



# Hope Rising Farm Charitable Trust

CC 49073

*Te Puroa Rd, Ngaruawahia 3720*

## Welcome to our Annual Report 2022

### Chairman's Report

The past twelve months have brought much change to Hope Rising Farm. Starting with the continuation of COVID lockdown measures, mandates and a change in direction with regard to program participants, given schools had to largely disengage from any offsite activities. During the times we could not run programs, the staff continued to care for the animals and work on developing new program material and as part of that activity an external consultant was engaged by the board to lead the process of developing a new comprehensive strategic plan, which was delivered in October. Going through the process has helped to clarify the organisations direction, order of priorities and the milestones we will need to achieve in order to fulfil the vision of delivering lasting change to vulnerable youth and women in the Waikato.

The month of February generated much excitement with the prospect of moving to a new 25acre property purchased specifically for Hope Rising Farms use. This was the welcome culmination of a long three-year search, while CYC graciously extended HRF's stay! With a clear exit date of mid-June, a lot of work needed to be accomplished before the new property would be suitable to run programs; all the while simultaneously running a tandem project of removing all HRF equipment, fences, materials, troughs, sheds, barns etc from the old site. This was a major undertaking given programs were paused at the end of May and needed to be up and running for the beginning of term in late July. In amongst this, multiple contractors organised to carry out earthworks (in March) failed to make site for a number of reasons... Alternative arrangements finally materialised some months later with loaned equipment and borrowed operators to deliver what was needed and all just before one of the wettest Waikato winters on record!

In addition to staff working long hours I would like to acknowledge the amazing members for the public, volunteers, contractors and businesses and charitable organisations like Rotary, Mobile Mission Maintenance that came together to put literally hundreds of hours into exiting CYC while upgrading the barn/stable complex, fencing, and grounds. There was no way HRF on its own could have got over the line what needed to be done in the available time frame. We remain humbled by the hard mahi put in by our dedicated community of helpers.

In addition to helping hands, fundraising has continued to be a strong focus of the team, as NGOs, private trusts and individuals continue to make up the majority of the funding sources and we are extremely grateful for the continued provision of our funders who this year have stepped up further to meet the needs of the organisation as it changes up a gear! On that note It is especially sad to say our goodbye's to our fantastic Operations Manager Jean Van Zweeden who having dedicated over two years to taking the organisations systems, funding and management to the next level; officially handing over the rein's (pun intended) in June to our new OM and trustee Alan Kuyper and we welcome and extend our thanks to Alan for stepping up to the plate. Furthermore Rachel Ralph our founder was recently honoured by Volunteering Waikato for Her tireless service to the community by winning the Volunteer of the Year award, a fantastic achievement and a pleasure to see Rachel honoured in this way for all the time, sacrifice and effort of the past ten years!

The board has continued to meet regularly to keep abreast of the many decisions that needed to be made during the transition and are looking forward to getting back into a regular routine as we build out HRF's capacity with stage two of the new farm development, while keeping front of mind that our efforts are focused towards better serving the needs of our communities most vulnerable.

On behalf of the board and staff we thank you for your time, attention and support and are looking forward to the coming year of delivering positive change.



**Steven Senn**  
**Chairman**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Steven Senn'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'S'.

## Operations Report

This past financial year has been an incredibly challenging but exciting year for Hope Rising Farm (HRF) with the prospect of moving to a long term 'home' – a farm purchased specifically for the use of HRF. It has been a year of hard work and dedication from the staff and volunteers, and we have seen the benefits of this in a greater awareness of what we do in our community.

## Budget and Finances

Covid has continued to have a considerable impact on what we have been able to accomplish in the 21/22 financial year. In spite of this, we have still been able to come in just under budget ending the year with a small surplus.

Our services revenue decreased mainly because of cancellations due to Covid restrictions, however our donations and funding support increased by an amazing 140% and our client base is continuing to grow.

Our expenses also increased due to our growth strategy but came under budgeted.

## Programmes

The purpose of our programmes at Hope Rising Farm continues to provide an opportunity for vulnerable youth and women in the local community to develop self-confidence and a sense of self-worth and to open their eyes to see their God given value. We do this using our equines to build empowering connections - a proven method of quietly but surely opening opportunities for learning communication skills, empathy, ways of controlling emotions and so much more. We also include basic farm tasks in the programme to given them confidence learning new skills in a beautiful, outdoor environment.

During this last year, we were able to run 125 sessions within 27 different programmes, engaging 136 clients. Including two retirement village visits, we impact approximately 196 lives.

Although we have not yet seen the long term effects, we are sure that we have introduced hope to lives that desperately needed it.

We offered a complimentary team building session to an organisation called Anglican Action (AA) so that their team would have a better understanding of how our programmes 'work'. This has led to a continuous weekly programme for women who have recently exited prison. The aim of Anglican Action's programme is to assist these women with reintegrating back into their



community. The feedback we are receiving from AA has been incredibly positive and we anticipate these programmes to continue in our 22/23 year.

Where possible we have continued to run the following programmes:

**Holiday programme** – a fun holiday programme for children between the ages of 9-14 years old which ran for three days for each week of the school holidays (2 weeks) after term 1 and 2 of 2021. The children learn basic equine skills and also have the opportunity to ride on the last days of the programme.

This programme proved to be incredibly popular however we were unable to run any further programmes due to Covid restrictions. As a result we improvised and created an:

**After school programme** – which ran weekly for approximately 4 weeks comprising similar content to the holiday programme (above). These were delivered during term 4 of 2021 and terms 1 and 2 of 2022.

**Hang out with Horses for Women** – this programme commenced at the end of last year. It allows women from around the local community to come and relax with the horses and chat over a cup of coffee. It was held once a fortnight and allowed us to connect with local women on our beautiful farm environment, give the horses a ‘chilled’ day, generate a little revenue and create awareness in the community of what Hope Rising Farm does. We have seen amazing differences in these women as they attend our program.

We had an amazing benefit as a result of these sessions in that we developed a relationship with another organization called Enrich, which has allowed us to offer a regular programme specifically for their clients (those living with disabilities, autism or neurodiversity).

**Time out with Horses (for Teens)** – our programme specifically geared towards teenagers that are struggling a little at school and/or life in general. We were able to run programmes for students from Huntly College over the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> terms until Covid halted any further sessions.

**Oho Mauri** – this programme, based on our Time out with Horses (Teens) programme, was geared specifically for students attending the Oho Mauri Work Transition course. It was a 6-week program with students attending once a week for 4 hours. The students attending this programme were initially identified as students not attending school, (a large percentage) with gang affiliations, drug and alcohol dependencies, and behaviour that made it difficult for them to remain in school. We continued to run 2 further programmes during the 21/22 year for Oho Mauri.

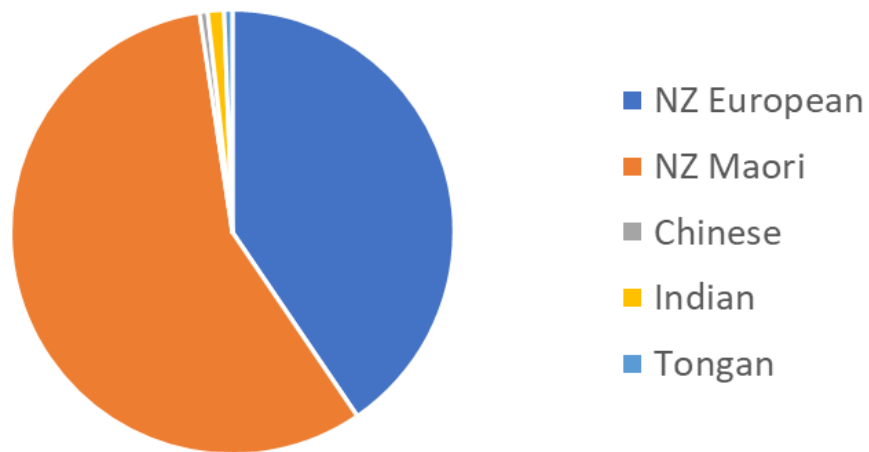
**Time out with Horses (Frankton Park)** – a programme specifically for individual clients from Frankton Park. This programme ran in the 2<sup>nd</sup> term but Covid and the wet winter months prevented further sessions during the year.

## Students and Visitors Numbers

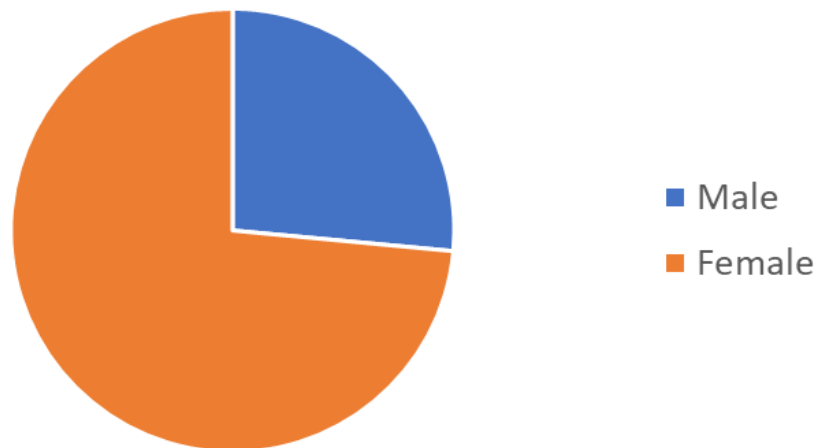
During the 2021/2022 financial year we:

- completed 27 programmes with 125 sessions
- engaged 136 students
- impacted more than 60 retirees
- had 52 visitors

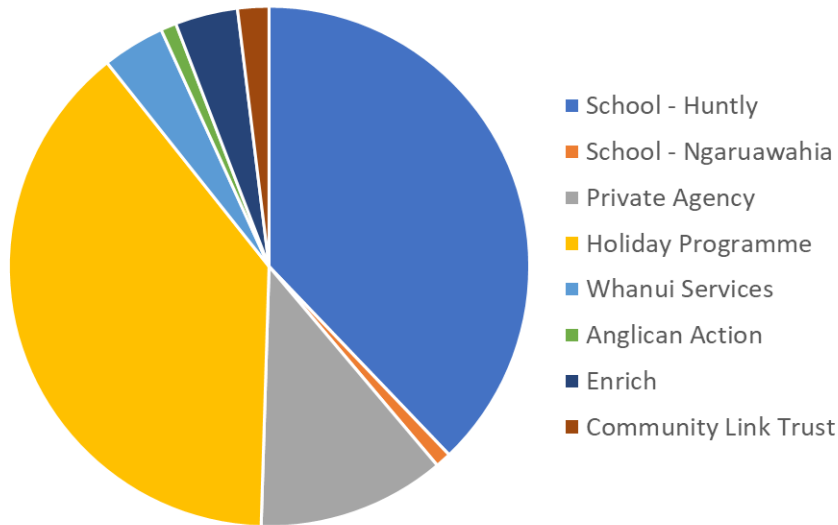
Student diversity is depicted in figure 1 and 2 and sources of our clients in figure 3:



*Figure 1 Ethnicity*



*Figure 2 Gender*



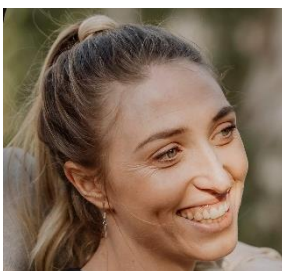
*Figure 3 Source of Clients*

## Staffing

### Paid Staff

We had 4 part time paid staff at 2.5 Full Time Equivalents (FTE)

Maria Cleland, our Office Manager. Maria expertly manages the administrative side of the organisation and also is employed part time as a Buddy (mentor) for 10 hours/week in order for us to be able to take advantage of her developing counselling skills. Maria also has a flair for event planning which we are using to our great advantage!



Eve Cunnane, our Programme Manager. Eve is responsible for developing our programmes for Hope Rising and has done a sterling job ensuring that all programmes now have session plans and are organised superbly and are relevant to our specific client requirements. Her Arts Therapy degree additionally enhances all the programmes that are run. Eve is also actively involved as a buddy/mentor.

Heidi Silsbee, our equine and farm assistant. Heidi has done an amazing job taking on responsibility for ensuring all the horses are well cared for. She also uses her fabulous artistic/creative skills to good effect, ensuring our social media presence is kept professional and up to date.





Jean van Zweeden, Operations Manager. This role encompassed responsibility of staff management and managing and developing the business side of Hope Rising Farm. Jean left Hope Rising Farm to move back permanently to family in Tauranga. Alan Kuyper has taken over the role as of June 2022.

### **Volunteer staff**



Rachel Ralph, our founder. Rachel has been involved in the last year managing the farm with the assistance of Heidi. Rachel, as she has done for so many years, works on a voluntary basis at much sacrifice to herself and her husband, Andy. Her passion is for the children and women in the local community and this can be seen by her dedication to the vision of Hope Rising. In the coming year Rachel will work more in her 'heart area' as a buddy/mentor on our programmes. Her specific passion is to help vulnerable women in the community.

We would not be able to continue our work as we do without the support of our volunteers.

Two gentlemen deserve mention as they have worked most days and their efforts have been of inestimable value to the team of HRF – both assisting with mentoring, handyman skills and just general assistance where-ever, when-ever needed.

Peter Simmons and Mark Wairepo.

They are not alone however, we would also like to acknowledge and thank by name all others who have been supportive either with time, finances, food or anything else that was required:

Andy Ralph, Danielle Dodd, Rosie Cleland, Jeremy Cleland, Isolde Pennings, Mikayla Lagore, Glennis Mason.

Our volunteer hours totaled over 2200 hours.

### **Supporters – Funders, Donors and Other Support**

As ever we are incredibly grateful to all our funders, donors and supporters in general. Our supporters support us in so many ways through providing financial assistance, prayer support, food, advice and so many other things. We would like to acknowledge all our sponsors and funders (both financial and any other support) below. We would not be able to function without your assistance. THANK YOU!

Personal donations and Give-a-Little  
Business Edge  
C3 Church – North City  
Common Good Foundation  
Community Link Trust  
DV Bryant Trust

Len Reynolds Trust  
Mount View Trust  
Norah Howell  
Trust Waikato  
WEL Energy Trust  
Waikato District Council

## Events

A Christmas event held by The Village church in Ngaruawahia where our donkeys ‘attended’.

Team social – we were able to go riding as a team towards the later part of last year and afterwards shared in a meal together. A lot of fun was had!

## Feedback and Endorsements from Some of Our Students and Volunteers

*I volunteer here because I find working with animals help you with being sad. They make your day happy and they are good for your health. I enjoy volunteering and meeting other people. I love how everyone here is kind, caring and gives you a chance with things you have never done before. I find working with the horses, miniature ponies and donkeys takes your mind off other things and relaxes you and I have learnt to be more responsible and patient. This is why I love working here at Hope Rising.*

*-Mikayla (15 yr) – Volunteer*

*I felt excited when I arrived on the first day, and now that we are at the end of the course I feel it has been a pretty cool experience - the horses are amazing*

*Student – Term 1*

*On the first day I felt excited and curious to see what the staff and animals had to teach us because I have previous experience with horses. Now that we are at the end of the course I am sad to leave but thankful to have had the opportunity, and hopefully I can come back!*

*Student – Term 1*

*When I arrived I felt like a four out of ten, now I feel proud of myself, and happy and now I am a nine out of ten*

*Student– Term 1*



*Challenged in many different areas*

*Student – Term 3*

*I told Tango what to do, then felt guilty - a learning experience in itself*

*Student – Term 3*

*My experience at this Horse Holiday Programme was fun, amazing, exciting and adventurous*

*Student – Term 1 Holiday Programme*

*At the Holiday Programme I built trust with the horses and it was 10 out of 10!*

*Student – Term 1 Holiday Programme*



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