, chainsaw and first aid certifications. During the year, where appropriate, staff and volunteers also underwent advanced chainsaw, advanced first aid in the bush, winching, dog training, and communications training. Volunteers have been trained onsite in diverse areas, from pest monitoring to kiwi tracking, handling and transmitter changes, track cutting, kākāpō fence modification, species surveys and wild bird captive care and rehabilitation.

Staff have also attended relevant industry group meetings including hihi recovery group hui, national kiwi hui, kōkako specialist group and conservation dog's hui, to name just a few!

Developing rangers

Over the last 12 months, there have been several opportunities for our new rangers to grow and develop their leadership skills. The kākāpō project has enabled team members to step up and manage smaller groups of fence rangers and volunteers working on the fence modification. Rangers have also had opportunities to attend industry events such as the national kiwi hui and Sanctuaries of New Zealand annual conference.

THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS

Principal Funder



Key strategic partnerships:

Department of Conservation
Manaaki Whenua – Landcare Research
Mother Earth
Ngāti Koroki Kahukura
Profile Group
Toi Ohomai Institute of Technology
Waikato Regional Council
Waikato River Authority.

Key Funders:

Grassroots
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Ngāti Hauā
Raukawa
Waikato
Ngāti Hikairo ki Tongariro
Ngāi Tahu

We also wish to thank the following funders, businesses and groups:

Alexander Harold Watson
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Jumble Around
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Mazda Foundation
One Foundation
Ron Greenwood Environmental Trust
Stout Charitable Trust
Transpower
Valder Conservation Grant
WDC - Waste Minimisation
Community Fund
WDC – Heritage Fund
Z Good in the Hood

Sanctuary Mountain® Maungatautari simply could not do what we do without the support of our committed whānau of sponsors and supporters. These wonderful partners and sponsors have supported Sanctuary Mountain® Maungatautari in the last financial year, contributing to the many projects outlined in this report.

FINANCIAL REPORT – YEAR ENDING 30th JUNE 2023

Graham Parker, MEIT Trustee

The Trust recorded a nett surplus of \$155k for the year ending 30th June 2023. This was achieved during a year where two major capital projects were completed, The Manu Korokii Profile Group Education Centre (\$862K) and the addition to the perimeter pest-proof fence to enable kākāpō to be reintroduced to Maungatautari (\$608K).

Revenue for the year was \$3,063K. Revenue in 2022 was \$2,170K

- 2023 revenue included \$1,087K of capital grants carried through from 2022.
- Visitor and Education Programme income of \$354K was up \$101K on the 2022, a Covid impacted year.
- Operating grant receipts from community funders were lower – the impact of the current recessionary environment. This impact will also likely flow into the current years' income.

Total expenses were \$2,908 -up from \$2,245K in 2022

- Administration and operating costs were held stable at \$448,550 -a commendable achievement in the current inflationary climate.
- Wages and employment costs at \$1,344k were up \$105K. This included additional wages as visitor activity increased post Covid.
- Depreciation of \$989K included a one-off impairment loss of \$632K as audit advise was to totally write off the capital "poison drop" expense which had been depreciated on an annual basis since 2006.

The 30 June 2023 cash position shows \$376K available cash. This includes \$95K of tagged funding.

Debt liabilities comprise \$66K of vehicle financing and a \$250K ASB loan drawn down to finance the capital project.



INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

Revenue	Year ended 30/06/23	Year ended 30/06/22
Funding/grants	2,479,149	1,583,344
Donations, fundraising and other similar revenue	218,163	321,758
Revenue from providing goods or services	353,908	253,084
Interest revenue	11,462	2,434
Other income	955	10,224
Total revenue	3,063,637	2,170,844
Expenditure		
Administration costs	89,278	84,947
Costs relating to providing goods and services	4,050	63,045
Depreciation and amortisation	989,514	372,356
Interest expense	18,792	14,219
Operating expenses	359,272	375,425
Volunteer and employee related expenses	1,344,315	1,239,594
Repairs and maintenance	103,104	96,250
Total expenses	2,908,325	2,245,836
Net surplus/(deficit) for the year	155,312	(74,992.00)

BALANCE SHEET

Revenue	Year ended 30/06/23	Year ended 30/06/22
Current assets		
Debitors and prepayments	17,061	24,853
Bank accounts	376,504	1,234,779
Inventory	52,935	22,787
Other current assets	14,654	0.00
Total current assets	461,154	1,282,419
Non-current assets		
Property, plant and equipment	9,181,959	8,881,715
Other non-current assets	0.00	227,400
Total assets	9,643,113	10,391,534
Current liabilities		
Creditors and accrued expenses	126,678	219,858
Income received in advance	47,021	1,087,634
Other current liabilities	0.00	276
Total current liabilities	173,699	1,307,768
Hire purchase	66,499	86,163
Term loans	250,000	0.00
Total liabilities	490,198	1,393,931
Net assets	9,152,915	8,997,603
Accumulated funds		
Capital contributed by members	50	50
Accumulated comprehensive revenue and expenses	9,152,865	8,997,553
Total accumulated funds	9,152,915	8,997,603

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We would like to acknowledge our current
And retired trustees for the year 2022-2023

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Don Scarlet (Co-chair)

Andrew Peckham

Gavin Williamson

Graham Parker

Kate Mauriohoo

Rosanne Matheson

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Matthews, Shaun Jeffers, Department of Conservation,
G. Shirley, Tom Lynch, Geoff Churchill, Rohan Clarke,
Debs Smith, Monique Webb, Kiwis for kiwi and
Sanctuary Mountain® Maungatautari.

KA TŪ TE MANAWA RANGI
KA TŪ TE MANAWA WHENUA
HEI ĀKINA KUMU MŌ HINETAPU I TE PAPA,
ĀWHITIA, PŪPURUTIA, HOU!
TE WĀNANGA O PŌTATAU TE WHEROWHERO

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