

Chairman's Report



It gives me particular pleasure to present to you this eighth Annual Report of the Auckland Airport Community Trust. Particular pleasure, because we have reached a milestone that Trustees are very proud to be able to share with you. With this year's funding commitments, the Auckland Airport Community Trust has achieved the impressive milestone of distributing \$2 million into worthy community projects since its creation in 2003.

Projects like the installation of amplification systems into classrooms that are affected by aircraft noise so that the children can hear what the teacher is saying.



Electronic whiteboards funded by the Trust have changed the way children learn in several schools.

Digital cameras have been used to make images and books that have helped to break down cultural barriers at one of the area's, if not the country's, most culturally diverse pre-schools.



Funds have also been given for computers, software, data projectors and screens, expertise and books.

Programmes for babies, toddlers, school children, teenagers, adults, the elderly as well as people challenged by disabilities and disadvantage.



But one of the most exciting benefits has been to those who have learned new skills by being associated with these programmes – teachers, parents and even the students (you can read about them on pages 7-8) who have been sharing their knowledge about mobile phones with seniors.



These are a reminder of some of the projects that we have reported on over the years and not intended to be an exhaustive list. However, they do provide an opportunity to reflect on the Trust's achievements.

The foundations for these achievements have been the establishment and implementation of clear strategies and agreed protocols that serve to guide Trustees through the difficult process of decision-making.



Community Grants

For the 2010/2011 funding round, 25 applications were received totalling requests for \$550,400. This was an increase of 67% in application numbers and 44% in application value over the previous year. This reflects renewed and intense interest in the development of grassroots initiatives in our areas of focus – life skills and literacy. It is also indicative of the financial pressures that many organisations are facing in the current economic climate.

This year, there were many more applications for life skill programmes. Unfortunately, we were unable to consider some of them as their focus was not on people living or working in the Area of Benefit as required by the Trust Deed.

Of those projects that did meet this requirement, Trustees were keen to see clear evidence that the organisations could deliver their programme at a satisfactory standard to its conclusion and had monitoring systems to evaluate the level to which they met their objectives.

From the applications, thirteen projects were selected for grants totalling \$205,319 (see page 9 for details).

The Trust has been a strategic funding partner for some of the successful organisations for some years. These include: Aorere Kindergarten, Rongomai School, St Peter Chanel Aoga Amata Pre-School and Great Potentials.

Grants have also been given to support new programmes. The Trust is fully aware that new innovative programmes need to be trialled and proven successful before the programme has any chance of receiving funding from more traditional sources. If the Trustees believe that a new programme has the potential to transform the lives of those living or working within the Area of Benefit, it will encourage and support them.

One of the new initiatives that has been successful in receiving a grant is a pilot programme for students at De la Salle and Mangere colleges giving them access to the Inzone Experience Kiosk. This kiosk provides the most up-to-date careers information as well as a snapshot of the employment and training opportunities available in New Zealand. Schools play a critical role in preparing students to make the transition to further education and employment. The kiosk has the potential to supplement more formal approaches offered to students in a compelling way using modern interactive technology.

The Trust is also providing support for the Springboard Trust to start its School Principal Development Programme with two schools from the Area of Benefit. The aim is to give Principals the skills and confidence to be better leaders, to be more effective in their collaboration with their teachers and community and to enhance their strategic planning techniques. We will follow this programme with great interest as we believe that principals who have been through the Springboard programme will bring to their communities a more successful focus and improved educational outcomes.

Hardship Grants

Previous annual reports and financial statements published by the Trust have contained information about our Hardship Grants programme. This programme provides limited financial assistance to homeowners who have received an offer for the installation of acoustic treatment measures for their homes from Auckland International Airport Limited (AIAL). This programme is managed by AIAL in accordance with previously agreed schedules relating to noise contours in the geographical area that is also the Trust's Area of Benefit.

Due to the time lag between the Trust approving a hardship grant application and the final installation and certification of the work in the applicants' homes, the financial statements of the Trust show two entries: the first on p10 of the accounts show that \$20,800 was paid to AIAL on behalf of homeowners who had grants approved in a previous year. In the current year grants to homeowners to the value of \$7,800 have been awarded but not yet paid out.

Financial Performance

In October 2010 the Trust received its annual distribution from AIAL of \$301,024. This figure is calculated from the base line of \$250,000 in 2003 and adjusted each year by the compounded value of the CPI.

Additional income of \$26,189 was generated from interest. The Trust continues to achieve its on-going objective of maintaining its operating expenses within the level of interest earned, (actual expenses: \$14,352)

The Trust ended the year with a surplus (\$102,012) and in accordance with previous practice, the Trustees resolved to transfer this surplus to the Endowment Fund Reserve for allocation to worthy projects next year or a major project further in the future. This reserve contains funds to a total of \$168,394 at balance date.

Also in keeping with previous practice, the Trustees have retained a Hardship Grant Reserve of \$70,000 against future demands on our funds in support of this grant programme.

The balance sheet (on page 4) shows unpaid distributions of \$215,719. This is comprised of grants awarded but not yet paid out. A full listing of these grants, plus grants previously paid, can be found on pages 10-11 of the Annual Financial Statements section of this report.

Governance

The publication of this Annual Report, including full disclosure of the Trust's Annual Financial Statements remains an integral part of the Trust's commitment to good governance.

During the 12 months under review the Trust has met ten times. Full minutes have been kept of those meetings and form part of the documents submitted to our auditors for review.

During the year under review there has been one change in the makeup of the Board. Donna Richards, who represented the Aircraft Noise Consultative Group experienced a prolonged period of illness and decided to step down. The Trust is currently working with the Aircraft Noise Consultative Group to identify an appropriate Trustee to take her place.

Administration

In October last year, our long-serving administrator, Janis McArdle, resigned. Janis had been the Trust's administrator since its inception in 2003. We acknowledge her significant contribution to the Trust's success. In February, Auckland Communities Foundation was appointed as the Trust's new administrator after a competitive tender process. The Trust has a number of synergies with ACF and, in addition to the comprehensive administration support that they provide, we are looking forward to drawing upon the Foundation's research knowledge and grant-making experience.

Appreciation

Once again I conclude this Annual Report by recording my thanks to the Trustees who have worked conscientiously over the year to ensure that the Trust continues to serve our community and stakeholders.

I would also like to acknowledge the relatively smooth transition that has been made with ACF and thank Mark Bentley and Kat Stanier for their co-operation.

Last, but probably most important, thanks to all of you who work in, or volunteer for, the organisations that we support. We admire what you do, we acknowledge that, at times, it is not easy, but you play a very important part in enhancing the quality of the lives that you touch.

Roger Baldwin
Chairman

