



Pūtea Hapori Urupare Āhuarangi – Community Climate Response Fund

Project Summary 2023-24

Front Cover Photo
Provided by the Rangatahi Climate Camp project

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SERVICE CENTRES	Kairanga Cnr Rongotea and Kairanga-Bunnythorpe Roads Palmerston North	REGIONAL HOUSES	Palmerston North 11-15 Victoria Avenue	DEPOTS	Taihape 243 Wairanu Road Taihape
	Marton 19 Hammon Street		Whanganui 181 Guyton Street		Woodville 116 Vogel Street
	Taumarunui 34 Maata Street				

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1 Bulls School - Rangitīkei

Bulls School Orchard – Awarded \$5400

Growing fruit and knowledge

Bulls school established an orchard for the use of an outdoor classroom where students can learn about horticulture, environmental stewardship, sustainability and nutrition. The project aimed to create a sustainable orchard to provide fresh fruit for the school and community and to teach students about the importance of growing their own food.

By growing and harvesting fruit locally, the project promotes sustainable local food security and reduce 'food kilometres', reducing greenhouse gas emissions that are created by transporting food. It supports kaitiakitanga (guardianship), engaging tamariki and their whānau in the tikanga of kai growing and harvesting.

The orchard will be used as a tool to educate students about the impacts of climate change and the importance of undertaking actions to mitigate these impacts.



2 Environment Network Manawatū – Palmerston North

Cementing, expanding and supporting of Growing Gardens and Communities (GGAC) – Awarded \$16700

Building community and filling bellies with home-grown goodness

Growing Gardens and Communities offers practical support, mentoring and guidance to install garden beds and fruit trees for those lacking the means or knowhow to do so themselves. Beyond instillation, ongoing support ensures that gardens and trees are maintained and continue to produce kai. Quarterly public training workshops offer support and education to develop composting systems in homes has broadened the scope of this project beyond recipients of gardens and fruit-trees.

As well as health benefits of home grown nutritious kai, locally produced food reduces greenhouse gas emissions, food waste and reliance on store bought fruit and vegetables.

The project has also strengthened community connections. Many of the whānau who have received gardens and fruit trees have formed collective relationships from their shared interest in home grown kai.



3 Heritage Food Crops Research Trust – Whanganui

Community resilience and local food security project – Awarded \$4600
Free seeds and trees for Whanganui and beyond

Heritage Food Crops Research Trust has been supporting the community by providing seeds and trees at no cost. This grant allowed them to expand production and distribution of trees and seeds to encourage growing nutritious fruit and vegetables at home. Funding allowed the nursery where the trees and seedlings are grown to be improved to allow for increased propagation.

550 fruit trees that were distributed in winter 2024. These were distributed local educational settings (schools and Kura), marae, community gardens and groups. Trees were also donated to both Bulls School and Te Awanui a Rua Charitable Trust to assist their projects.

16,561 packets of seeds in total (approx. 20 in each packet) were distributed along with 2112 tomato plants at the Whanganui River Traders Markets, Marton Community Garden and Tahuri Whenua - National Maori Food Growers Collective. Through Tahuri Whenua, seeds were distributed to marae throughout the country.

The Trust intend to continue supporting the community with the distribution of high health plants and seeds. They also research varieties to find the very best varieties for human health and the prevention of disease such as the apple variety Monty’s Surprise. The improvements this funding allowed to be implemented at the Trust’s nursery will assist them continue this mahi into the future.



4 Mangaweka School - Rangitīkei

Cultivating a future ngahere for future tamariki – Awarded \$5615

Nutritious kai and a home for native species at Mangaweka School.

Mangaweka School's learning is embedded in nature. Through that learning, Tamariki have gained an understanding of some of the climate change impacts to the environment. This project aims to address those challenges by creating native habitat at the school and growing fruits and vegetables to help feed their community with locally grown kai.

Tamariki investigated and learnt of processing waste, improving biodiversity, growing and harvesting kai, exploring alternative energy sources and water conservation. They also learnt of native plants used for rongoā practices and how their trees sequester carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

An orchard and community garden space has been developed, tamariki built planter boxes alongside community members. Three rainwater tanks were purchased and installed as a natural watering system for both the trees and garden. Approximately 500 trees were planted with a good success rate.

Mangaweka School recently received their carbon footprint from the Ministry of Education showing they needed to plant 118 trees to offset their footprint. Thanks to this project, they have far exceeded that. This project is a beginning. The tamariki of Mangaweka School intend to continue this mahi and eat its fruits of into the future.



5 Palmerston North Street Van Inc – Palmerston North & Manawatū

Resource Recovery of Consumer Goods – Awarded \$10000

Keeping used goods in use and out of landfill.

How to keep clothing, furniture and electrical goods out of landfill and in use is a challenge locally and nationally. This project provided a solution for second hand electrical goods by providing cost effective and sustainable testing for electrical equipment that otherwise would be dumped. It also explored and developed ways to reduce clothing and furniture end up in landfills.

Funding enabled purchase of testing equipment and training to use it to test second hand electrical goods to ensure they are safe. This has been very successful. Previously the cost of testing was often greater than the equipment was worth. By June 2024, 296 electrical appliances were returned to service that would otherwise have been dumped.



Through the Palmerston North Charity Shop in King Street, they were able to increase the reuse of clothing by a combination of lowering the grading process and offering free clothing. That resulted in a decrease in clothing going to landfill by up to 500kg/month. The project also included fixing furniture that would have otherwise ended up in landfill.



This work will continue into the future through mechanisms such as donating a day per week for testing of electrical appliances to support the Repair Café and the continuation of the free clothing initiative.

6 The Eco School – Whanganui

Resilient Household Project – Awarded \$8000

Saving money, healthier homes and decreased greenhouse gas emissions.

Improving household energy efficiency saves money and reduces greenhouse gas emissions.

The Eco School provided expert assessments to over 50 Whanganui households. These assessments gave owners independent, expert advice at no cost of how they could make their homes more energy efficient and healthier. Assessments focused on low-cost, practical ways to improve energy efficiency and reduce moisture in homes.

A common issue identified during assessments was insulation shifted during work that had not been put back. Those gaps in insulation are a major source of heat loss. Simply putting the insulation back in place sorted the issue.

Assessments often identified sub optimal ceiling and underfloor insulation. The Eco School helped homeowners apply for the Warmer Kiwi Homes program to receive highly subsidised insulation to make their homes warmer.



7 Wildlife Foxton Trust – Horowhenua

Spinifex seed collection, germination, and growing for dune support –
Awarded \$7400

Strengthening dunes and biodiversity

Spinifex is a native coastal plant that provides habitat and helps hold dunes together, strengthening them against coastal erosion that will worsen as the climate changes. Spinifex use to be prolific around Foxton. This project is helping it to bring it back.

This project involved collecting and germinating spinifex seed. Around 4000 spinifex 'cells' with one or two plants were germinated and planted, a great success rate for a notoriously difficult plant to grow from seed.

Part of this success is due to a new growing tunnel the project funded. That growth tunnel ensures good heat for germination.

Ten volunteers undertook the seed gathering, planting, germination, watering and fertilising over the nine months of the project, amounting to more than 250 volunteer hours. Volunteers including children planted the spinifex, reestablishing areas it use to flourish.



This project intends to continue to grow spinifex each year on a new site but intends to expand into more rare plants that were once common on the coastal dunes but are now seldom seen. The project has worked with the Department of Conservation and Horowhenua District Council on permissions for plant cuttings and seed gathering.



8 Woven Rivers Charitable Trust – Whanganui

Rangatahi Climate Camp – Awarded \$11700

Empowering Rangatahi to look to the past to walk into a sustainable future

Rangatahi (youth) built skills in sustainability and understanding Te Taiao (the natural world) and impacts of climate change through this camp. Anchored in Te Ao Māori, the camp empowered Rangatahi to draw on intrinsic and ancestral knowledge systems while growing a network of support. Rangatahi explored themes of climate leadership, mātauranga Māori, regenerative kai systems, holistic wellbeing and Te Awa Tupua.

Rangatahi learnt how to collect seeds, plant native trees, and harvest and cook kai. They learnt about waterway restoration, visiting marae projects around the region to see kaitiakitanga in action through the mahi undertaken at those marae.

Those Rangatahi now have a community for positive change for themselves and their whānau. They were also exposed and connected to multiple community groups and potential employers including The Learning Environment, Kii Tai, Healthy Families, Te Oranganui, Te Ao Hou Marae.

There are plans to make this an annual camp targeted at rangatahi who are leaders in their own communities (marae/ iwi) from around the region.



9 Te Awanui a Rua Charitable Trust- Taumarunui

Kaitiakitanga Kaimahi for Rangatahi. – Awarded \$8500

Re-establishing the fruit-bowl of Ngāti Hari

The project supported rangatahi (youth) understand impacts on kai gathering and production and to grow as well as protect sources of kai.

Rangatahi learnt how to test stream water quality and how contaminants can affect kai abundance and if it is safe to consume. The knowledge gained was used to prioritise planting to that will help improve water quality and enhance native biodiversity.

In the past, the Taumarunui district was a fruit basket for hapū. Surplus was exchanged with neighbouring hapū. The project looked to assist revitalization of that past by planting fruit trees at Kura (schools), on farms and at Marae. In the years to come, the fruit tree plantings done during this project will bring back that source of local kai resilience for Ngāti Hari; increasing local food resilience will reduce emissions associated with commercially grown fruit.

Overall, a combination of 1000 natives and fruit trees were planted.



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