

## **Rānui Action Project (RAP) Annual Report for the year ending 30 June 2022**

The organisation's whakataukī *Me puāwai tātou katoa i roto i te kotahitanga o Rānui - creating our futures together* continued to guide RAP's work during this time of challenge for the community.

To demonstrate this work we proudly present the report within the framework of RAP's Strategic Plan.

### **CONNECTION**

RAP created opportunities for connection during the long lockdowns when feelings of isolation and 'working alone' were evident in the community. We continued to hold the Bimonthly Rānui Network meetings, and the Rānui Accord and Western Park Village Steering group meetings. We opened the RAP Office a week earlier than normal after our Xmas break so that RAP was 'present' in the community and the team had extra time to plan tailored activities in response to the impact of Covid Lockdowns.

A few examples of activities:

- Neighbour's Day is an annual national event held in March which in 2022 had the theme of Kai Connection. RAP supported Lema Shamamba (coordinator of the Rānui Community Gardens) to organise an event with the Congolese group, Women of Hope. This group shared stories and food and facilitated fun games for residents to learn about kai and the connection to gardens and each other.
- In collaboration with Age Concern, we organised three health workshops for our older residents. We followed up each workshop facilitated by Age Concern with a high tea provided by RAP which gave participants the opportunity to connect and share their experiences.
- RAP provided support for the Tūaasinasina Elderly Programme hosted by the Rānui Pacific Islanders' Presbyterian Church. The programme is a Samoan speaking programme that contributes towards the holistic well-being of the elderly who experience disconnection, especially during the lockdown periods and times of being unwell. The group purchased iPads and provided training and online connectivity enabling those who would have been excluded, to connect to their social support networks and peers.

Through this period RAP commenced planning for RAP's 20-year birthday celebrations held in September 2022. This gave the team and board members a real appreciation of all the connections made through RAP, past and present and the importance of maintaining these connections.

## EMPOWERMENT

During this period there was an increase in the number of residents contacting RAP to find out about what services were available to support them to find work, a place to call home, or where mental health and other services were located and, last but not least, how to navigate their way around government websites and officialdom. In an immediate response to the many residents having difficulty with downloading their vaccine pass, we set up a 'drop-in' space on the veranda.

The team managed to navigate the myriad of download issues and become the 'go to' for many residents. The team's face-to-face friendly engagement was greatly appreciated.

Whenever possible we delivered our regular services face to face and further developed our services to better empower residents, including:

- Employment Matters, career and job-seeking weekly drop-in service;
- Legal Advice provided by Waitematā Community Law and enhanced to provide an Oranga Tamariki Advocacy service;
- Advocacy for Beneficiaries provided by Auckland Action Against Poverty;
- Computer and IT support, targeted at our older residents;
- Youth services support in collaboration with Rānui 135, providing a safe drop-in space and activities for young people;
- Get Licenced- Learner licence programmes were delivered regularly, and one-to-one tailored support was provided to assist people to navigate gaining a full drivers licence. The target group continues to be those residents who already have practical driving skills but who were unlicensed (often driving illegally).

Early in 2022 the three-year Awhi Rito Rānui project kicked off. This is a support initiative being offered to grandparents/whānau (family) caregivers raising grandchildren / or other children from the family who live in Rānui. Awhi Rito Rānui acknowledges the vital role grandparents / whānau (family) caregivers play in their family and by extension their community.

## BELONGING

Despite the disruption of lockdowns RAP organised a number of events with the community to support a sense of belonging for individuals and whānau.

- In July 2021 we held 'Rānui 2021 and Beyond', a community event to garner residents' ideas and concerns and promote a sense of belonging.
- In December 2021 we celebrated the success of participants of the Get Licensed initiative by holding a special lunch (originally scheduled to take place in Adult Learners Week in September 2021 but postponed due to lockdown).
- In January 2022 we held an event in the new look carpark to farewell team member Pania Taka Brown, and to give free Mr Whippy ice creams to residents to acknowledge that the long school holiday break was a challenging time for many.
- In February 2022 we planned to take a double-decker bus full of residents for a fun day at Parakai Hot Springs Pools. This had to be cancelled due to the number of whānau who had

to isolate. The team however went ahead and delivered food and care packages to the homes of all whanau registered for the event.

- In June 2022 we celebrated Matariki by holding an event outside at RAP. This very successful event created a drop-in space where residents participated in activities that relate to each of the nine stars of Matariki. It promoted community engagement through food, fun and whanaungatanga.

## PARTNERSHIP

This period the strength of both Rānui 135 and RAPs partnerships were made crystal clear when we together invited others to participate in the Wall Walk- a professional development opportunity facilitated by Dr Simone Bull. Together we explored the impact of history on today's social outcomes, and to think more about our role and effectiveness today, tomorrow and ahead. Participants included RAP and Rānui Board members and employees, Rānui Baptist Community Care, Rānui Library, Western Park Village, ACE Aotearoa, Mana Within, Ngāti Tamaohu, Auckland City Mission and the Zeal Education Trust.

New partnerships with local businesses also emerged as companies looked to fill job vacancies. Through our Employment Matters initiative, we have been able to link residents looking for work with local businesses and offered tailored support to apply. The relationship with the local company Pipeline and Civil Engineering has resulted in the company becoming actively involved in RAP's car park redesign project with their staff volunteering their valuable time and expertise and the company providing significant resources towards the project.

Through our partnerships with ACE Aotearoa, The Living Wage Movement, the Drive Change Network and Te Ohu Whakawhanaunga RAP is confident that we are increasingly able to contribute to support systematic change that will benefit our residents.

## SUSTAINABILITY

RAP continues to work towards sustainability in a way that will maintain the organisation's agility to respond to community needs. Having freehold ownership of RAP House in this challenging environment is massive as it provides a level of certainty to the community and choices that many organisations do not have. We continue to focus on areas that will further future-proof the organisation. The RAP team is a 'real team' actively planning together, evaluating together, learning together and importantly recognising each other's areas of expertise and skills and utilising these in an effective and smart way.

Further development of RAPs overall quality assurance management system is always a work in progress. Having a schedule for policy development and review has meant this area of work has steadily happened this period. Our continued focus on evaluation has resulted in the organisation embarking on a new project to better answer the critical question "what is the impact of our work on the community we serve? "

We recognise the importance of having strong relationships with funders and continue to explore opportunities that may benefit the community in the future.

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

- Adult and Community Education (ACE) Aotearoa;
- Community Organisation Grants Scheme (COGS);
- 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 and staff (past and present), our contractors, volunteers, and everyone else who has supported Rānui Action Project throughout this incredible year.

Steven Gottipalli  
RAP Board Chairperson

Carol Glamuzina  
RAP Manager