



Mt Roskill

roskilltogether.org.nz

The Mount Roskill community-led development pilot was operationalised by Roskill Together Trust (RTT), now operating as a Charitable Trust, with community-led development legally enshrined as our mission.

This status will help enable RTT to continue beyond DIA funding with a combination of philanthropy and income from contracts for the local board and Auckland Council.

Kitenga Vision

Help to create a prosperous, safe, and strongly connected Mt Roskill/Puketāpapa community that is diverse yet cohesive.

Tono Mission

Plan and implement community development programmes.

To involve stakeholders, motivate the community, and build on the relationships, resources and assets we already have in Mt. Roskill.

Ūara Values

We believe in a bottom-up approach that sees the goals and aspirations of the community addressed. RTT will work together with local people in a sustainable manner that enhances and empowers our community.

Whai Tikanga Priorities

Widespread consultation started early, mainly via 'summer slickers' and community forums. We wanted to consult as comprehensively as possible with a view to creating a deliverable community plan – an intensive and time consuming exercise meaning Mt Roskill was bereft of a community plan until the end of year three.

Nonetheless, the development priorities elicited are robust and remain important to our future strategy:

- Growing community connectedness
- An improved local environment
- Improved employment opportunities
- Health and wellbeing

Mahi kōkiri Engagement initiatives

- **Summer Slickers:** Fun children's activities which also reached parents with a short questionnaire.
- **Street Parties** both engaged people in the project and assessed grassroots priorities. The resulting toolkit is now used for the Children's Panel contract deliver for the local board;
- **Walker Talkers:** Sited at Roskill Youth Zone, Wesley market and at local events such as Matariki and the Grammar Expo, Walker Talkers enabled staff to start conversa-



tions and build relationships. A community minibus proposal came directly out of these events, with seven groups currently signed up so far, working towards funding a minibus based on a sustainable model¹;

- **Door knocking** helped local people design a survey to get a pedestrian crossing installed;
- **Community Forums:** Lunches for local people to discuss the community plan, and special events showcasing good CLD practice from elsewhere;
- **Roskill Champions:** Signing up community champions, helped develop grassroots leadership and has led to champions serving on the RT board, but hasn't engaged large numbers.
- **E-Bulletin:** A bi-monthly newsletter is distributed to the champions database bi-monthly. The database has doubled recently, with 95% of the Roskill Community Network database opting into the bulletin.

Arataki-ā-hāpori Community-led development

Initially, ignorance about CLD led to misconceptions about our role. Some saw the organisation as a funder and sought to serve their own or their group's agenda rather than the wellbeing

and development of the wider community. Others saw Roskill Together as 'doing it for them'. Ideas for development have frequently foundered when it became clear that that local people will have implement, rather than Roskill Together staff, and an idea for a local night market is a prime example of this².

Rawa Resources

The community plan generated a sizeable workload, and despite a population of 60,000, Mt Roskill received the same pilot funding as other significantly smaller communities – to the point that we could say the plan wasn't deliverable with staffing as funded. Staff were simply spread too thinly. A new strategy, operational plan and communications plan is now in place to address this in our first post-pilot year, relying on a mix of external philanthropic sources and contract income. Currently, Roskill Together staff are handling seven contracts for Auckland Council and the Puketāpapa Local Board.

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Tuatahi, ka hāere kware mō CLD ka huri pōkaikaha.

Kaupapa whakahāere Pilot projects

May Road safety

A wide range of age groups were surveyed and engaged to campaign for a pedestrian crossing. Adults and children, with Bunnings support, created wooden art pieces to be displayed along May Rd, warning motorists to slow down. This tactical urbanism, combined with Local Board and Auckland Transport lobbying resulted in a pedestrian crossing, by July 2016. View an animated presentation of the campaign at youtube.com/watch?v=nitlWeTmedA.

Roskill Retirement Village

Staff helped organise to re-commission a disused village hall. A committee developed a programme of educational, health and leisure activities, and the hall now operates independently of Roskill Together with hire income funding activities. View an animated presentation of the project at youtube.com/watch=acc-lmDvio0

E-Bulletin

A bi-monthly publication produced by staff.

Kaupapa kirimana Contract projects

We secured contracts from both Auckland Council and the Puketāpapa local board, in the final year of the pilot.

Roskill Community Network

Staff host a monthly network meeting for local people and agency staff, typically with speakers covering a theme such as homelessness, health, safety, or family violence. Funded for a year, the contract is at its midpoint.

Roskill Community Services Directory

A comprehensive community services directory was produced, for print media (and digital to follow) updating a previous 2013 directory.

Te Auaunga Awa and Oakley Creek community launch

Auckland Council Healthy Water commissioned us to launch their large-scale project to realize a re-naturalisation of the awa. This multi-million-dollar project will remove concrete channel, build new bridges, create a community falé/ outdoor classroom, BMX track and re-introduce native flora and fauna. Roskill Together joined a community advisory group, helped secure grassroots involvement, and the falé initiative came from this group. Coordinating twenty-five organisations we delivered the event on November 5th – described by a key contractor as “as big as Texas – testimony to the event management skills developed by staff.

Te Auaunga Awa community surveying

Auckland Council contracted RTT to have local park users surveyed on the impact of awa re-naturalisation work. Three local people were employed and are completion.

...tactical urbanism...resulted in a pedestrian crossing. Mā te mahitahi me te whakaarotahui e ngā poari ka puta he whakawhitinga



Christmas festival

Market stall holders and local groups were engaged with to generate interest in the 2016 Christmas festival.

Children's panel

Contracted by the Local Board, we organize panel discussions involving primary and intermediate schools, each school term. Students are asked five questions on a topic, and for their ideas on how to improve it, and

the responses are analysed and presented back. Interestingly, under the current topic of *community connectedness*, children identified the events themselves as the best way to improve connectedness. We have also taught children and teachers fundraising and events organisation skills, using our street party tool kit.

Children's development action plan

Similarly, for the Local Board, and in implementation, this consultation reaches further beyond schools with a wider range of

questions, spanning a range of topics from the Local Board's three-year plan. Findings will be analysed and a draft report produced. Once peer-reviewed and shared with adult groups, a final report will inform the Board's new three-year plan. This means children's views will be integrated within the plan's early development, rather than as an afterthought.

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Taki Challenges

- Lack of CLD awareness by governors and the community
- Conflicts about spending priorities
- The scale of consultation, and resources required for sixty thousand people
- The time it took to realize a community plan
- Gaps between consultation, the community plan, and action



- High turnover of staff and local leadership
- Resultant lack of continuity and the reoccurring requirement to induct new staff
- Confusion between governance and management roles
- Too great a focus on process, rather than outcomes

These challenges are covered extensively in the DIA evaluation of the pilots.

Future projects will be first and foremost based around community priorities. Ko ngā kaupapa a muri nei ka hanga mai i ngā hiahia ā te hāpori.

He aha atu? What next?

As the DIA contract comes to an end, and Roskill Together Trust transitions to a charitable trust/contractor, we aspire to be a well governed organisation that with robust policies, a clear strategy, and an achievable operational plan based on local aspirations. Future projects will be first and foremost based around community priorities:

- Secure a community minibus.
- Implement a participatory decision-making process for Local Board grants (subject to funding), shifting funding decisions from

local politicians to community vote. On approval, Roskill Together will be contracted to manage an initial funding round.

- A yet-to-be-announced project with local iwi
- A digital news service, in partnership with two local youth leaders specializing in photography, video and animation.

Notes

- ¹ In terms of the community bus, the sustainable model means that funding for a four year lease of the bus will be sought from funders. During the four years of operation, the bus will be hired out to local groups and schools at a rate about half of a commercial rate. This will mean at the end of four years there will be sufficient income generated to lease a bus for a further four years without the need to seek further funding.
- ² As part of the consultation, and included in the community plan was an idea for local people to develop a night market in Mount Roskill. Meetings were organised with those interested. However, when it came to the point of people being asked to do the work to establish the night market, interest evaporated.