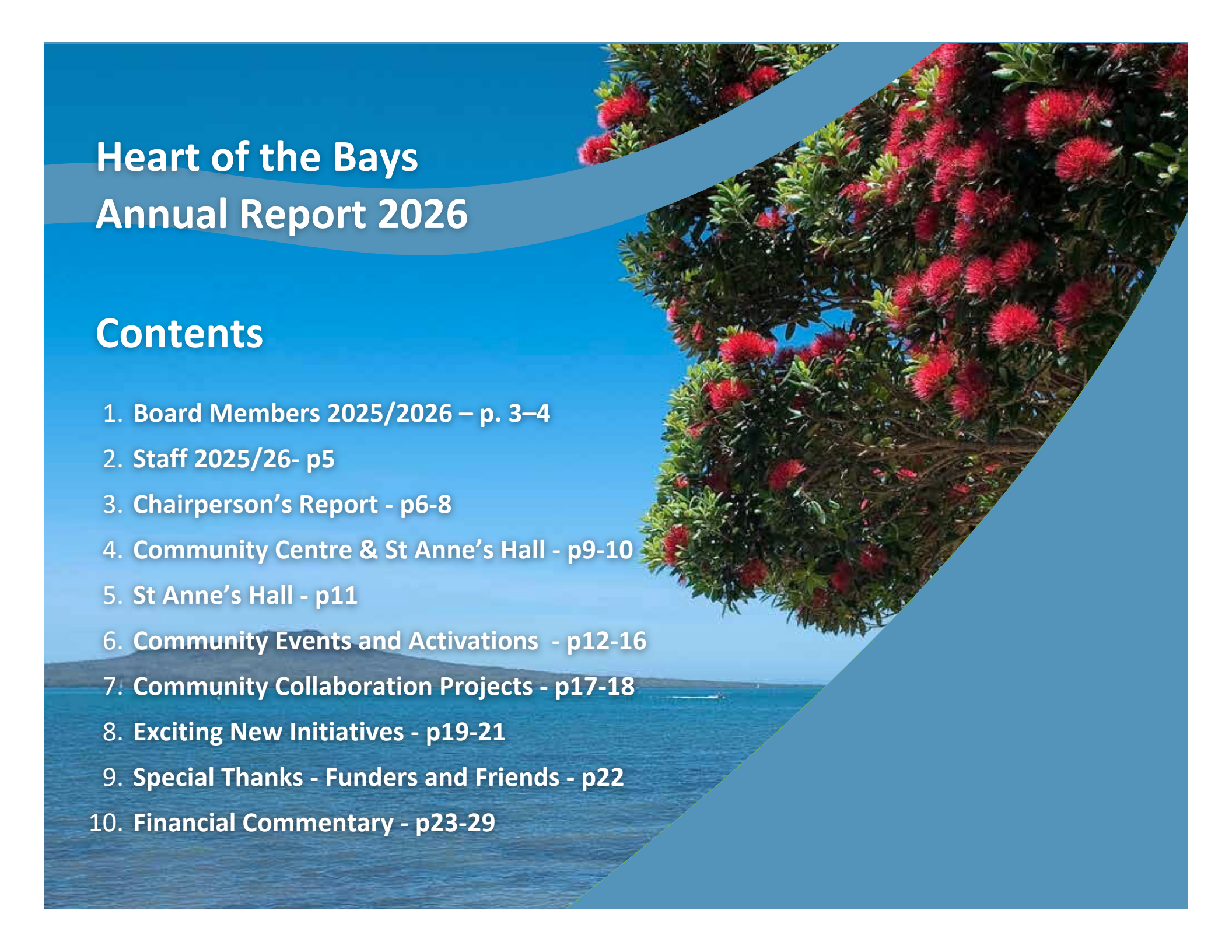


Foundations for the Future

Heart of the Bays Inc
Annual Report 2026



HEART
OF
THE **BAYS**



Heart of the Bays Annual Report 2026

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Board 2025/26



Chair : Rebecca Smith



Secretary: Kathy Waugh



Treasurer: Pam Ellison



Board: Pam Martin



Board: Margaret Hellyer



Board: Glenys Harwood

Board 2025/26

Continued



Board: Tasha Lacock



Board: Wendy Greenough



Board: Martin Adlington



Board: Kim Wyatt

Staff 2025/26



Debbie Russell -
Community Centre Manager



James Cartwright -
Community Development



Katie Peirce -
Community Activator

Michelle Tran -
Financial Administrator

Chairperson's Report

Kia ora koutou katoa

As Chair of Heart of the Bays, I am pleased to present this report reflecting on another year of growth, change, and opportunity for our organisation.



Our vision remains the same: to create a vibrant, resilient and connected community.

While the past year has brought its share of challenges, it has also highlighted the strength of our people, our partnerships, and our commitment to supporting the Bays community. I am proud of what we have achieved together and the foundations we are putting in place for the future.

Strengthening Our Foundations

This year has been one of significant change for the Board. Several Board members concluded their service with Heart of the Bays, and I would like to sincerely thank Martin, Margaret, Wendy, Tash and Kathy for their contribution to our organisation and community. I would especially like to mention Kathy for the long-service tenure of her contribution to the governance board of Heart of the Bays.

We wish you all the best for your next chapter.

While Board transitions can be challenging, they also create opportunities for renewal. This period of change has encouraged us to think carefully about the skills, structures, and leadership needed for the next phase of Heart of the Bays' journey.

Over the past year, we have focused on strengthening our governance foundations through policy development, clearer roles and responsibilities, stronger accountability, and the introduction of Board portfolios and subcommittee structures. These changes will help ensure Heart of the Bays remains sustainable, effective, and well-positioned for the future.

Alongside this work, we are being intentional about building a culture where people feel respected, heard, and able to contribute openly. Strong governance starts with strong relationships, and this remains a priority for us. I am delighted to welcome Kim Wyatt to the Board this year and look forward to the contributions she will continue to make.

Chairperson's Report

Continued

Our People

This year we said goodbye to James as he moved to Scotland. During his time with Heart of the Bays, James played a significant role in supporting the transition from the Community Centre, relocating offices, and maintaining momentum across community projects.

We thank him for his contribution and wish him all the best.

In April, we welcomed Katie Peirce as our Community Activator. Katie has quickly become an important part of the team, strengthening our community connections and allowing the Board to focus more fully on governance and strategic direction.

Working tirelessly behind the scenes, Debbie continues to be the glue that holds everything together.

Her commitment, flexibility, and dedication have been instrumental in ensuring continuity throughout a year of significant change.

Community Facilities and Partnerships

With the ongoing renovation of the Bays Community Centre, many activities have temporarily shifted to alternative venues.

As a result, St Anne's has played an increasingly important role as our community hub, and I would like to thank everyone who has adapted so positively throughout this transition.

We look forward to the reopening of the renovated facility next year and the opportunities it will create for greater community connection, collaboration, and growth.

Looking Ahead

Looking ahead, our focus remains on strengthening governance, embedding our portfolio and subcommittee structure, supporting community engagement, and preparing for the opportunities that will come with the reopening of the Bays Community Centre.

The Board remains committed to strong governance, sound financial stewardship, and ensuring Heart of the Bays remains sustainable and responsive to the needs of our community. I am confident that we are well positioned for the future.

Chairperson's Report

Continued

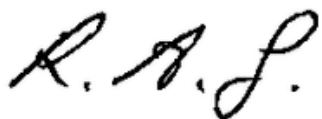
Thanks and Appreciation

I would like to thank my fellow Board members for their commitment, expertise, and willingness to contribute their time in service of our community.

My sincere thanks also go to Debbie, Katie, Michelle, our volunteers, community partners, funders, supporters, and members. Heart of the Bays is only as strong as the people behind it, and we are fortunate to have so many individuals who care deeply about our community and the work we do.

Thank you for your continued support of Heart of the Bays. I am proud of what we have achieved together this year and excited about the opportunities that lie ahead.

Ngā mihi nui,



Rebecca Smith
Chair
Heart of the Bays



Community Centre and St Anne's Hall

by Debbie Russell

The **2025/2026 year** has been one of significant change for Heart of the Bays. We were advised that the long-awaited renovations would be undertaken at our community centre, requiring us to relocate our operations.

We continued running our full programme until December 2025 before transitioning to St Anne's Hall. The relocation was a major undertaking and required a great deal of planning, flexibility and collaboration with our community groups.

At St Anne's, we expanded beyond the main hall and set up the two meeting rooms with new equipment to support our programmes and activities.

Helping Hand

We are very grateful to the East Coast Bays Library for accommodating some of our groups during our renovation, along with support from the Trinity Waiake Methodist Church where our Eat Play Laugh programme is being held.

Torbay Historical Society, Browns Bay Chinese Society, Browns Bay Presbyterian Church and Silverdale Hall were the recipients of equipment that needed to be repurposed.

Keeping Our Community Work Happening

Alongside the relocation, we continued to deliver community activations and events, including an **Art Exhibition** at St Anne's Hall and a **Daffodil Day Fundraiser**.

A successful **school holiday youth programme** featuring craft, drama and science activities was delivered for primary school-aged children. The YEP (Youth Employment Programme) was also delivered to six young people between the ages of 19 and 24. Heart of the Bays partnered with Youthtown to deliver this 10-week programme.



Community Centre and St Anne's Hall

by Debbie Russell (continued)

Another highlight was the **Browns Bay Heritage Walk for the Auckland Heritage Festival**. Due to poor weather, the event was adapted into a virtual presentation, which proved to be a great success. The presentation was also shared with one of our local retirement villages, providing an opportunity for residents to enjoy and connect with local history.

Heart of the Bays invested in community safety with the purchase of two defibrillators – one externally accessible 24/7 for public use and one inside the facility for community groups and hall users.

We are also excited to have completed a **VirtualPro tour of St Anne's Hall**, allowing people to easily explore the venue and available hire spaces online.

One of our new initiatives is the establishment of a Community Jigsaw Library, along with the opportunity for Games Groups to enjoy jigsaws together during our Wednesday Games sessions.

Thank You

I would like to thank our community groups, committee members and wider community for their support during our transition. Together, we have successfully created a fresh new chapter for Heart of the Bays at St Anne's Community Hub. A special thank you also to Auckland Council and the Hibiscus and Bays Local Board for their ongoing support.

Debbie Russell

Community Centre Manager



St Anne's Hall

St Anne's Community Hub:

One of the most significant changes this year has been our move from the Bays Community Centre to St Anne's Hall while the long-awaited redevelopment of the Community Centre takes place.

Although the relocation was a major undertaking, it has also created exciting new opportunities. St Anne's has quickly become a vibrant community hub, hosting programmes, events, community groups and new initiatives in a welcoming and adaptable space.

The hall and meeting rooms have been equipped to support a wide range of activities, allowing us to continue delivering valuable services and connections for our community. The move has highlighted the resilience of our organisation and community, while also giving us the opportunity to explore new ways of bringing people together.

As we look to the future, St Anne's will continue to play an important role in supporting our community and providing a welcoming space for connection, creativity and collaboration.

[Take The Virtual Tour](#)



Community Events and Activations

2025/2026 has been an exciting year of growth, connection and community engagement at the centre.

While our main premises have been under construction, we've embraced the challenge by making the most of St Anne's and getting creative with how we deliver events, programmes and activities. It's been a year of adapting, innovating and finding new ways to bring people together.



Community Events and Activations

Auckland Heritage Festival:

A highlight in our year is the Heritage Festival. we usually have a Browns Bay Heritage Walk but this year bad weather got in the way.

We adapted this event into a virtual presentation, which proved to be a great success.

The presentation was also shared with one of our local retirement communities.

Download the [Browns Bay Heritage Walk](#) guide here



Daffodil Day:

Our Browns Bay Community English school classes organised a wonderful morning tea to celebrate Daffodil Day and to raise money for cancer research.

It was a wonderful opportunity for the students to show their cooking skills and socialise with their friends and other attendees.



Community Events and Activations

Continued

Community Youth Day:

This event provided a range of school holiday activities for 5 - 13 year olds.

Lots of fun, a chance to meet new friends and try out some new projects.



YEP- Youth Employment Programme

The Youth Employability Programme (YEP) gives 14-24 year-olds the skills and confidence to transition into the world of work. It is highly regarded nationally as an employability programme of great worth and impact, that empowers rangatahi to gain the insight, confidence and skills to get work, keep work and thrive in their careers.

The programme is designed for all young people, particularly those transitioning directly to the workforce from school or training



Community Events and Activations

Continued

Board Games & Jigsaw Group:

This year saw a new approach to our board games groups as we adapted to venue changes and limited space. Rather than running separate groups for different games, we brought everyone together for one weekly gathering on Wednesday mornings.

The new format includes backgammon, Scrabble and Rummikub. It has created a welcoming and social environment where people can enjoy a variety of games, connect with others and build new friendships. It has been a great success, with attendees enjoying the opportunity to come together and share their interests in one space.

Heart of the Bays also introduced a community jigsaw library, allowing participants to borrow, swap and work on puzzles during the Wednesday sessions. This has added another enjoyable activity and helped create a space with something for everyone.

The success of this new format shows how a little creativity and flexibility can help keep people connected, engaged and involved in our community.



Community Events and Activations

Continued

Salsa on Browns Bay Beach:

Salsa on Browns Bay Beach brings music, movement and community together in the best possible way, proudly supported by Heart of the Bays.

Here's Claudio Martinez hosting an evening dance class on the boardwalk, while DJ Dudley Young keeps the crowd moving with infectious Latin rhythms.



Shake Your Booty:

Shake Your Booty returned to Browns Bay Beach this summer, bringing movement, laughter and connection to the beachfront every Sunday morning.

This free community exercise programme continues to be a popular way for people to stay active, meet new friends and enjoy the beautiful beachside setting. With fantastic attendance throughout the season, it once again proved that fitness, fun and community spirit are a winning combination.



Community Collaboration Projects

2025 - 2026

Pātaka Kai:

The Pātaka Kai continues to make a positive impact in our community and remains a successful collaboration between Heart of the Bays, East Coast Bays Library, East Coast Bays Leisure Centre, CAB, East Coast Bays Community Crèche, Trash Free Taiaotea, Browns Bay Presbyterian Church and Neighbourhood Support.

Since its unveiling, the pantry has become an important community resource, helping reduce food waste while supporting local families and individuals. As cost-of-living pressures continue to affect many households, services such as the Pātaka Kai are needed more than ever.

We would like to acknowledge and thank the Hibiscus and Bays Local Board for funding the pantry build, New World Browns Bay for their ongoing contributions.

We are also grateful to Browns Bay Presbyterian Church for continuing to host the Pātaka Kai and to the many volunteers, organisations and community members who help keep the pantry stocked and operating.

Together, these contributions ensure the Pātaka Kai remains a valuable and accessible resource for those who need it most.



Community Collaboration Projects

2025 - 2026

Community Networking:

Heart of the Bays has been hosting monthly networking meetings.

The network was established to bring local charities and community organisations together to share ideas, build relationships and strengthen connections across our community.

These informal meetings provide an opportunity to learn about the wide range of projects and initiatives taking place throughout the region. They have also helped foster new partnerships, with several organisations now collaborating on programmes and community initiatives that benefit local residents.



Exciting New Initiatives

Friends of Heart of the Bays:

One thing we have learned over the years is that Heart of the Bays is about much more than programmes, events or buildings. At its heart, it is about people.

As we worked together to grow and strengthen Heart of the Bays, our Board became more than a governance group. We rolled up our sleeves, shared ideas, solved problems and helped wherever needed. Along the way, we built not only a stronger organisation, but also lasting friendships and connections.

As Heart of the Bays moves towards a more governance-focused Board structure, several valued Board members have stepped away from formal governance roles. While the structure is changing, we don't want to lose the knowledge, experience and community spirit that have helped shape our organisation.

That is why we are excited to introduce the Friends of Heart of the Bays. This new network will provide opportunities for people to stay involved, support events and projects, share their skills, and remain connected to our community in ways that suit them.

To everyone who has been part of the journey so far, thank you. Your contribution has helped make Heart of the Bays what it is today, and we look forward to continuing that journey together.



Exciting New Initiatives

Continued

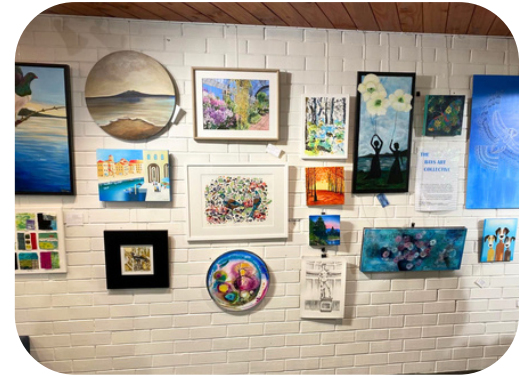
The Bays Art Collective:

One of our exciting new initiatives this year has been the creation of the Art Collective, bringing together local art groups, artists and creative organisations to share ideas, build connections and raise awareness of the vibrant arts community within the Bays.

The group has begun meeting at St Anne's Hall and is already creating opportunities for collaboration and networking between local creatives.

Looking ahead, there are plans for exhibitions, markets and other events that will help showcase local talent and strengthen connections across the arts community.

The Art Collective is an exciting addition to our community programmes, helping foster creativity, collaboration and new opportunities for local artists.



Upcoming Events

Active Ageing Expo 2026:

We are delighted to be bringing Active Ageing back again this year.

Following the success of previous events, Active Ageing 2026 will once again showcase the wide range of groups, activities and services available to older adults in our community.

This free event is a fantastic opportunity to discover new interests, meet like-minded people, connect with local organisations and explore ways to stay active, engaged and connected.

Mark your calendars for the 22nd of July at the East Coast Bays Leisure Centre in Browns Bay.

We hope to see you there!



ACTIVE AGEING EXPO 2026

Wednesday 22 July
10am - 2pm

East Coast Bays Leisure Centre
12 Bute Road, Browns Bay



**FREE
ENTRY!**

Special Thanks Goes To:

Our Funders:



Our Friends Who Donated Their Services:





Financial Commentary



Financial Commentary

Financial Overview – For the financial year ended 31 March 2026:

As Treasurer, I am pleased to present the Annual Financial Performance Report for the financial year ended 31st March 2026. This report has been prepared to meet our obligations under the Charities Act 2005 and our Constitution.

At A Glance:

Category	This year \$	Last year \$
Total Revenue	223,287	226,139
Total Expenses	207,188	178,885
Net Surplus	16,099	47,254
Total Accumulated Funds	187,237	171,138

Financial Commentary

Continued

Revenue Commentary:

Main sources of revenue have again been room hire, donations, and funding agreements with Auckland Council/Hibiscus and Bays Local Board.

Room hire and donations were slightly lower than last year. The Community Centre closed nearly a month earlier than usual at the end of 2025, when St Anne's became our temporary Community Hub due to the Bays Community Centre building upgrade.

Because users do not usually return until mid-February, the financial impact of the relocation is only now becoming clear. We initially expected revenue to fall by about 20% after losing our largest venue.

However, several of our biggest users chose not to move to St Anne's because the space did not meet their needs.



Financial Commentary

Continued

Revenue Commentary (cont):

Now with the first several months of 2026 behind us, we expect that revenue likely will decline by 40–50% for the 2027 financial year. Fortunately, we have reserves to help manage this shortfall, and careful financial management will continue to mitigate the impact.

Several new funding agreements with Auckland Council/Hibiscus and Bays Local Board were received supporting community development, including the Pātaka Kai Community Pantry, youth initiatives, and event funding for community engagement and enrichment.

It has been a busy and successful year for the groups operating under the Heart of the Bays umbrella. Established groups secured additional funding, and several new groups were welcomed into our fold.



Financial Commentary

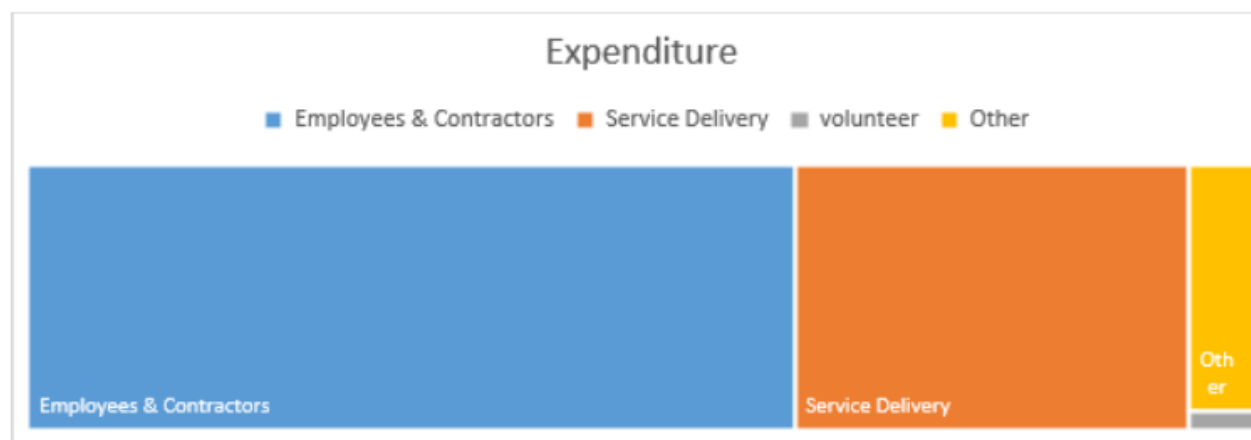
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Expenditure Commentary:

Total expenditure for the year was \$207,188, an increase of 16% from the previous year (2025: \$178,885). The main drivers of this increase were:

- Contractor fees increased due to the engagement of a Relocation Manager to oversee the move from the Bays Community Centre. Umbrella contractor costs also rose as new umbrella-led groups came under the HOTB banner;
- Additional relocation costs were incurred, including an off-site secure storage unit, moving fees, and alterations to St Anne's to better meet users' needs.
- Office space in Browns Bay was rented to maintain service delivery.

With all the increased costs incurred, it is pleasing to note that there have also been some noteworthy decreases. No longer having a photocopier lease commitment has meant almost a \$3,000 reduction in annual charges, and no longer having a motor vehicle has saved us maintenance and running costs.



Financial Commentary

Continued

Looking to the Future:

Relocating from the Bays Community Centre has undoubtedly been one of the most significant challenges Heart of the Bays has faced in recent years. After more than three decades in our former home, the process of relocating programmes, equipment, records and community groups required considerable planning, commitment and financial discipline.

While the move has brought disruption and uncertainty, it is important to remember why it is happening. The redevelopment of the Bays Community Centre is something our organisation has advocated for and helped shape over many years. Seeing the building work now underway is an exciting reminder that this long-held vision is finally becoming a reality.

I would like to acknowledge the enormous effort of our staff, volunteers and supporters who have worked tirelessly to ensure services continued throughout the transition. Through careful planning and prudent financial management, Heart of the Bays has successfully navigated what could easily have been a far more difficult period.

Our temporary relocation to St Anne's Hall has also created unexpected opportunities. The space has been reconfigured to maximise its potential as a community hub, allowing many activities and programmes to continue serving local residents while we await our return to the Community Centre.

As Treasurer, I am confident that while the coming year will require careful management, we are in a strong position to meet these challenges. More importantly, we can look forward to returning to a modern, purpose-built facility that will allow us to deliver even greater value to our community, make the most of the funding entrusted to us, and support a wider range of groups, activities and services for years to come.

The figures in this report tell only part of the story. Behind them is an organisation that has successfully managed a major transition while continuing to put community first. That is something we can all be proud of.



If you have any feedback or would like to join in the fun
please get in touch:

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