

**A ROCHA**  
AOTEAROA NZ



**PŪRONGO Ā-TAU  
ANNUAL REPORT**

**2022/23**



## Mō mātou | About us

A Rocha Aotearoa New Zealand is part of the A Rocha family of Christian environmental conservation organisations currently active in over 20 countries around the world. As a family, we focus on environmental science and research, practical nature conservation, environmental education, creation care and advocacy through a variety of programmes and initiatives.

In Aotearoa New Zealand, we seek to inspire, educate and enable communities to care for our unique environment. A Rocha Aotearoa NZ is actively engaged in practical community conservation work through our network of local group projects and the Karioi Project. These offer opportunities for volunteer involvement across the country. We also train and mentor environmental leaders and resource, empower and build relationships among all those wanting to integrate creation care and sustainability into their life and the church in Aotearoa NZ through our Eco Church NZ project.

## Pae Tawhiti | Vision

Ecosystems restored and communities all across Aotearoa New Zealand actively caring for the earth.

## Pae Tata | Mission

To protect and restore the environment through community-based conservation projects, research, and education.



## Ngā Arotahinga | Our Focus Areas



### **PRACTICAL ACTION:**

Well-resourced community conservation projects of local, regional and national significance.



### **EDUCATION AND ENGAGEMENT:**

Inspiring creation-care for all ages through high-quality educational experiences.



### **SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES:**

Communities caring for creation and exploring ways for sustainable living.

# Te karere mai te Tiamana | Message from the chair

This has been a sobering year in terms of the climate and the environment. It has reinforced the idea that we are all in this together on this planet. For this reason and many others, we are very happy to be a part of the worldwide A Rocha Family. Like many countries around the globe we too have experienced erratic weather, devastating floods and high winds. And our neighbours in the Pacific face even more dire consequences as sea levels rise.

At A Rocha Aotearoa New Zealand we have continued with our long-term conservation project on Mount Karioi, saving the breeding habitat of the small mutton bird, the ōi. Ōi have returned to the mountain since we started our efforts at reducing introduced predators. And incidentally this project involves a whole community in the often-redemptive task of cooperative green activities. Finances are always a source of anxiety in a project like this, and at times the slog of finding them is hard. Nevertheless, that we continue to function and to employ local people is a sign of God's grace and for that we are grateful.

Our new project, Eco Church has really taken off since the pandemic, and we are now receiving requests to speak at churches regularly. As Gray Baldwin, one of our soon-to-be-appointed trustees, wrote in his Master's dissertation, ecotheology / ecochurch is a very ecumenical endeavour. It unites congregations, generations and diverse theological positions and congregational styles. That continues to be the case for us here in Aotearoa. And as we take stock of this last year we are grateful for those involved in all aspects of our work: Kristel - our Director for her inspiring leadership, Iris - our Operations Manager for her brilliant management of all areas of our work, Amy and Sonia who have been leading the Eco Church work on the ground, and also our hard-working trustees and volunteers in the regions.

Ngā mihi mahana,



**Nicola Hoggard Creegan**

Chair, A Rocha Aotearoa NZ Board of Trustees

*For the ARANZ Board of Trustees:*

*Nicola Hoggard Creegan, Philip Church,  
Stephen Pattemore, Mary Hutchinson,  
Pete Armstrong*





# Te tau kua hipa | The year in review

Tēnā koutou katoa A Rocha whānau,

Change has been a big part of our lives this year – but with change comes new opportunity and charting new ways forward.

Recently I was reflecting on nature and the processes or relationships in nature that teach us so much about life. Coral reef systems came to mind – prompted by a recent trip to Hawaii with the A Rocha USA team. Coral reefs thrive because of the mutually beneficial relationship between the coral polyps (an animal) and zooxanthellae (algae / plants) living within it. Healthy corals are home to these algae that photosynthesise, giving the coral energy and their bright colours, while coral provides algae with shelter. Both rely on each other for important nutrient exchanges for survival.

I can't help thinking to myself this is the perfect relationship! When we work well together, like in nature, both ecosystems and people thrive.

Our invitation to you is to come on the journey - kia uru mai koe!

Join us, volunteer with us, explore with us, pray with us. Imagine a restored world with us. There are many opportunities to get involved, either based from home, through one of our conservation or education projects or through the Eco Church movement.

Your support over the last year has led to some wonderful successes. A significant increase in Eco Churches, a growing Eco Church staff team, 14 habitat conservation projects restoring elements of whenua, wai and moana, the equivalent of thousands of hectares. Numerous wānanga, kōrero and other events engaging people of all ages - including hundreds of young people participating in our education programmes. It's been a delight to spend this year of change together with our teams and volunteers throughout the country. Seeing new life, growth and opportunities.

We don't have all the answers, or know the perfect way forward. But we do know that rather than fixing broken systems we need to reimagine entirely new worlds. I am excited for the year ahead.

Kia uru mai koe!



**Kristel van Houte**

National Director A Rocha Aotearoa NZ



# Te Whakaoranga O Karioi | The Karioi Project

The Karioi Project is a community-led conservation and education project, initiated by Te Whakaoranga O Karioi in partnership with members of Tainui o Tainui hapū and Ngati Whakamarurangi hapū, A Rocha Aotearoa NZ, Whāingaroa Environment Centre, Department of Conservation, Waikato Regional Council and the Whāingaroa/Raglan community.

Our work is focused on the maunga, Karioi, and surrounding coastline, wetlands and beaches. Due to extensive predator control and seabird monitoring, we're now seeing Little Blue Penguins waddling down the beach and our vulnerable seabirds, Ōi (Grey Faced Petrels) successfully breeding in burrows along the coast.





# The Karioi Project... highlights from 2022/23

in 2022, we reached out to the Whāingaroa Raglan community to back the Karioi Project through the “For the Birdsong” crowdfunding campaign. We set a goal to raise \$20,000 during that two weeks. Through donations from the community and match-funding from many local businesses, we exceeded our goal and raised almost \$21,000. We were hugely grateful and humbled by the support we received.

Over the last year we have been able to continue expanding and maintaining over a decade of predator control and biodiversity restoration and all this is doing great things for the wildlife and birdsong in Whāingaroa Raglan. We want to keep doing everything we can to restore our little corner of the world.

Alongside this work we also continue to deliver environmental education to over 200 young people in our community each year through a variety of programmes and we host numerous students from outside our region too. We are investing in our next generation of kaitiaki! And this is evident as a number of our staff team were once participants in our education programmes!

2022 was also the best year so far with 12 ōi chicks fledging. These little beauties have the odds against them with possums, ferrets, stoats, cats, and rats out to get them from egg to fledge but we upped our game and it paid off! Great to have a collective pool of incredible knowledge and experience to dip in too. We look forward to even better outcomes in 2023!





 @karioiproject  
 @karioiproject  
 [www.karioiproject.co.nz](http://www.karioiproject.co.nz)

### Environmental Education Programmes

Manaaki Ao in-school | 445 participants  
 Karioi KIDS/RANGERS afterschool | 64 participants  
 School holiday programme | 244 participants

### Karioi Backyard Hub

420 households  
 1352 backyard traps

### Karioi Conservation

12 ōi chicks fledged  
 63 ōi burrows monitored  
 3409 traps on Karioi traplines  
 3000 ha under stoat control  
 900 ha under multi-species predator control  
 300 volunteers  
 7420 volunteer hours

### Our Main Funders:

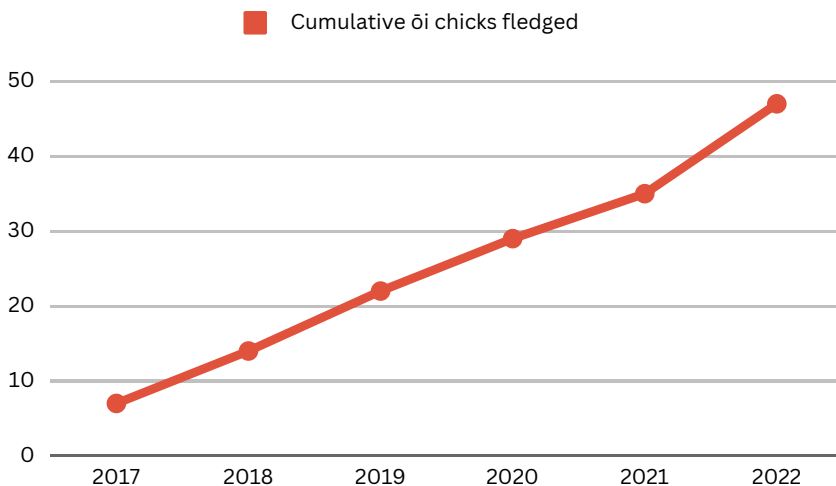
Waikato Regional Council  
 Lottery Grants Board  
 Department of Conservation  
 WWW Foundation  
 Patagonia  
 Trust Waikato  
 WEL Energy Trust  
 Gallagher Foundation  
 DV Bryant Trust  
 The Sargood Bequest

### Other Funders:

Community Organisation Grants Scheme  
 Meridian Power Up Fund

### Our Major Business Sponsors:

Golden Homes  
 Bayleys Real Estate  
 Morning Glory Coffee  
 Raglan Chocolate  
 Raglan Food Co.









# Hāhi Tautaiāo o Aotearoa | Eco Church NZ Project

The Eco Church NZ project is an ecumenical initiative to support church communities across Aotearoa NZ to actively care for God's earth as an integral part of their mission. Eco Church NZ works alongside eco church kaihāpai (advocates), church leaders, environmental leaders, rangatahi and tamariki, denominational bodies, and other organisations - with the common goal to see church communities across Aotearoa NZ take practical action while growing a new generation of kaitiaki / inspirational environmental leaders.

Being a part of the Eco Church NZ whānau means that we are not journeying on our own. We are part of a bigger mission spanning various parishes, church groups and denominations across Aotearoa NZ. We are gathering our efforts under one umbrella – to give voice and momentum to our efforts. We support each other through the celebration of knowledge and stories which inspires others to action.

The five key areas that we explore are:

- **Leadership, worship and teaching**  
*Te Hautūtanga, te Korōria ki te Atua, me te Whakaako*
- **Church buildings and facilities**  
*Ngā Whare Karakia me ngā Rawa*
- **Church land and grounds**  
*Te Whenua o ngā Hāhi*
- **Community and global engagement**  
*Te Kōtuitui Hapori, te Kōtuitui o te Ao*
- **Sustainable living**  
*Te Noho Toitū*





# Eco Church NZ Project... highlights from 2022/23

The number of church communities that have joined the Eco Church network over the past year has been very encouraging. We ended 2022 with 40 eco churches, adding 15 eco churches in 2022. An additional 5 eco churches joined us in the first quarter of 2023.

**View the latest locations map of the Eco Church network at this link:**

<https://www.ecochurch.org.nz/locations-map>

Our partnership with Para Kore Marae Inc continues to enable us to offer the zero waste wānanga and waste checks for church communities, as well as ongoing support through Para Kore's kaiārahi network.

Regions where we have been able to have a staff member / volunteer in the field have seen the biggest growth in the number of eco churches – Wellington, Christchurch, Auckland.

As the Eco Church kaupapa grows in Aotearoa, A Rocha's local groups in key cities are collaborating more and more with church communities in the Eco Church space and it has been a delight to see more local group members be the torchbearer for the Eco Church kaupapa in their own churches.

In partnership with Climate Stewards, in March 2023, we delivered the 360° carbon calculator for churches and charities for the Aotearoa context using localised emission factors and we are currently piloting the use of this tool with several churches.

**Check out 360° carbon:**

<https://360carbon.org/en-nz/>

We are grateful for funding support from several local councils over the past year - Wellington City Council, Auckland Council and Christchurch City Council. These have been instrumental at growing eco church outreach in local regions in the short-term when funding is available.





Metrics as at 31 Dec 2022

## Environmental leadership Camps

4 camps  
46 participants

## Education & Engagement

40 events (workshops, sermons etc.)  
1,491 participants

## Eco Church NZ network

40 churches  
5 denominational partners

## Read stories of church communities taking action...

[www.ecochurch.org.nz/stories](http://www.ecochurch.org.nz/stories)

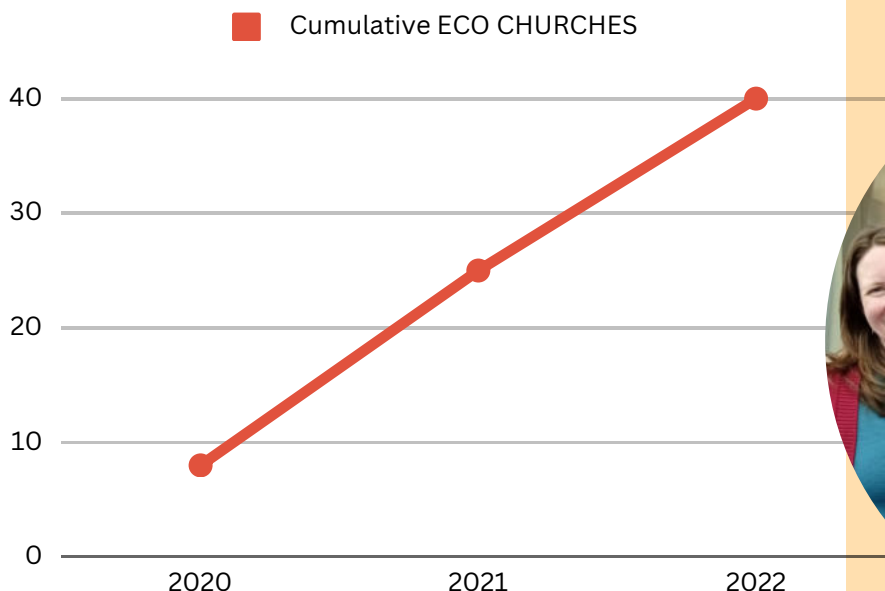


## Denominational Partners:

Anglican Diocese of Auckland  
 Anglican Diocese of Wellington  
 Anglican Missions  
 Northern Baptist Association  
 Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa NZ

## Project Partners:

Para Kore Marae Inc.  
 Climate Stewards









# Rōpū Ā–Rohe | Local Groups



A Rocha's network of local group projects work in partnership with other organisations and the local community to offer opportunities for volunteer involvement across the country. Local group volunteers are involved in a range of community conservation and sustainability initiatives: wetland, native bush and stream restoration, native plant nurseries, bicycle maintenance, education and engagement events, as well as engaging with church communities via the Eco Church NZ project.

## Our Local Groups

- Tāmaki Makarau Auckland
- Te Papaioea Palmerston North
- Te Whanganui-a-Tara Wellington
- Ōtautahi Christchurch
- Ōtepoti Dunedin

## Volunteer Metrics

87 volunteer events  
1541 volunteer hours

## Our Local Group Projects:

- Matuku Link Restoration Project
- Unsworth Reserve Restoration Project
- Te Auaunga Oakley Creek Restoration Project
- Adventist Native Plants Nursery
- Waiu Wetland Restoration Project
- Kopua Monastery Restoration Site
- Swampy Gully Restoration Site
- Supporting Friends of Owhiro Stream
- Kapiti subgroup restoration sites
- Aranui Bike Fixup
- Tirohanga Camp Restoration Project
- Hillary St Reserve Trapline with City Sanctuary, Dunedin
- Smith's Creek Restoration Site with Save the Otago Peninsula (STOP)

See our list of past events hosted by our local groups here:  
[https://www.facebook.com/ARochaNZ/past\\_hosted\\_events](https://www.facebook.com/ARochaNZ/past_hosted_events)

See upcoming events by our local groups here:  
[https://www.facebook.com/ARochaNZ/upcoming\\_hosted\\_events](https://www.facebook.com/ARochaNZ/upcoming_hosted_events)







# Ahumoni | Finances

Full audited accounts are available on request from [new.zealand@arocha.org](mailto:new.zealand@arocha.org)

## **INCOME 2022/23**

Karioi Project - Grants	\$ 258,222	46%
Karioi Project - Donations	\$ 58,857	11%
Karioi Project - Social Enterprise Income	\$ 68,598	12%
Karioi Project - Other Income	\$ 29,866	5%
Eco Church - Grants	\$ 57,241	10%
Eco Church - Donations	\$ 14,323	3%
General Grants	\$ 18,000	3%
General Donations	\$ 43,732	8%
Other Income - Tagged	\$ 5,678	1%
Other Income	\$ 5,193	1%
	<b>\$ 559,710</b>	

## **EXPENSES 2022/23**

Karioi Project - Programme Delivery	\$ 343,621	66%
Karioi Project - Social Enterprise Expenses	\$ 36,489	7%
Eco Church - Programme Delivery	\$ 70,856	14%
Administrative and Overhead Expenses	\$ 69,863	13%
	<b>\$ 520,828</b>	

## Tō Mātou Tāngata | Our People

17 part-time staff | 6.82 FTE

8961 volunteer hours | 4.31 FTE





# A ROCHA

AOTEAROA NZ

**A ROCHA AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND:**

email: [new.zealand@arocha.org](mailto:new.zealand@arocha.org)

website: [arocha.org.nz](http://arocha.org.nz)

facebook: [@arochanz](https://www.facebook.com/@arochanz)

instagram: [@arochaaotearoanz](https://www.instagram.com/@arochaaotearoanz)

**ECO CHURCH NZ:**

website: [ecochurch.org.nz](http://ecochurch.org.nz)

facebook group: [@ecochurchnz](https://www.facebook.com/@ecochurchnz)

**KARIOI PROJECT:**

website: [karioiproject.co.nz](http://karioiproject.co.nz)

facebook: [@karioiproject](https://www.facebook.com/@karioiproject)

instagram: [@karioiproject](https://www.instagram.com/@karioiproject)

Charity registration number: CC36274