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POET
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2022 WHAT'S INSIDE

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2022 CHAIR REPORT

While 2021-22 has been a very challenging year for POET on many fronts, we remain not only committed to supporting our schools through these times but also to improving and expanding our outcomes in this changing world.

We are incredibly proud of our schools and their response to shifting Covid restrictions. With the support of our POET staff, most camps have been rescheduled rather than cancelled. It remains a priority for both POET and our schools to get our young people outside and engaged in nature.

Looking to the future, we have been in discussions with two of our local Kahui Ako (school clusters involving all level of schools from primary through to secondary). POET is investigating options for getting involved with a younger cohort of students – research demonstrates a huge benefit to our young people with earlier exposure to nature and the outdoors; so watch this space!

In January this year we were thrilled to be recognised by Sport Waikato at their annual award ceremony for the 2021 Waikato Sport & Active Recreation Awards, walking away with the award for Commitment to Youth Engagement. Well done team!

I would like to give a big shout out to our loyal sponsors – it's been a tough couple of years for you all, but you have stuck by us. We appreciate, value and need your support! Thank you again to NZ Carbon Farming, Kiwi Camping, Gallagher, Les Harrison Transport, Lodge Real Estate, Outfitters – RAB, Perry Group, Fairview and Civil Contractors Waikato. In addition, further thanks go to our community funders Lion Foundation, Grassroots Trust, BPCT, WEL Energy Trust, Trust Waikato, Sport NZ -Waikato Tu Manawa, DV Bryant, Lottery, COGS and Skills4Work.

Well done to our POET staff Karen, Brian and Sophie in remaining nimble, forward thinking and positive. Thanks for all your hard work. A special mention to Brian who has been a tower of strength through adversity, an example for us all.

Thanks to my Board – Emma, Mike, Craig and Vicky; such a committed, skilled and wise group of people, and a lot of fun too! Thank you for all the time you give to our worthy cause, you are all so generous.

We are looking forward to lots of fun in the outdoors – let's get out there and do it!

Marlene Julian
Chairperson POET





THANK YOU 2022

Each year we acknowledge our amazing sponsors and supporters in a section at the end of our annual report. This year we changed it up a bit, and have featured them here, front and centre. We couldn't have got through 2021 without the unwavering commitment from these community minded businesses and organisations.

Thank you for being there and continuing to stick by us at a time that would have been equally challenging for you!





2022 SUSTAINABILITY

We know becoming more sustainable can lead to hard conversations and uncomfortable changes. Part of our challenge as a small not-for-profit is to identify where and how we can make a difference, and what our priorities should be. It's a challenge for POET, but something we are up for.

We promote the use of a place-responsive approach to outdoor learning; incorporating cross-curricular, culturally responsive and environmental and sustainability threads through our programmes. Camps take place in our local region, reducing kilometres travelled and carbon burnt. We own a heap of gear and equipment which is accessed by multiple schools and students. A single Kiwi Camping tent for example can be used by 12 schools in a year, for multiple camps. Each tent has at least 3 occupants at a time; an efficient, economical and sustainable way to use resources.

Rangatahi play an important role as kaitiaki to protect and enhance our natural environment for themselves and future generations. Our schools have taken enthusiastically to this role on camps and at school. Waste minimization and recycling have been standard at all camps now. Back at their kura, Ngaruawahia High School students have created and maintained their own he maara kai (food garden) where they have been rewarded with a 20kg harvest of organic kumara to share with their class, whanau, and community. Fairfield College students are completing investigations into the impact of detergents in local waterways, and on tramps where they are researching the effects on kauri die-back and campfires and what measure they can take personally to mitigate these effects. Tarawera High School use rat trapping on all their camps to contribute to pest reduction and investigate the effects of climate change on the lake levels where they are camping.



We are so proud to be winners of the Commitment to Youth Engagement category at the 2021 Waikato Sport & Active Recreation Awards.

The newly developed Waikato Sport & Active Recreation Awards encouraged nominations from those in the community who go above and beyond to deliver programmes and initiatives that meet the needs of the participant and help create a more active region. POET was nominated in the new category Commitment to Youth Engagement: Those people or programmes who support young people (0-24), and help to grow the numbers of young people being more active.

"Covid-19 threw us a curve ball in 2020, but the positive out of it was that it gave us an opportunity to realign our awards season at a community level. What eventuated was a very heartwarming, local and community focused celebration where we were able to acknowledge innovation, partnerships, collaboration, diversity and best of all – the people doing the work. It was so successful and well received that we decided to respect the past but look to this as our new format for the future," said Matthew Cooper, CEO of Sport Waikato.

Nominations were judged by local judges from the sector – athlete, disability sport advisor and Sky Sport presenter Honey Hireme-Smiller, commentator and Waikato radio broadcaster Graeme 'Mintie' Mead and Waikato River Trails General Manager Glyn Wooller.

A special shout-out to the Sport Waikato staff who went above and beyond to ensure the award night celebrations went ahead in person. It was such a special night and it was wonderful to hear about the impact and the good work that is being done around the region.

2022 CONNECTIONS

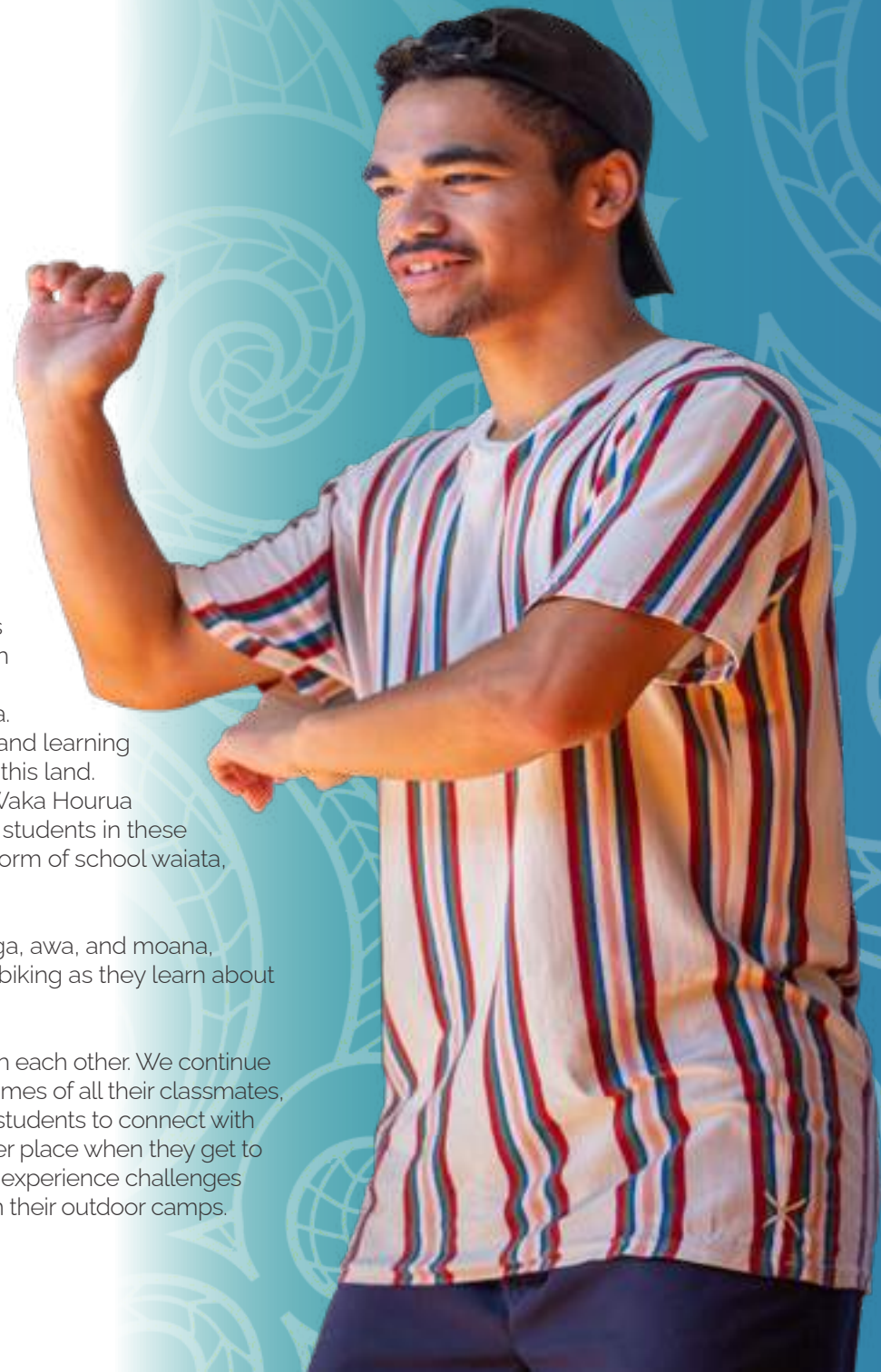
From a te ao Māori perspective, tūrangawaewae connects young people to whenua (land) and whakapapa (genealogy). This place of standing embraces geographical, genealogical and cultural roots. It connects young people's sense of self to a much deeper, holistic and interconnected place of belonging.


There is ample research on the positive effects on well-being from connecting with nature and outdoor environments, and how connecting with your history, whakapapa, and iwi in these natural environments helps to form your identity. Our schools have found making these connections has been very positive for their students.

Huntly College regularly engage with the Waikato River as students cycle the Te Awa trails or paddle waka ama and hear the history and stories of their awa. Raglan Area School students have regenerated camp sites in the Raglan Harbour to use on camps and have connected with local iwi and Trusts to help deliver their outdoor programs. Melville High School bring to their camps at Kawhia and Raglan a local kaumatua to share stories and the whakapapa of that area. Tarawera High School have enjoyed paddling on waka ama and waka tangata on their camps and learning the about the direct connections they have to the great Polynesian navigators that discovered this land. Ngaruawahia High School have had great success linking their Waka Roopu (Form classes) to Waka Hourua (traditional sailing waka). They have empowered their senior students as navigators of younger students in these classes to mentor and awahi in outdoor experiences, and to transfer cultural knowledge in the form of school waiata, haka, karakia, and tikanga during school camps and events.

All of our schools are using a place-based curriculum to connect students to their local maunga, awa, and moana, by enjoying outdoor activities including waka, sea kayaking, surfing, swimming, tramping, and biking as they learn about and connect to these local taonga.

Interviews with students from our schools have also revealed the importance of connections with each other. We continue to be surprised that on the first day of camps it is not uncommon for students not to know the names of all their classmates, even when the camp is in December. A strong theme coming through is that camps are vital for students to connect with other students beyond their immediate circle of friends. School for them is a happier and friendlier place when they get to know everyone better. They find these connections so much more meaningful when they get to experience challenges together, cook and share food, and spend quality time together, which for them only happens on their outdoor camps.





Research shows that being exposed to the natural environment has direct positive effects on physical and mental wellbeing. The sense of identity we experience when we connect to local natural places has positive effects.

Blaschke, P (2013) Health and Wellbeing Benefits of Conservation in New Zealand

2022 STUDENT VOICES



"I was able to feel more connected to my Puna Ako group when I saw how hard everyone was working and the fun everyone was having."

"Since I'm not a big talker doing the ABLs made me more talkative around my peers and staff and do more teamwork and problem solving with other people."

"On the walk in there was a bit of complaining in our group, the walk out was really slippery, it was challenging that there was no service but that turned out to be positive because we got off our phones and were able to get closer as a year group"





2022 TEACHER VOICES

"My belief is that shared experiences of camps that POET provides is such a rich learning experience that ignites real passion and opportunity for further learning across the whole curriculum, it should just not stop at a one off trip."

– Teacher, Huntly College

"I love seeing the faces of some of the students when they see Maratoto and retell the story and start discussing the relief of the land and how challenging it would have been to climb as well as why the iwi chose to jump off rather than be captured – so much Social Science learning!"

– Teacher, Matamata College

"I think the best thing (and this is helped by the location not having reception), is getting to spend time with the students in a relaxed atmosphere and get to know them better before year 11. And also spending time with each other as staff outside of the school setting is really important and adds a lot to the collegiality around school."

– Teacher, Matamata College

For many young people, life is on hold. Routines have been upended, restrictions have been placed on seeing family and friends, exams have been cancelled and job prospects have been erased. And whilst the Covid-19 pandemic has affected everyone in society, young people have been disproportionately affected, both socially and economically, and risk becoming a 'lost generation'

The Guardian, 20 October 2020



2022 THE HURDLES

Almost every young person in the world has had to adjust to dramatic changes in their education or employment, routine, home and social life. Young people need opportunities to reconnect with others and feel positive, it's essential to restoring their confidence, getting their lives back on track and giving them the skills and behaviours needed in order to thrive in the future.

In Aotearoa New Zealand our government adopted a go hard go early strategy to manage the Covid pandemic risk. Schools had their activities paralysed as a measure of social distancing, to flatten the contagion curve of the disease, not to overload the health system and preserve the health of students, educators and staff.

We recognise and acknowledge the amazing job schools have done and continue to do. They aren't health providers with all the government support, training and PPE gear they have turned up and done the best with the resources they had at hand. Much of the time information provided to them has been a bit light or tardy as decision makers struggled in an ever changing world. They've managed concerned parents, mask wearing, vaccination mandates, online learning and their own families dynamics at the same time. It's a tough gig and schools are still bearing the brunt.

There have been some highlights with Education Outdoors New Zealand (EONZ) working tirelessly to support schools and providing great information for practical ways to operate in the outdoors with young people.

Although Aotearoa New Zealand moved into the Traffic Light System in November 2021, schools were required to stay in Alert Level 2 until the start of the school year in 2022. We were really pleased that by term 3 all our 2022 planning and bookings had been completed. It was only after that in early November that we realised the ongoing impact the switch to the traffic light system in January was going to have. A significant factor was vaccine mandates for staff, requirements for students over the age of 12 to have a vaccine pass and the self-introduced mandates by the likes of DOC. Our board stepped up and provided leadership by pledging that we would not support programmes that excluded young people. We do not support camps that would leave students behind so Sophie and Brian got to work with schools and venues to change programmes and locations to ensure this would not happen. On the 15 March 2022 the Minister amended the requirement but by that time we were in the middle of covid.

"Two years in the lifetime of an adolescent is particularly significant. It's one of the most impressionable, emotional and changeable times in their lives, and it is clear that the Covid19 pandemic has had a severe impact on young people's social, emotional development and already fragile wellbeing. With mental health issues and social disengagement on the rise, combined with low motivation and aspirations, the poor wellbeing of many of our young people today is a worrying indication of their lives' trajectory if little urgent action is taken to support them. At risk of poor educational and employment outcomes, and serious mental and physical health issues in the long-term, there are fears about how our young people will suffer, but also how society will lose out as a result." – Outward Bound UK 2022

As we recover from this pandemic, outcomes associated with high quality outdoor education such as increased self-confidence, enhanced peer to peer relationships and strengthened teacher/pupil trust and understanding, have never been more important. We need to help tamariki/rangatahi across Aotearoa New Zealand regain these valuable learning experiences and benefit from the unique role outdoor education can play.





YEAR 12 LEADERSHIP 2022

The tukana/teina model can work well on camps so we encourage senior students to take leadership roles on junior camps. It can be a tough gig though, and harder when you have had little or no training.

Senior students are keen to take up leadership opportunities but they want to be able to be effective, especially when they deal with some challenging behaviours.

We saw that we could, in partnership with schools, offer an experience that better prepared them on how to communicate, encourage, and lead in a mana enhancing way.

So began the work to create a multi-school leadership camp, to be held over three days in Karangahake gorge.

The inaugural camp would involve five students and one teacher from Melville High School, Ngaruawahia High School and Paeroa College, a total of 15 students, supported by 3 teachers. Leadership skills would be taught in an outdoor setting while participating in outdoor activities.

We communicated with the students, teachers, principals and whanau about the camp, what to expect and the information required of them. We developed a number of resources for the camp including lesson plans, EOTC information, a camp booklet, Covid plan, Sustainability plan, certificate and recipe ideas. We recruited guest speakers to join the event – Jessie Smith, a BMX racer and an inspirational young leader and Larn

Wilkinson Iwi and Maori Liaison Officer, Hauraki District Council to share stories of the place and help create a cultural connection. We liaised with DOC to ensure our camp was sustainable and organised a guest speaker to discuss conservation on camps with the students.

Unfortunately, the day before camp was supposed to take place we were thrown into lock down and had to cancel. We still see the value in this experience and are planning to run this camp again in the term three holidays, 2022. Initially our plan is to start with three or four schools and then offer this opportunity to all our kura.

2022 SCHOLARSHIPS

The POET Head Start Scholarships were first launched in 2016 to give a hand up to students as they move into tertiary study; since then 42 students from schools across the Waikato in which POET operates have been awarded scholarships to study subjects ranging from nursing to civil engineering.

In 2021, 7 students from POET schools were awarded POET Head Start Scholarships:

Caitlin Ward – Morrinsville College
Mollie Allison – Matamata College
Thomas Robinson – Raglan Area
Andrea Philip – Melville High
Ari'i James Kawamura – Melville High
Emma Irwin – Fairfield College
Faith Healey – Forest View High



2022 GOING FORWARD



It's tough going at the moment to get some students back in the classroom and engaged in their learning. With 2022 looking likely to be as, or possibly even more disruptive than 2020 and 2021 there are many advantages to being a small and nimble organisation.

We can adapt and respond to the needs of our partner kura to ensure we get rangatahi and tamariki outdoors. 2022 looks like a bit of work in progress with lots of challenges and changes but we'll work our way through it.

We've been keen to explore ways of extending our mahi into the primary space and 2022 starts to see some action on this front. We have formed a connection with the Ngaruawahia kahui ako and hopefully later in the year the Melville kahui ako too. Its great interacting with primary schools and we hope to be able to create a generic curriculum that covers what schools are doing or intend to do at each year level. From there we can look at how POET could offer specific support whether it be training for teachers to run regular outdoor classrooms, loaning gear for outdoor events, or whatever we can offer to build the quality of outdoor education in these schools.

For the past few years we have been fortunate to have sponsorship from Lodge Real Estate to host the NZ Mountain Film Festival. As hard as we tried in 2021 we were unable to get the event up and running. We ended up having to issue refunds for tickets but would like to especially mention those attendees who refused refunds and donated to POET instead, thanks.

2022 sees us hosting a new very special exclusive event – A yarn with Beau Miles, the Backyard Adventurer. I hope you can join us on the 2nd September for a fun night out. Tickets will be on sale soon.

Perry Outdoor Education Trust recognises that Te Tiriti o Waitangi is a founding document of New Zealand. We also recognise that as a responsible New Zealand organisation, we have many opportunities to implement Te Tiriti actively and honourably in the way we operate and govern. 2022 will see us begin our organisation's Te Tiriti o Waitangi journey which will enhance our cultural responsive capability.

This is our post COVID 19 challenge: to ensure that outdoor and environmental education is not relegated to the virtual world, disconnected from mountains and forests, the natural tangible places where palpable learning can occur, where the mountains can speak for themselves.

Sandy Allen-Craig Journal of Outdoor and Environmental Education 23 (2020)



OUR SCHOOLS 2022

The benefits of outdoor education aren't accessible to all, so POET exists to address this problem and ensure all students in our partner schools have access to meaningful outdoor education opportunities.

We work with low decile secondary schools across the Waikato region.



2022 OUR NUMBERS

In response to the Covid 19 pandemic, the government imposed many regulations. The impact, timing and the wider repercussions of the regulations had an intractable negative impact on our outputs for 2021. A number of events were cancelled in 2021 but we will work at running additional events in 2022 to try and reach the students who have missed out on outdoor experiences due to covid cancellations. In addition, we are managing our resources carefully to enable us to have options for programme opportunities and contingencies in the near future.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

	2021 \$	2020 \$
Income		
Grants & Sponsorship Received	390,327	488,159
Sundry Income	195,536	331,003
Interest Received	381	410
	586,244	819,572
Expenses		
Depreciation	16,438	14,879
Overheads	46,870	52,401
School Partnership Contributions	178,724	338,668
Staff	230,025	206,009
	472,057	611,957
	114,187	207,615

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

	2021 \$	2020 \$
Equity	637,133	522,946
Current Liabilities	268,399	331,155
Total Equity and Liabilities	905,532	854,101
Current Assets	861,447	811,200
Non-Current Assets	44,086	42,901
Total Assets	905,333	854,101

A full set of audited financial statements are available on request.





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*This report was designed & produced
inhouse by the POET team*