



NIKAU FOUNDATION

May 2019

Nikau News

Give where you live

Nikau Foundation makes giving easy for Wellingtonians. We invest donations, bequests and trusts, and then make grants from the income to a wide range of charitable purposes in the region according to donors' wishes.



Chris Milne

Chair

Recent changes at Nikau Foundation have set the scene for the Foundation

to offer even more to our region.

Several talented and committed people have joined our board and two long-serving board members have retired. Very recently (mid-April) we were joined by our new executive director, Alice Montague. The board and management are energised and positive about the future of the Foundation. More information about these changes is featured elsewhere in this newsletter.

Alice Montague is looking forward to meeting our stakeholders over the next few months – it's a long list so please bear with us!

The grants celebrations in Kāpiti & Wellington have been highlights of the year so far. Some incredible local charities shared with us powerful stories of their work. We look forward to the late-May Wairarapa grants celebration.

To our donors, thank you for choosing Nikau Foundation as your way of doing good in our community. To our grants recipients, we look forward to learning more about the difference you are making. To those thinking about making a donation or setting up a fund – we look forward to hearing from you.

Best regards / Ngā mihi nui
Chris



Rachel Cooper with harvest (left). Seed saving (right).

Local Kids Being Nourished by Lower Hutt Urban Farms

In 2018, Nikau Foundation funded the Urban Kai Farm project, an initiative of the Common Unity Project Aotearoa (CUPA). Their mission is to create and encourage intensive urban agriculture across the Hutt Valley. The produce nourishes local school children with free meals, made in CUPA's Unity Kitchen, with surplus produce and meals available for purchase at low cost. All proceeds go back into the project to create employment, grow more food and feed more children.

Local volunteers come together every Saturday morning to work on nearby 'urban farms', using organic practices to promote healthy soil and grow nutrient-dense fruit and vegetables.

In 2012, the Common Unity Project Aotearoa was founded in partnership with Epuni Primary School. The project works collaboratively with community, schools and organisations across Lower Hutt, as a collective response to meeting the needs of local children.

The philosophy behind Urban Kai Farms and Common Unity Project is simple - to ensure every child has a village.

"We believe that in order to achieve this, we need a collective response to meeting the needs of our children and developing our own resilient solution within our community." - Julia Milne, CUPA Founder

Common Unity Project Aotearoa received a \$10,000 grant in 2018 to support their Urban Kai Farms initiative.



2018 Nikau Foundation Grants Celebrations

Nikau Foundation's 2018 grants have been awarded and celebrated. 124 organisations received funding this year, from a diverse mix of organisations such as Sustainability Trust, Shine - The Porirua Education Initiative, Mary Potter Hospice and Experience Wellington.

Wellington donors and grant recipients gathered at Craig's Investment Partners, and Kāpiti grants were celebrated at Ngā Manu in Waikanae.

Nikau Foundation's Wairarapa grants function will be in late May, once Mace Trust grants are approved.

Wellington Grants Celebration



Grant Recipients Sarah Francis and Vanessa Eldridge from Mary Potter Hospice, and Kelly Lensen, Karori Community Toy Library Co-ordinator.



Nikau Foundation Trustee Peter Verhaart (left) and Peter Barnett from Samaritans of Wellington.



Joy Allcock from Shine speaking about working with schools and educators, teaching Porirua children reading and literacy skills.

"This grant will support us to spread Shine's unique approach to literacy instruction to even more schools in our area, with even more children able to reach their potential"

- Joy Allcock, Project Leader, Shine Porirua Education Initiative

Kāpiti Grants Celebration at Ngā Manu



Hon. Mayor K Gurunathan and Chris Milne



Elizabeth Rose with Grant Recipient David Orchard from Zeal



Grant Recipient Jamie Bull, Transition Town Otaki, Matu Booth, Manager, Ngā Manu Trust and Peter Kettle, Chair, Ngā Manu Board



Whale Song Charitable Trust sculpture models





Welcome Alice Montague

It's official: Alice Montague is Nikau Foundation's new Executive Director.

Alice joins us from Experience Wellington where she was the Strategic Fundraising Manager. She has worked in the voluntary sector for more than fifteen years, in Australia, the UK, and New Zealand. Alice has a background in fundraising and marketing and has worked for a range of organisations and sectors, including politics, international development, health and the arts.

Alice arrived in New Zealand in January 2011 to work for New Zealand Red Cross and spent her last three years there as the General Manager, Marketing, Fundraising and Communications. Alice is passionate about the voluntary sector and is the Co-Chair for the Fundraising Institute New Zealand. She lives in Eastbourne with her husband, two school aged boys and dog.

Outside of work, Alice enjoys spending time with her family and at their small piece of land in the Wairarapa where they have seven sheep and an ever increasing number of trees!



Look out for The Good Shop!

The Salvation Army, with support from Ministry of Social Development, Tindall Foundation and a 'pass-through' grant from a Nikau Foundation donor, has launched The Good Shop: an innovative alternative to predatory lenders targeting low-income communities.

The first truck started operating in South Auckland in February, with the next truck coming to Porirua in June. The truck offers interest-free loans on domestic items such as white-ware, baby gear and heating, helping vulnerable families afford essential items without falling into debt.

Nikau Foundation offers free, no-obligation advice to donors seeking to make the most impact through their donations. Donors can give directly to the charities of their choosing, however are also able to make anonymous 'pass through' donations through Nikau Foundation at no cost. For more information about our donor advisory service, please email info@nikaufoundation.org.nz or phone 04 381 2224.



The Good Shop received an anonymous \$42,500 'pass-through' grant through Nikau Foundation in 2018.



Farewell to Louise Parkin

Staff, Trustees and whānau came together in February to give outgoing General Manager Louise a fabulous and emotional send off at the KPMG offices on the Terrace.

With her plans to move back to the United Kingdom with her son Gabe and husband Pete, we celebrated Louise's many accomplishments at Nikau Foundation.

We wish all the best for Louise, Pete and Gabe on their adventures and for their next chapter.

Chris Milne presenting Louise with a small token of appreciation (left).



Our Board



Patron:
Dame Fran Wilde



Chris Milne
(Chair)



Liz Koh
(Deputy Chair)



Richard Caughley



Robert Cross



Jill Day



Susan Hornsby-Geluk



Greg Kelly



Rebecca Morahan



Pancha Narayanan



Adrienne Olsen



Adrian Orr



Rachel Roberts



Peter Verhaart

Welcome to our new Trustees

You may have noticed some new faces on our Board. After a formal recruitment process in late 2018 we have added some fresh talent and skills to our governance board.

Nikau Foundation has welcomed Jill Day, Rebecca Morahan, Adrienne Olsen, Adrian Orr, Rachel Roberts and Peter Verhaart on to our Board of Trustees.

Between them they bring a wealth of experience in strategic partnerships, governance, te reo Maori, financial services, communications, public relations, economics and investment.

Farewell to Kevin and Ian

Two of our Trustees have stepped down since our last newsletter, Kevin O'Connor and Ian Cassels.

As many of you know, Kevin has been with Nikau Foundation since our inception in 1991 as the Wellington Community Foundation. He was Chair from 2004- 2013, and will remain on our Audit, Risk and Investment Committee. Kevin and his wife Julia have an endowment fund with Nikau Foundation and are active philanthropists.

Ian Cassels needs no introduction, well-known for his revitalisation of the Wellington CBD and iconic development projects. He will remain an 'Ambassador at Large' and continue to support the work of Nikau Foundation.



Left: Kevin O'Connor getting stuck in planting trees (2007)
Above left: Kevin opening the Malaghan Arthritis Lab (c.2006)
Above right: Ian Cassels winning the Wellington Icon award at the Wellington Gold Awards in 2017.

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