

Building for the Future

Heart of the Bays
Annual Report 2025



HEART
OF
THE **BAYS**



Heart of the Bays Annual Report 2025

Contents

1. Board 2024/25 - p3
2. Staff 2024/25- p4
3. Chairperson's Report - p5-6
4. Community Centre and St Anne's Hall - p7-8
5. Community Events and Engagement - p9-18
6. Community Collaboration Projects - p19-20
7. Special Thanks - Funders and Friends - p21
8. Financial Commentary - p22-25
9. Financial Statement - p26-28

Board 2024/25



Chair Person: Beks Smith



Secretary: Kathy Waugh



Treasurer: Pam Ellison



Board: Pam Martin



Board: Margaret Hellyer



Board: Martin Adlington

Board 2024/25 (Cont)



Board: Tasha Lacock



Board: Wendy Greenough



Board: Glenys Harwood

Staff 2024/25



Debbie Russell -
Community Centre Manager

Michelle Tran -
Bookkeeper



James Cartwright -
Community Development

Chairperson's Report

Kia ora koutou katoa

As Chair of Heart of the Bays, I'm pleased to present this report reflecting on our work in the Bays over the past year. It has been a huge period of growth, and development, and I'm proud of what we have achieved together.

Our vision for Heart of the Bays is that we are: 'A vibrant, resilient and connected community'.



To support that, our mission statement is '*We enrich the lives of our communities by providing diverse opportunities, support, resources and connection that enhance wellbeing and resilience*'. As a board we have spent some time working on our strategic goals to strength our vision and mission.

They are: Strengthen community engagement, Enhance accessibility and inclusivity, Foster health and wellbeing, and Build sustainable funding partnerships.

A lot of work has been done by our awesome Board this year, congruent with our fabulous management team; Debbie and James.

This Year's Highlights:

- To make sure we are working towards our vision and mission, we have been aligning our strategic plan for Heart of the Bays. Some of our immediate focuses are developing programmes for our youth, people with disabilities and our more vulnerable communities, especially those who have recently migrated and need extra support and integration into our fabulous community.

- Our management team has now expanded to include James, our new Community Development Lead, who is successfully creating new programmes, expanding our reach out into the community, showcasing local talent and strengthening relationships with other organisations.
- We secured a three-year events funding agreement with our amazing and very hard-working Hibiscus and Bays Local Board.

Challenges:

Like many organisations, we have faced funding pressures, due to Council funding cuts, stricter controls and limited funding budgets from various funding organisations, staffing challenges (which have been solved well beyond our expectations), and concerns from our communities about the rise of the cost of living, but our team's resilience ensured we remained responsive and supportive to those we serve.

Thanks and Appreciation:

I want to sincerely thank our incredible staff; Debbie and James, who tirelessly strive for innovation, consistency & professionalism, our dedicated volunteers who serve our community and I'd like to give a special mention Wendy - one of our board members who regularly volunteers her time for the Eat Play Laugh programme that is highly successful, and our fellow board members, each of whom contribute their skills, knowledge and keep us on track with our vision and values.

Chairperson's Report

(continued)

Thanks and appreciation (cont)

Finally, our heartfelt thanks to the Hibiscus and Bays Local Board for their support and generosity and Marilyn Kelly, our Local Board Community Advisor. Our work would not be possible without the kindness, effort and passion of everyone involved.

Looking Ahead:

In the coming year, we will continue to focus on our strategic plan, key policy updates, a strong diverse governance with succession planning, and improvement and development of our outreach programmes.

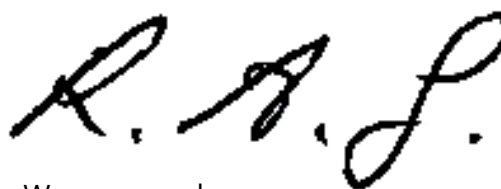
As most of you will be aware, we have some interesting months/years ahead of us with the new refurbishment of our facilities.

We are very excited about our future and our management team have been working tirelessly to ensure that our community needs will continue to be met while we are out of this facility. Our focus is always on our groups and ensuring that they continue to thrive, this will not change, and we will be working closely with them to ensure their programmes can continue.

We expect to be in a strong position to bring collaboration and diversity to our programmes and continue to develop new impactful programmes. There is a lot of work taking place in the background to ensure that Heart of the Bays will stay strong and supportive in our community.

With a clear mission and strong community backing, I'm confident we'll continue making a positive impact.

Thank you for your support and commitment to Heart of the Bays. Let's look forward to an exciting, changeful and meaningful year.



Warm regards,
Beks Smith
Chair, Heart of the Bays



Community Centre and St Anne's Hall

by Debbie Russell

Heart of the Bays has continued to enjoy a steady flow of visitors across both our venues throughout the year. It's been heartening to see our spaces well used by community groups, residents, and local organisations.

Community Centre

A highlight of the year was the opening of the Ellis Room on the ground floor at Heart of the Bays. This new space has quickly become a favourite with our community. Its location has made it much more convenient and accessible, especially for those who find it challenging to access the upper levels of the building.

Our downstairs foyer has become a lively and well-used space. More than just a thoroughfare, it has grown into an inviting hub with informative display boards and couches and a great venue for morning teas.

Following a suggestion from one of our community centre users, we have set up a community jigsaw puzzle.

The relocation of our office has strengthened our connection with the community. Being more visible and accessible has allowed for increased engagement with visitors, quicker responses to queries, and more opportunities for casual conversation and relationship-building.



Community Centre and St Anne's Hall (continued)

St Anne's Hall

St Anne's Hall continues to be a great venue for children's birthday parties especially during the winter months. There is a full programme of activities - playgroup, dance, table tennis, karate, combat fitness.

The weekends also see the Vinyl Record Fairs and once a school term, the Kids Fleamarkets hosted by Families Growth and Thrive Charitable Trust.

Defibrillators

Heart of the Bays has purchased defibrillators - one external one to be installed at St Anne's Hall and the other is an internal one for the community centre. Watch this space for training!

Hibiscus and Bays Local Board and Auckland Council

Thank you your continued support and generosity. Your contributions make a significant difference in the quality of services we can offer to our community.



Community Events and Engagement

2024/2025 has been a year of a range of different activations here at the centre. We have also started new programmes and built partnerships with new organisations



Community Events and Engagement

Steady Steps

Heart of the Bays partnered with Age Concern North Shore to host a Steady Steps workshop to reduce the risk of falls. The workshop was well attended and received positive feedback from participants.

Participants enjoyed a morning tea and were given the opportunity to engage with each other and share their stories. This initiative came about after a member of our community centre suffered a fall outside.



Auckland Heritage Festival

Heart of the Bays proudly took part in the Auckland Heritage Festival by showcasing a stunning display of Bill Ellis' photographs capturing the history of the Bays.

Our scrapbooks were also perused and enjoyed by all. We were thrilled to collaborate with Bays Youth Voice. The youth put out the display and interacted with all attendees.



Community Events and Engagement (continued)

Pataka Kai

This successful initiative was made possible through the collaboration of Heart of the Bays, East Coast Bays Library, East Coast Bays Leisure Centre, CAB, East Coast Bays Community Creche, Trash Free Taiaotea, Browns Bay Presbyterian Church, and Neighbourhood Support.

On 2 September THE new Pataka Kai was unveiled at the Browns Bay Presbyterian Church. The event began with the launch of the new community garden at East Coast Bays Library, where children from the East Coast Bays Community Creche delighted attendees with a Pepeha.

The hikoi to the church culminated in the ribbon being cut on the Pataka Kai by a toddler from the creche and Gregg Walden (Hibiscus and Bays Local Board). Pastor Robin led us in prayer, adding a special moment of reflection to the occasion. We all enjoyed refreshments provided by the Browns Bay Presbyterian Church.

A big thank you to:

- Hibiscus and Bays Local Board for funding the pantry build.
- New World Browns Bay for their contributions to our pantry.
- Funding was received from Hibiscus and Bays Local Board.
- Love Food Hate Waste for funding the daily maintenance of the pantry.



Community Events and Engagement (continued)

Love Food, Hate Waste Cook Off

St Anne's Hall was the lively venue for an amazing Cook-Off event focused on reducing food waste!

Our very own Heart of the Bays Gourmets took part in this fun initiative whipping up creative dishes while connecting with others in our community. Food waste can be turned into something truly wonderful.



Board Games Day for Neighbors Aotearoa

Heart of the Bays hosted a Board Games Day as part of the yearly Neighbours Aoteroa initiative.

Several of our existing board games groups were invited to come together to socialise and try new games whilst enjoying some good food!



Community Events and Engagement (continued)

Summer Spectacular

Heart of the Bays had a stand at this years Summer Spectacular. We got to speak to members of the public about the work we have been doing at the centre and promoting future events.

Our partners from the CAB, library and Bays Youth Voice were also in attendance on what was a highly attended and successful event.



Heart of the Bays Walking Group

In February 2025 we started a weekly walking group at Heart of the Bays. The walk starts and ends at the centre covering most of Browns Bay which is a great way to see what the area has to offer.

We had a walked leader called Simon who led the walk but has moved to the South Island temporarily so one of our walkers Stella now leads this. If you are interested in joining the weekly walk then please get in contact with Stella.



Community Events and Engagement (continued)

Heart of the Bays Art Exhibition

Heart of the Bays hosted it's first Art Exhibition at St Anne's Hall in April 2025. We had 8 artists on the day showcasing a wide range of artwork such as paintings, heritage photography, sketches, ceramics and jewelry made from recycled coffee pods!

The event was very enjoyable with a steady flow of visitors coming in to see what the local artists had created whilst also being able to relax with some coffee and cake to keep the hunger at bay!

We would like to thank all the artists for attending and showcasing the great work on display and we hope to run the event next year.

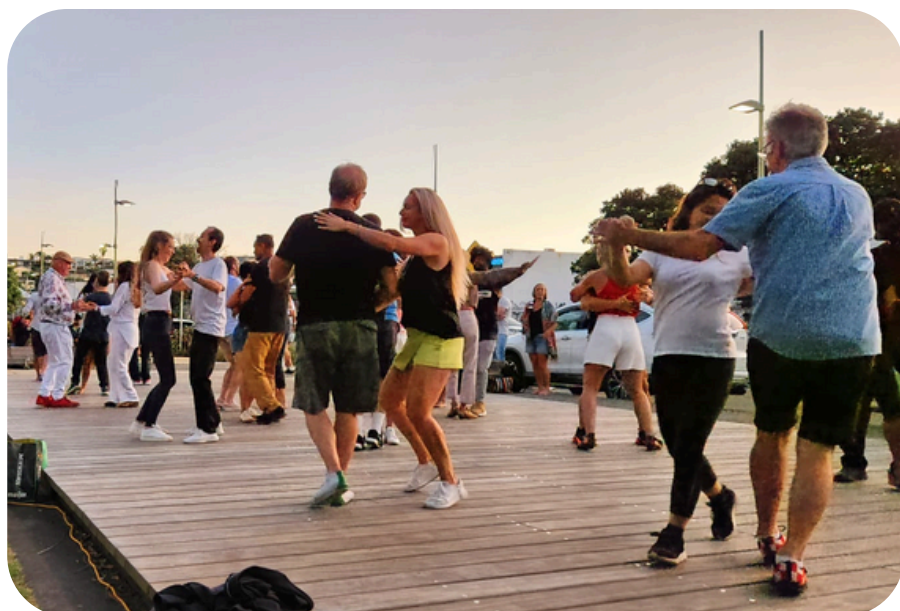


Community Events and Engagement (continued)

Salsa on Browns Bay Beach

There is a special energy at the incredible Salsa on Browns Bay Beach, proudly supported by Heart of the Bays!

Here is Claudio Martinez hosting evening dance classes on the boardwalk, with the amazing DJ Dudley Young supplying the hot Latin beats!



Shake Your Booty

It was a great summer for the Shake Your Booty exercise class, taking place on Browns Bay beachfront.

The last session ended with a lovely shared morning tea, and a celebration for Ping, who turned 91 in May!



Community Events and Engagement (continued)

Active Ageing Expo 2024

A Celebration of Connection, Wellbeing, and Community

Our Active Ageing Expo 2024 was a resounding success, bringing together community spirit, curiosity, and a shared commitment to living well at every age. As more people enjoy longer lives, this event offered a vibrant space to explore how we can stay active, happy, and connected throughout our later years.

From the moment you stepped into the venue, the positive energy was unmistakable. The collaboration of so many passionate local groups created an atmosphere full of warmth, encouragement, and inspiration.

Movement, Mindfulness and Motivation

Exercise demonstrations were a hit - getting people up and moving with balance and stretch classes, Laughter Yoga, and even a joyful session of Braemar Scottish dancing. North Harbour Sport was on hand with practical tips on nutrition and healthy living, sparking great conversations and new intentions.

Activities to Spark Joy and Connection

Visitors discovered a treasure trove of hobbies and social opportunities available across East Coast Bays.

From spinning and quilting to caring for orchids or playing Scrabble and backgammon, there's truly something for everyone. These groups not only build skills, but friendships too.



Community Events and Engagement (continued)

Active Ageing Expo 2024 (cont)

Giving Back Through Volunteering

Retirement doesn't mean slowing down - it can be the perfect time to give back. Many attendees were inspired by the volunteer opportunities showcased, learning how they could support causes they care about. Time is just as valuable as donations, and organisations like Hospice, CAB and St John shared how volunteers make a real difference.

Friendship and Community for All

This year, we welcomed wonderful groups like Grand Friends, Generations Connect, and the Torbay Friendship Club to join our own Eat, Play, Laugh and others offering new ways to build meaningful relationships and feel part of something bigger.

We were especially proud to have the Browns Bay Chinese Society join us for the first time. Their Tai Chi demonstration was a serene and beautiful way to welcome visitors, and their presence helped ensure our growing Chinese community feels informed and included.

There are so many enriching opportunities happening locally - designed to make life healthier, happier, and more connected.

Want to get involved or find out more?

Visit the Heart of the Bays office and have a chat with Debbie and James. They'd love to help you explore. Watch the video by clicking [here](#) (online)



Community Events and Engagement (continued)

Active Ageing Expo 2024 Photos



Community Collaboration Projects 2024-25

Over the past year, Heart of the Bays has done a lot of work collaborating with partners to deliver activations, plan future projects and grow relations across the East Coast Bays region.

Community Networking

Over the past four months, Heart of the Bays has organised monthly networking meetings that are held at the community centre. The network was set up so local charities and community organisations can share ideas and build relationships to enable us to build a stronger, more connected community.

The meetings are an informal way of finding out about the vast array of projects across the region and has enabled several originations to start working together on various initiatives and programmes.



Special Thanks Goes To:

Our Funders:



Our Friends Who Donated Their Services:



Financial Commentary



Financial Commentary

Treasurer's Report | Financial year ended 31 March 2025

Heart of the Bays leaves the 2025 financial year behind with a positive backwards glance. The operating surplus was \$47,254 (2024: \$61,047) and is the second consecutive year a surplus has been recorded.

Operating Revenue

Room hire and donations, and funding agreements with Auckland Council through the Hibiscus & Bays Local board to manage the Bays Community Centre and St Anne's Hall were again the main income sources. Several non-for-profit unincorporated groups remained or were welcomed into our fold with Heart of the Bays acting as an Umbrella. These groups, all of whom have the funding support of Auckland Council and the Local board, bring an additional layer of collaboration to the presence of Heart of the Bays in the community.

The total revenue recognized from Council service delivery agreements was \$55,305 and \$49,177 for the Umbrella-led groups. Of further note, unused funding recorded as Deferred revenue was \$97,445, with \$63,864 of this directly attributable to the umbrella-led groups. The coming year sees particular promise and excitement at seeing these groups meet their expectations of use.

Regrettably, 2025 did see an increase made to room hire rates. A necessary sign of the times with increased costs of living and expenditure all round but also looking forward to plans ahead – the implementation of an efficient, modern online booking and payment system with the additional costs that will bring, and also a significant building renovation of the Bays Community Centre for which the economic cost of the latter remains uncertain to Heart of the Bays.



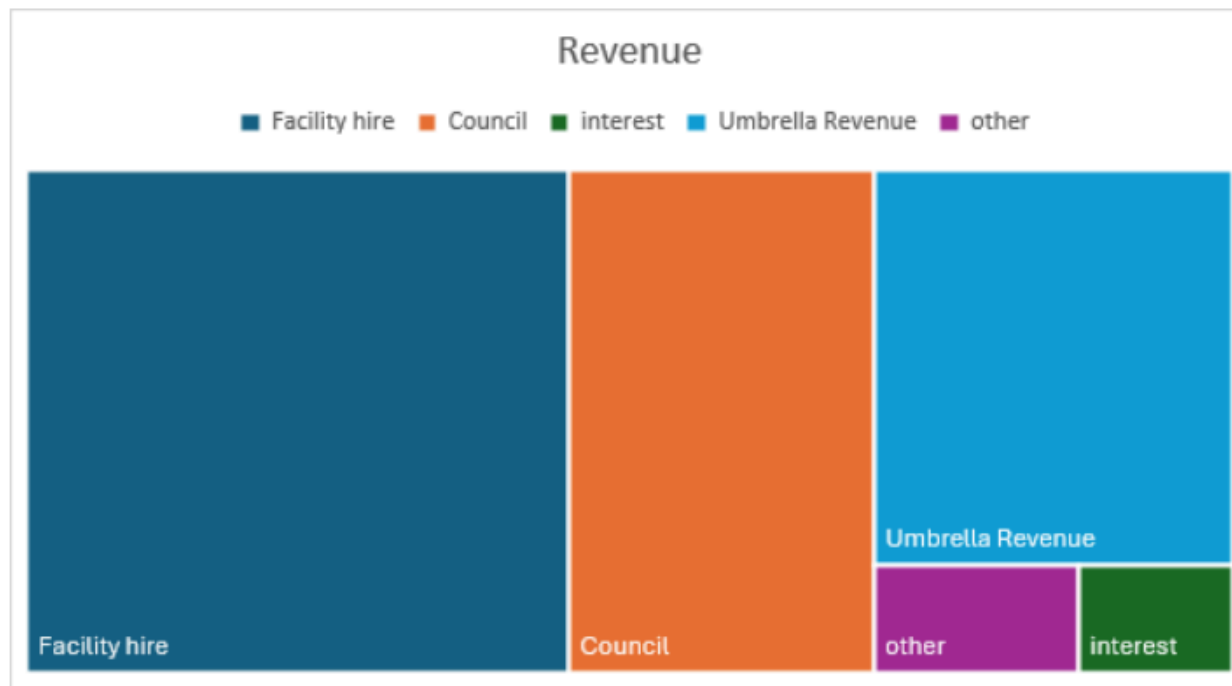
Financial Commentary

(continued)

Operating Revenue (continued)

Events funding through the Hibiscus & Bays Local Board allowed Heart of the Bays to provide popular and welcomed events and activations to the local community including the Active Aging Expo 2024, Christmas Jingle Mingle and Shake Your Booty held on the Browns Bay Beachfront.

Heart of the Bays appreciates and acknowledges all our community users and funders for their continued support.

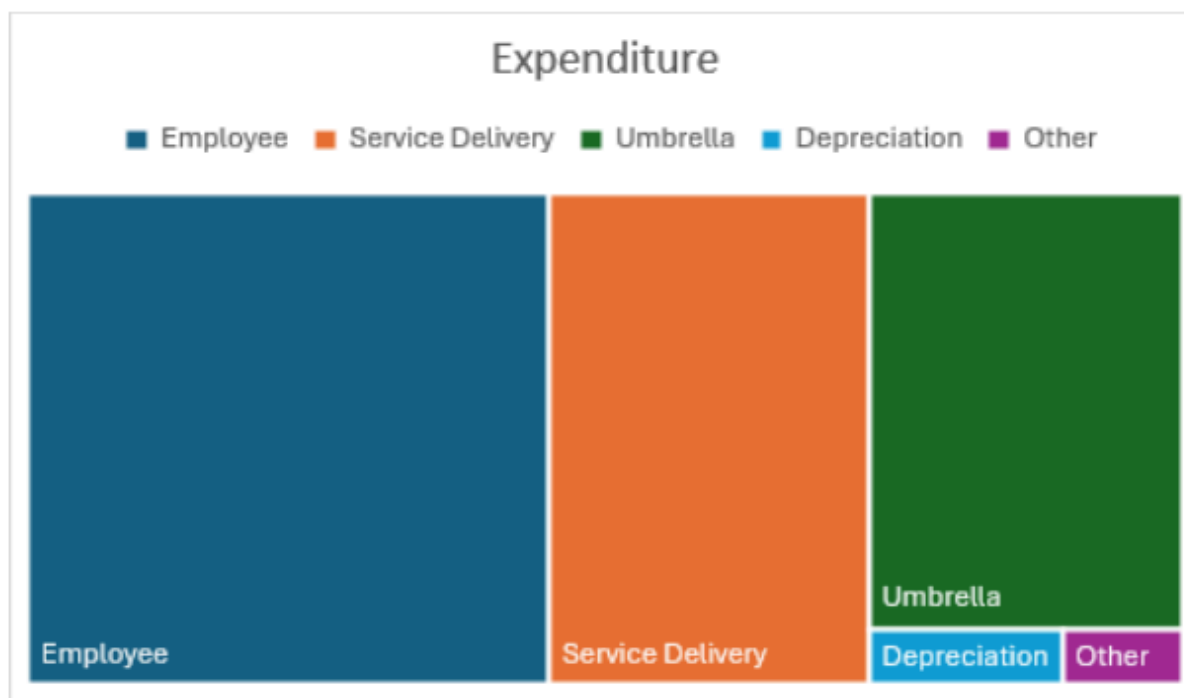


Financial Commentary

(continued)

Operating Expenditure

Total Operating expenditure for the year was \$178,885, up from the previous years \$168,070. This is mostly attributable to higher payroll costs with an additional part-time employee and employment of a care-taker. Other costs remain mostly comparable to last year. There have been no extraordinary expenditure items to note.



Looking to the Future

Continued careful financial management will be the key to maintaining the financial footing of Heart of the Bays. As a new era is entered into with the Bays Community Centre upgrade and changes to our booking system on the horizon leading to a heightened customer experience, the opportunity for growth and change is exciting and welcomed by Heart of the Bays and the community it serves.

Financial Statements

Statement of Financial Position

Heart of the Bays Incorporated
As at 31 March 2025

	NOTES	2025	2024
		\$	\$
Revenue			
Donations, Koha and other general fundraising	1	9,592	26,689
Government service delivery agreements	1	104,482	113,202
Revenue from facilities and services provided	1	99,560	84,833
Interest revenue	1	5,900	3,894
Other revenue	1	6,605	499
Total Revenue		226,139	229,117
Expenses			
Expenses relating to fundraising	2	1,249	-
Employee remuneration and other related expenses	2	116,021	81,904
Volunteer related expenses	2	997	1,234
Expenses related to facilities and services provided	2	55,123	79,906
Other expenses	2	5,495	5,026
Total Expenses		178,885	168,070
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year		47,254	61,047

Financial Statements

(continued)

Statement of Financial Position

Heart of the Bays Incorporated As at 31 March 2025

	NOTES	2025 \$	2024 \$
Assets			
Current Assets			
Cash and short-term deposits	3	252,655	93,455
Debtors and prepayments	3	9,712	6,653
Total Current Assets		262,367	100,108
Non-Current Assets			
Property, Plant and Equipment	5	20,195	14,468
Investments (Term Deposits)		-	81,220
Total Non-Current Assets		20,195	95,688
Total Assets		282,562	195,796
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Creditors and accrued expenses	4	7,790	5,210
Employee costs payable	4	6,189	4,466
Deferred revenue	7	97,445	-
Revenue for providing services received in advance	4	-	12,288
Unused donations, grants & funding agreements with conditions	4	-	20,399
Umbrella Groups - unused Funding	4	-	29,549
Total Current Liabilities		111,424	71,912
Total Liabilities		111,424	71,912
Total Assets less Total Liabilities (Net Assets)		171,138	123,884
Accumulated Funds			
Accumulated surpluses or (deficits)	6	171,138	123,884
Total Accumulated Funds		171,138	123,884

Financial Statements

(continued)

Statement of Financial Position

Heart of the Bays Incorporated
As at 31 March 2025

	2025	2024
	\$	\$
Cash Flows from Operating Activities		
Cash was received from:		
Donations, fundraising and other similar receipts	10,831	18,274
Government service delivery agreements	141,864	
Revenue from facilities use and services provided	101,099	
Receipts from providing goods or services		224,467
Interest and other Investment revenue	7,703	1,960
Net GST	(1,100)	(931)
Cash was applied to:		
Expenses relating to fundraising	1,249	
Employee remuneration and other related payments	112,072	
Volunteer related payments	1,151	
Payments related to facilities and services provided	62,864	
Other payments	1,340	
Payments suppliers and employees	-	168,048
Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities	81,721	75,722
Cash Flows from Investing and Financing Activities		
Cash was received from:		
Receipts from the sale of property, plant and equipment	8,261	917
Receipts from the sale of investments (term deposits)	160,000	-
Cash was applied to:		
Payments to acquire property, plant and equipment	10,782	8,395
Payments to purchase investments (term deposits)	80,000	80,000
Net Cash Flows from Investing and Financing Activities	77,479	(87,478)
Net Increase/(Decrease) in cash	159,200	(11,756)
Opening Cash	93,455	105,211
Closing Cash	252,655	93,455
This is represented by:		
Bank Accounts and Cash	252,655	93,455



If you have any feedback or would like to join in the fun
please call 09 478 4091 or
Email us at info@hotb.co.nz

www.hotb.co.nz

