



# Rānui Action Project (RAP) Pūrongo ā-Tau | Annual Report for the year ending 30 June 2023





# Strategic Plan

2018-2023

To work together to grow a happy and connected Rānui community.



## Connection

- 1.1 Connecting individuals, families and resources.
- 1.2 Facilitating dialogue between services and community.



## Belonging

Growing a sense of belonging and pride in Rānui through:

- 2.1 Keeping our community informed.
- 2.2 Creating inclusive events for our community.
- 2.3 Creating spaces for our community to see themselves in.



## Empowerment

- 3.1 Empowering people to develop their potential leadership.
- 3.2 Being an advocate for our Rānui community.
- 3.3 Incubating local projects.



## Partnership

- 4.1 Upholding our obligations to Te Tiriti o Waitangi and the United Nations Declaration of Indigenous Rights.
- 4.2 Supporting initiatives that benefit our community.



## Sustainability

- 5.1 Excellence in management and governance.
- 5.2 Building a strong skilled team.
- 5.3 Being responsive to changing needs of the environment and community.



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for the year ending 30 June 2023





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The organisation’s whakataukī, ‘**Me puāwai tātou katoa i roto i te kotahitanga o Rānui**’ continues to guide the RAP team as does the organisation’s Strategic Plan which is used to frame this report.

Working from a strengths-based perspective the RAP team has been committed to bringing Rānui residents together to celebrate and extend the wellbeing and creativity of their community.

This was despite the challenges of the January floods, Cyclone Gabrielle and the ongoing impact of the pandemic.



## A 12-month snapshot of our mahi... The RAP team:

### organised:

**14** Community  
Networking meetings



**11** Local community events  
(collab with other community groups)



### provided:

**22** Legal Advice clinics



### delivered:

**64** Career advice and  
CV sessions



**10** Learner Licence  
programmes



### assisted:

**105** people to obtain their  
Driver Licence





## Connection

Located in the heart of Rānui for over 20 years, there is no doubt that RAP House contributes to creating a sense of belonging and connection in the local community.

In September 2022, RAP relished the opportunity to celebrate its 20<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Our week of celebrations included:

- inviting residents and others who had been involved with RAP in the past to connect and ‘reconnect’.
- completing a written/photographic history of RAP to help ensure connections are retained as the organisation heads into another twenty years of service in the Rānui community.
- holding a successful community party with wonderful local rangatahi performing outdoors despite torrential rain.

Another small but memorable ‘connection’ saw children from Te Whakatipu Kācano Māori Immersion Unit of Rānui Primary School arrive

at RAP unannounced as they wanted to learn about RAP and the mahi we do. They were keen to know how each member of the team was connected to RAP and their community - a fair question that we all answered.

RAP continued to provide other opportunities for residents and other groups to connect, such as:

- hosting the Congolese group ‘Women of Hope’ on Neighbours’ Day to share their music, dance and stories of sorrow of their beloved homeland.
- continuing support to the ‘Tuaāsinasina Elderly Programme’ provided by the Rānui Pacific Islanders’ Presbyterian Church.
- visiting a street where residents were seriously impacted by the floods, to share Mr Whippy, boxes of fruit and most importantly, a listening ear.
- planning for delivery of three adult and community education workshops to be facilitated by local residents, for local residents.





## Belonging

The transformation of the RAP car park into a space 'for all' has created a sense of belonging. The community received a basketball hoop as a birthday gift and it has been a huge success. There is rarely a day that passes without a group of rangatahi or whānau 'shooting the hoop', enjoying the covered seating space and sharing food.

Other examples of ways we supported residents to gain a sense of belonging included celebrating the Pasifika language weeks by sharing Pasifika food and conversations with passersby and enlisting a small group of rangatahi to help set up outdoor lighting in preparation for our Matariki celebrations in July.

The 'Rānui 2021 and Beyond' community development project RAP leads in collaboration with the Rānui Accord members, has gained momentum this period. We recognised the need to build a stronger sense of trust and belonging amongst Accord members, before creating a collective Vision with the Rānui community. This time of whakawhanaungatanga was critical, particularly with all Accord members grappling with the impact of the floods and other environmental factors affecting the various communities they work with.

As we work more closely together, we anticipate a positive flow-on effect for the community.





## Empowerment

In January, the RAP team got together for a planning session by focussing on the theme: whakapakari - 'to develop, strengthen and refine' our Strategic Plan.

Through this process we identified environmental changes that we needed to consider, including the impact of climate change, floods, census, local government elections, increase in population, housing insecurity and the cost of living. This session resulted in the team reviewing and enhancing the regular services RAP provides to empower residents. These included:

- 'Get Licensed' Learner Licence programmes, and one-to-one tailored support to assist people to navigate gaining a full driver's licence. The target group continues to be those residents who already have practical driving skills but who are unlicensed (often driving illegally).



- Legal Advice and Oranga Tamariki Advocacy provided by Waitemata Community Law.
- 'Advocacy for Beneficiaries' provided by Auckland Action Against Poverty.
- 'Employment Matters', career and job-seeking weekly drop-in service.
- Computer and IT support, targeted at our older residents.

Five whānau groups continued to be part of our discrete project 'Awhi Rito Rānui', which aims to support te kotahitanga, te tiakitanga, te whāngaitanga, te whakapakaritanga me te tūmanako o ngā whānau nei.



This year the team witnessed a marked increase in the number of people seeking advice and support in a wide range of areas, e.g. in a two-day period in March this year queries included:

- a dad wanting to know where his son could do his court-required community hours.
- a Unitec student wanting help with her community assignment.
- an older man wanting help with licensing and immigration issues.
- a dad and adult daughter needing help to navigate WINZ for disability allowance.
- a young couple wanting to know if they could uplift their KiwiSaver because of their dire living situation.

The RAP team takes time to listen and awhi each person to ensure the right advice is given and to support them through the referral process if required. As a team, we continually remind each other we are not social workers, but we can be a link towards empowering residents in this community.



## Partnership

Our relationship with the Automobile Association (AA) has grown, resulting in a smoother journey for participants in our 'Get Licensed' programme. We are now able to easily access reader writers for those needing this support and are able to book ahead when we have a group of learners ready to sit their test.

We have also commenced the process to recruit and build partnerships with a small group of volunteers to become trained mentors for those preparing for their practical driver licence tests. These are the small but important things that contribute to making this programme such a success.

Our ongoing relationships with businesses remain positive, examples include:

- the local company Pipeline and Civil (a key player in completing the RAP outdoor space redesign) now place bookings for our rooms for staff meetings.
- the local supermarket Fresh Choice continues to provide boxes of fruit when we hold events and provides advice when requested.
- a short-term project with the Good Data Institute grew the team's understanding of the importance of quality data and has resulted in the team being able to access free expert advice as we develop our systems.

It goes without saying that RAP's strong partnership with Rānui 135 is of benefit to the community as each organisation plays to its strengths while still supporting each other in a very collaborative 'natural' way. This partnership is unique and to be treasured.





# Sustainability



Ensuring the sustainability of our organisation is always a priority when planning. This period has been about regularly reviewing what we offer the community and ensuring we do it in a way that is of the highest quality, effective and cost-efficient. Through this process, the team's skills and confidence have grown substantially.



Much of our learning happens on the job as we share and work closely together and each team member has an individual professional development plan. The team knows the importance of not becoming complacent and that flexibility is necessary in order to meet the changing needs of our community.



In the year up to June 2023 we have been very fortunate to have Epifania, Jordan and Deane join the RAP team (namely Jolene, Ara, Hinemoa, Edith and Carol).



This was also a year of consolidation. Through the implementation of new software and team training, we have made significant progress in capturing and analysing data to support enhanced planning, evaluation and sharing the impact of the work we do.



# Acknowledgements

We continue to recognise the strength of having a strong governance board, the importance of maintaining positive relationships with funders, and seeking new opportunities that will build the sustainability of RAP and the community.

The funding and relational support provided by the following organisations has supported RAP to meet the outcomes we set out to achieve this year:

- Adult and Community Education (ACE) Aotearoa
- Community Organisation Grants Scheme (COGS)
- Foundation North
- Henderson Massey Local Board (Auckland Council)
- JR McKenzie Trust
- NZ Lottery Grants Board
- The Trusts Community Foundation

Thank you to these organisations and thank you also to the RAP Board, staff, contractors, volunteers, and everyone else who has supported Rānui Action Project throughout this challenging but very memorable year.

After many years working with RAP, Edith Amituanai is moving on to new opportunities. Her contribution has been ‘nothing less than magnificent’, including a six-year term on the Board; capturing images and curating a public photographic exhibition for the ‘Women of Hope’ project; leading the development of our branding; being our eyes and ears on the street to support our young people’s needs; providing a creative lens throughout our building renovations; compiling the 20-year celebrations booklet and timeline; and leading the ACE professional development that has been delivered to the RAP and Rānui 135 teams and other groups in the community over the last three years.

We also acknowledge and thank our departing Board members for stepping up and making a positive contribution to RAP.

Ngā mihi nui, ā haere rā ki a Steven Gottipalli, rātou ko Liz Anstey, ko Kiriataahua Te Maapi Pene. Your mahi, tautoko and aroha for the Rānui Community has made it a better place.

Carol Glamuzina  
RAP Manager

Dan Collins  
RAP Chairperson





Me puāwai tātou katoa i roto i te kotahitanga o Rānui  
Creating our futures together



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