

**A ROCHA**  
AOTEAROA NZ



**PŪRONGO Ā-TAU  
ANNUAL REPORT**

**2023/24**

## 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.

A Rocha Aotearoa NZ is actively engaged in practical community conservation work through the Karioi Project and our network of local group projects. These offer opportunities for volunteer involvement across the country. We also train and mentor environmental leaders through our education and leadership programmes. And through our Eco Church project, we resource and inspire church communities to integrate care of the environment and sustainability into their activities and community.

## Pae Tawhiti | Vision

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

## Pae Tata | Mission

To protect and restore ecosystems through community-based conservation, developing environmental leaders and taking practical action.

# Ngā Arotahinga | Our Focus Areas



## **PRESTORING ECOSYSTEMS:**

Practical conservation for healthier and flourishing ecosystems and communities.



## **GROWING THE NEXT GENERATION OF KAITIAKI:**

Connecting people to nature to inspire them to care and advocate for te taiao.



## **FOSTERING SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES:**

Inspiring and empowering communities to take action for sustainability and adaptability.

# Te karere mai te Tiamana | Message from the chair

I read recently about the leading English thinker and activist Paul Kingsnorth, a previous editor of Ecology, once a druid and a long-term agnostic who wandered into an Orthodox Romanian church near his house in London and instantly felt he had come home. As Christians, we do carry taonga, more than we can ever imagine, because we have always acknowledged and entertained the idea that Wisdom, the Sophia of God inhabits and enlivens the natural world and that the Sophia/logos of God became incarnate in Jesus. We rarely communicate this well, and we often fail to represent it. This report from ARANZ is full of wisdom, wisdom in action, wisdom emerging from newly found burrows, and wisdom in churches taking action for God's world.

This year has been a significant one for the Eco Church community, with churches across Aotearoa joining the cause, encouraged in part by the summer visit of A Rocha founder, Peter Harris. Our growth has been such that James Beck, based in Christchurch, has now taken on the role of the Eco Church Project Manager. The entire team, including Mo Morgan, Rebecca Webb, Iris Lee and Kristel van Houte, has been doing an outstanding job. I urge you to encourage your church to join us. Together, we can achieve so much more, and our vision of restored habitats becomes more meaningful when churches are united.

I also want to express my deep appreciation for the incredible work being done in Raglan under Kristel's leadership. This work is about more than just the fluffy ōi chicks we all love to see; it's about the restoration of a maunga and sacred space through the dedicated efforts of a community. Everyone involved in this work knows the immense resources of care, planning, safeguarding, and coordination required to preserve ecosystems and bring the forest back to life with the voices of birdlife again. Important also are the local community restoration projects and the dedicated A Rocha local groups ranging from Auckland to Dunedin.

Lastly, we are thrilled to welcome emeritus Archbishop Sir David Moxon, and Emeritus Professor Caroline King as patrons, and Dr. Jay Mātanga as an advisor of ARANZ. We look forward to working with them in the future.



**Nicola Hoggard Creegan**

Chair

A Rocha Aotearoa New Zealand Trust





**Patrons:**

Sir David Moxon  
Prof Carolyn King

**Advisor:**

Dr Jay Mātenga

**Board of Trustees:**

Dr Nicola Hoggard-Creegan  
(Chair)  
Dr Philip Church (Treasurer)  
Dr Stephen Pattemore  
Dr Mary Hutchinson  
Pete Armstrong  
Rev'd Ripeka Bijl  
Gray Baldwin



# Te tau kua hipa | The year in review

Tēnā koutou katoa A Rocha whānau,

Each year we set out to “summit another mountain” – setting goals and figuring out ways to achieve them. A huge part of that is finding the people with the passion and enthusiasm to come alongside and help us achieve these goals together. Whether that’s volunteers, landowners, church communities, funders, rangatira or tamariki. Each plays a part and brings their unique self - irrespective of background or skills, our motto is that we all have something we can contribute and we can all learn from each other. Learning and journeying together is a rewarding and transformational process.

The past year has presented us with a significantly changing landscape (economic and political) which occasionally leaves us wondering where will this take us next? The reality is that we don’t truly know the exact difficulty of the climb ahead or how challenging the terrain will be. Yet time and again I am so encouraged to see the response at the grassroots level which is one of resilience and perseverance.

A recent survey by Predator Free NZ\* found that while the environmental sector was growing, many are trying to do more with less. Of course, this has the very real potential to put environmental gains at risk. In response to these challenges, and as an organisation, we have had to be creative in the programmes we offer and the way we fundraise, for example through social enterprise initiatives, while also professionalising the way we operate. With 12 part-time roles amounting to 5.79 FTE - we are growing our projects, both in reach and scope. Of course, with this growth comes the challenge of sustaining the momentum. We’ve been very encouraged by the response and support from individuals, trusts, foundations and local government.

It is with some awe then that as we reflect on the last year, that we can celebrate the significant gains made despite the constraints felt everywhere. We are seeing volunteers continue to step up, Eco Church numbers growing, more hectares and significant habitats protected, chicks fledging, and young people coming onboard as they learn with us and step up to be the next generation of kaitiaki. All this culminates to make a significant difference and brings with it the opportunity for others to come along on the journey.

That fleeting moment of celebration at the “summit” can appear brief. The challenges remain. Yet our community keeps growing. I am so proud of what our teams have achieved this year.

Kia uru mai koe!



**Kristel van Houte**

National Director A Rocha Aotearoa NZ

\* <https://predatorfreenz.org/research/show-me-the-money-a-closer-look-at-community-conservation/>



# 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 kororā (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... reflecting on the year

It's been an incredible, encouraging and productive year - thanks to a team willing to put a huge amount of energy and passion into restoring biodiversity!

This year we are coming up to our project's 15th birthday. Wow, what an incredible 15 years it has been! When we first started with a dozen or so eager volunteers - someone asked me - "But how will you know it will work?" The truth is - we didn't. For what we are trying to do, there is no precise formula or "how to" manual. But what we did know was that by working together, we could perhaps achieve more than ever before.

Restoring a landscape takes a village, and front of mind are our volunteers. Volunteers dedicate time and energy to get so much of the work done. They are checking traps, filling bait stations, monitoring seabird burrows, cutting tracks, helping with fundraising and advocacy initiatives and of course - baking cakes! Many of our volunteers contribute to the project year in and year out, and some have been here for nearly 10 or even 15 years! Through this collective effort, we continue to expand the network of multi-species predator control and as a result, we increasingly see biodiversity thrive! The gains can seem slow and sometimes just out of reach, but there is such satisfaction when all this hard work and dedication starts to make a real difference!

It's also been exciting to see the number of tamariki and rangatahi gaining experiences in nature with our education team. We have been busy with our in-school programme at Raglan Area School and with a range of visiting secondary and tertiary student groups from around the Waikato and Bay of Plenty. We also continue with afterschool programmes - Karioi Kids and Karioi Rangers. Experiential environmental education in a living classroom has been a core part of the Karioi Project since its inception and it's heartening to see this continue, led by a dedicated team of educators passionate about connecting kids to nature and inspiring the next generation of kaitiaki.

We are grateful for all the funding support we have received from trusts, businesses, foundations, Waikato Regional Council, Department of Conservation and many whānau and individuals. Without you, we would not be able to operate or achieve our goals.

Ngā mihi nui to our community of volunteers, supporters and funders. Thank you for your faith in us - when others wondered if we could even get started.

It really only took that first step to get us to 15 years!



**Kristel van Houte**  
Karioi Project Manager





# Growing the next generation of kaitiaki

The Karioi Project's education programmes' vision is to connect people to nature and inspire them to be caretakers. We have created place-based, outdoor learning experiences and environmental education programmes for young people, our community and schools in our own backyard. We offered the following education and engagement programmes in 2023:

5 PROGRAMMES  
815 PARTICIPANTS

## Karioi KIDS Programme (7-8 years)

Karioi KIDS is an afterschool programme providing a broad range of activities and opportunities that are challenging, physical, conservation-focused and fun, connecting kids to their local backyard.

## Karioi RANGERS Programme (9-12 years)

Through place-based experiential learning, the Karioi RANGERS programme engages young people in hands-on conservation and leadership opportunities. Activities are based around the diverse ecosystems of Karioi with a focus on water, land and sea.

## Manaaki Ao (Earthcare) Programme (Year 0-8)

The Manaaki Ao programme at Raglan Area School is currently offered from junior years right up to Year 8, developing concepts and skills focused on kaitiakitanga - environmental sustainability, ecology, biodiversity, native taonga, innovation, sustainable actions, leadership, and safety in the outdoors. Manaaki Ao aims to demonstrate a pathway to employment in conservation biology and related studies.

## Environmental Holiday Programme (6-12 years)


This programme offers children a broad range of activities and opportunities during school holidays. The activities are challenging, physical, nature-focused and fun, connecting kids to their local backyard based on a free-play philosophy. The programme is based around the diverse range of Karioi ecosystems - whenua, wai and moana and the wider Waikato Region.


## Hauora Mentoring Programme


The Mental Health Foundation and Māori Health model describe the importance of whenua and connection to land to improve hauora and wellbeing. Whāingaroa and Karioi provide the perfect setting for our bespoke mentoring programme, creating learning opportunities outside the traditional classroom for tamariki & rangatahi with a focus on connection, reconciliation, leadership and work experience to foster kaitiakitanga and promote resilience and wellbeing for our young people.



# Te Whakaoranga O Karioi

 @karioiproject

 @karioiproject

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

Metrics as at 31 Dec 2023

## Karioi Backyard Hub Trapping

456 households  
1528 backyard traps  
203 social enterprise traps (serviced)

## Karioi Conservation Metrics

### 2023 breeding season

6 ōi chicks fledged  
55 ōi burrows monitored  
217 volunteers  
5,581 volunteer hours

### Cumulative since project's inception

53 ōi chicks fledged  
1908 traps on Karioi traplines  
229 km of traplines  
3000 ha under stoat control  
1000 ha under multi-species predator control

## Our Main Funders:

Waikato Regional Council  
Lottery Environment and Heritage  
Department of Conservation  
Waikato Office  
WWW Foundation  
Pacific Development and  
Conservation Trust  
Patagonia  
WEL Energy Trust

## Other Funders:

Trust Waikato  
Community Volunteering and  
Capability Fund  
DV Bryant Trust  
The Sargood Bequest  
Raglan Area School  
COGS Waikato West  
Meridian Power Up Fund


## Our Major Business Sponsors:

Raglan Chocolate  
Raglan Boat Charters  
Orca Eatery  
The Shack  
Raglan Food Co  
Raglan Four Square

## WAIKATO TIMES

TE REO O WAIKATO

### Karioi Project's 50th ōi chick set to take flight from Raglan's coast

 Sarah Morcom | WAIKATO TIMES

December 22, 2023

Share



Karioi project manager Kristel van Houte with the project's 50th ōi chick.  
KELLY HODEL / WAIKATO TIMES





# Hāhi Tautaiiao o Aotearoa | Eco Church Aotearoa

The Eco Church Aotearoa 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 Aotearoa 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 Aotearoa 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*

**LEADERS  
EQUIPPED**

**CHURCHES  
ENGAGED**

**INDIVIDUALS  
INSPIRED**



# Eco Church Aotearoa... reflecting on the year

Over the past year, the Eco Church Aotearoa network has continued to grow, expanding its reach and deepening its impact across Aotearoa New Zealand. More churches than ever before joined the movement, embracing the call to integrate creation care into every aspect of what it means to be the Church.

One of the strengths of the Eco Church Aotearoa community is collaboration. Churches from a range of denominations have united under a common vision. This ecumenical collaboration is a beautiful embodiment of God's desire for us to "be one" (John 17:21) as we share knowledge, exchange stories, and inspire one another to take environmental action. This leads to a deeper sense of connection and purpose and inspires faith-driven environmental advocates to make a tangible difference in their local contexts.

In 2023 we continued to invest into a new generation of young leaders committed to environmental stewardship and equipped to carry this vital work forward. These young leaders share the deep conviction that caring for God's earth is not an optional aspect of faith but an essential expression of Christian discipleship. Their enthusiasm and dedication provide fresh energy to the movement, ensuring that the momentum we have gained will continue to grow in the years to come.

As we look back on the year, it's clear that when churches come together with a shared purpose, their collective efforts have the power to create meaningful and lasting change. The Eco Church Aotearoa movement continues to gain momentum, inspiring action, and demonstrating that when we care for creation, we are a living embodiment of Christian hope. Together, we are caring for our environment, the Church and our communities, ensuring they thrive for generations to come.



**James Beck**  
Eco Church Project Manager





# Growing the next generation of kaitiaki

A key element of the Eco Church project is education and engagement around the theological imperative to care for creation. Our focus has been on developing a new generation of kaitiaki through nature-based and ecology focused camps for tamariki and rangatahi and the training and equipping of environmental leaders within a church community. We offered the following education and engagement programmes in 2023:

6 CAMPS  
62 PARTICIPANTS



## He Māhuri Tōtara for High School Students

An environmental leadership development course for high school students – offered in partnership with Wilberforce Foundation.



## E3 Wilderness Journeys for Rangatahi

11-day wilderness journeys for rangatahi (17-18 years) at three amazing locations in Aotearoa (Canterbury, Otago, Bay of Islands) in December each year focused on developing character and strengthening their connections with God, others and creation – offered in partnership with Scripture Union NZ and Adventure Specialties Trust.



## E3 Wilderness Journey for Young Adults

7-day journey by sea kayak, foot, and bike for young adults (19-25 years) exploring Marlborough Sounds while living in community together and embracing questions of our faith and its intersections with life. Offered in partnership with Scripture Union NZ and Adventure Specialties Trust.



## Sustain Camp

A week-long programme in October for years 7-10 exploring Whāingaroa Raglan and learning how to contribute sustainably to the world around us, and how to sustain our relationship with God – offered in partnership with Scripture Union NZ.



# ECO CHURCH

**A ROCHA** AOTEAROA NZ

@ecochurchnz 

www.ecochurch.org.nz 

## Education & Engagement

45 events (workshops, sermons etc.)  
1,843 participants

## Eco Church NZ network

60 church communities  
5 denominational partners

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

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

*Metrics as at 31 Dec 2023*



## Our Funders:

Wilberforce Foundation  
Wellington City Council  
Auckland Council  
Christchurch City Council  
Hamilton City Council  
Whanganui District Council  
COGS Wellington  
Individual churches  
Individual donors

## 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  
Scripture Union NZ



# 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

74 volunteer events  
1217 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
- 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/events>





# Ahumoni | Finances

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

## **INCOME 2023/24**

Karioi Project - Grants	\$ 323,489	57%
Karioi Project - Social Enterprise Income	\$ 70,267	12%
Karioi Project - Donations	\$ 7,797	1%
Karioi Project - Other Income	\$ 6,951	1%
Eco Church - Grants	\$ 42,426	7%
Eco Church - Donations	\$ 18,238	3%
Eco Church - Other Income	\$ 13,411	2%
General Donations	\$ 45,564	8%
General Grants	\$ 10,000	2%
Other Income - Tagged	\$ 4,288	1%
Other Income - Including interests	\$ 24,706	4%
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 567,137</b>	<b>100%</b>

## **EXPENSES 2023/24**

Karioi Project - Programme Delivery	\$ 368,513	70%
Eco Church - Programme Delivery	\$ 87,401	17%
Administrative and Overhead Expenses	\$ 67,025	13%
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>\$ 522,939</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Tō Mātou Tāngata | Our People

14 part-time roles | 5.79 FTE  
8,195 volunteer hours | 3.94 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