

## REPORT TO DIOCESAN SYNOD 2023

### **Our Impact**

During 2022 BAF has continued to implement a narrative form of evaluation by creating changemaker stories to demonstrate our impact as a catalyst for change alongside the great outcomes being achieved by the people and organisations we support.

Our changemaker stories will continue to evolve as a record of our influence over time and can be viewed on our website at <https://www.baf.org.nz/our-impact/>

### **Yeast, Salt and Light**

As a faith-based organisation we define BAF's role using the metaphors of yeast, salt and light:

#### Yeast

As yeast becomes one with the dough that it permeates and makes a fundamental contribution to enhancing the bread that is created, so the Foundation seeks to respond within a community development model that enables communities and organisations to be empowered as active partners in identifying and responding to their needs.

All of the ingredients to make bread can exist together, but without yeast the loaf will not rise. Similarly, in most communities the ingredients needed to respond to issues often exist alongside each other, but without a catalyst to bring them together the issue remains unmet. We see the Foundation as this community catalyst.

#### Salt

The metaphor of salt suggests another dimension. Salt enhances the flavour of whatever it is added to, although it cannot be seen. In a sense, it stands alongside, yet within, what it is added to. The Foundation therefore has the opportunity to enhance and nurture the communities within which it works. We can inspire informative critique of our society and its prevailing norms and through such dialogue we can help to inform positive change.

However, salt is not simply a positive element. Too much salt can ruin the flavour of food and can contribute to negative health conditions. This aspect of the way salt works serves to remind us that the Foundation should retain a humbleness within its work and should remain strategic in its attempts to achieve change.

#### Light

The absence of light is darkness and when it is dark it is hard to see what is around you. Once light is applied then clarity can be achieved. This is a helpful metaphor to describe the ability of the Foundation to contribute to knowledge through research, capacity building and through the nurture of informed community discussions.

However, it is important to remember that the ability to see what is around may not always be welcome. The reality of a situation may cause communities, organisations or society to engage with hard questions. This does not mean that those questions should not be asked, but it does require that the Foundation has the strength to both support and engage in the robust conversations that would follow.

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Our focus on justice and our desire to remain humble in our approach reflects Micah 6:8 “...to do justice, and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God.”

## **OUR WORK**

A detailed outline of our current research and project work can be found on our website [www.baf.org.nz](http://www.baf.org.nz). A few examples of our current work are included below:

### **Catalyst Housing**

Catalyst Housing is a charitable company which was created by BAF in 2016 following research into the need for affordable housing in Taranaki with the aim of providing pathways to sustainable housing. Our vision is that ‘Within Taranaki those who need it have access to truly affordable and healthy housing options’.

Our current focus is a research project exploring the potential for a homeshare scheme as part of a response to housing need. Homeshare arrangements already play an important role globally in delivering viable, affordable and sustainable housing options. For instance, keyworkers like nurses and teachers often find their first ‘home’ through a homeshare arrangement. Homeshare offers supportive living arrangements which are mutually beneficial to householders and homesharers. According to HANZA, the body that advocates for homeshare in Australia and New Zealand, homeshare provides a range of benefits to individuals and the community such as:

- Positive personal, health and economic benefits to participants and to their families.
- Inclusivity fostered from shared living arrangements.
- Support of marginalised and vulnerable communities.
- A greater sense of wellbeing and support.
- A decrease in loneliness and isolation.
- Cost savings in the provision of personal, physical and mental health services
- A reduced need for government supported and funded residential housing options.

We have partnered with Guild Research & Consultancy and the Ministry of Social Development to explore the viability of a supported homeshare scheme as part of Taranaki’s housing future.

### **Waitara Taiohi Trust**

BAF facilitated the process that led to the establishment of the Waitara Taiohi Trust late in 2021. It is a collaboration between three Churches including the Anglican Parish and provides the taiohi of Waitara with places in which they can find belonging, community, and opportunities for positive development.

As a catalyst for change, BAF – Bishop’s Action Foundation has been a critical friend and guide working alongside the changemakers driving this initiative and supporting the creation of the trust. BAF continues to support the trust as needed including managing Oranga Tamariki youth mentoring contracts on behalf of the trust.

### **Manna Youth**

Following a four-year pilot we have successfully renewed our Oranga Tamariki contract for a further period of two years (July 2023 – June 2025). The renewed contract reflects salary increases and other cost of living increases the project has had to grapple with. The project was also successful in gaining a three-year funding commitment from the TOI Foundation alongside support from the Robert Gibson Trust. It supports 6 young people for a 6-month programme building skills for independent living. On completion of their time at Manna we provide young people with a supported flatting opportunity to help them transition from the programme.

### **Food Security**

We are active in a number of projects in this area and that BAF’s role as a catalyst for change enabling new initiatives is at the heart of this work. This includes an urban farm / composting social enterprise partnership with Zeal Taranaki, the Stratford Business Association and Te Popo Gardens. Young people from Zeal’s support network are being supported to run KAItiaki Composting which collects compostable food waste from Stratford businesses and uses this to create compost to support the cultivation of vegetables at Te Popo gardens.

### **ICT Gateway**

We have run the ICT Gateway since 2008 as part of our work supporting the capability development of other community sector organisations. We have recently signed an exciting partnership agreement with Our Cloud, a local commercial IT provider, with the aim of doubling the number of not-for-profit entities we are supporting. The ICT Gateway has also been contracted by Nga Iwi o Taranaki to provide IT support and strategic advice which reaffirms the projects continuing relevance for Iwi and Maori organisations.

### **Mentoring Foundation**

This national initiative was established through BAF's research, advocacy and pilot and we continue to support its growth as a significant national provider that will support 200 people across 2023. The Mentoring Foundation is also working in partnership with Te Atiawa Iwi through BAF's relationships which is achieving exciting outcomes.

### **Flourish Taranaki**

BAF has been active in the parenting space for a long-time, which included running programmes like Incredible Years for many years. We have also been supporting the emergence of Flourish Taranaki as a regional collaboration focused on making parenting easier. This year they ran into difficulty because the Founding Member model they adopted when they started was no longer viable and they needed to redesign their strategy, funding approach and workplan for the short to medium term. We have been part of a team helping sort all of this and have now committed to a period (around 6-months) as interim chair guiding them through the next phase. The strategy, 18-month workplan and funding strategy are all complete and being actioned and we have also developed a new trust structure.

### **Selwyn and Tainui Day Centres**

BAF has partnered with the Selwyn Foundation and local Taranaki funders to help prevent social isolation of older people throughout the Waikato and Taranaki regions. Through these partnerships we have established Selwyn Centres in Waikato and Tainui Day Centres in Taranaki as a response to the growing social isolation issue for elderly.

The centres offer social activities, gentle exercise, friendship, laughter, outings, help and support to those over 65 who may be living alone or have limited opportunity to get out and about. The programme is community based and is designed to protect older people from social isolation or loneliness. Although based mainly in the Anglican Church premises, the centres serve older people from across the entire community.

In Waikato we have centres in Cambridge and Morrinsville and in the Hamilton suburbs of Melville, Chartwell and Dinsdale. In Taranaki we have centres in Opunake, Patea and Waverley.

### **Seasons for Growth**

Seasons for Growth is a peer support programme for young people aged 6-18 who are suffering grief and loss through death or life-threatening illness of a parent or close relative; separation or divorce of parents; long-term imprisonment of a parent or close family member; long-term placement with foster parents; migration or other circumstances.

Support is provided in small, age-appropriate groups of young people who work alongside two volunteer adult companions. Each volunteer is police checked and undertakes a rigorous training programme prior to supporting young people. The programme runs for nine weekly sessions and guides young people along a structured journey to explore feelings and develop sustainable coping strategies for grief and loss.

Our Taranaki programmes operate in New Plymouth, North/Central Taranaki and South Taranaki. We gratefully acknowledge funding from the TOI Foundation, Lottery Community, the Taranaki Electricity Trust, the Tindall Foundation, New Plymouth District Council and South Taranaki District Council.