



McKenzie Centre

ANNUAL REPORT

2022-2023



McKENZIE CENTRE BOARD CHAIR REPORT '22 - '23



It is my pleasure to present McKenzie Centre's Chairperson Report for the year 2022-2023. This year has been one of growth, challenges, and significant achievements. Our commitment to providing high quality early childhood intervention services to children and their families has remained steadfast, and I am proud to highlight our collective efforts and accomplishments.

McKenzie Centre offers a variety of programmes for children, delivered in partnership with families/whānau. Our services are delivered by a team of passionate and skilled therapists, teachers, education support workers and tuakana (peer workers).

Our practical services and support help children and families to enjoy and use the time they spend together, every day, as valuable learning opportunities.

Our annual Quiz Night fundraising event was again a huge success and the funds generated go directly to supporting programmes and services for our whānau. McKenzie Centre quiz nights are hugely anticipated and as in previous years funds raised surpassed our target. This event allows us to engage with our community and build strong partnerships. It is a powerful tool to raise awareness about disabled



children in the wider community by providing education, awareness and making our cause more visible.

Our expenditure continues to be carefully managed to ensure sustainability and growth. Looking ahead we have ambitious plans to further enhance our services and reach including new services and programmes. In addition, we have planned further upgrades to our facilities to provide the best possible environment for our children.

In conclusion I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to our dedicated staff, supportive board members, and committed volunteers. Our special thanks to our donors and grant providers for their generous support of our centre, without which we would not be able to deliver our services to our children and their families to such a consistently high standard. Together, we have made a significant difference in the lives of many children and their families. I look forward to another year of progress and achievements at McKenzie Centre.

After 17 years as Centre director, Trisha Benge has moved to another role in our organisation. We would like to thank her for her much valued contribution over many years. Service manager Suzanne Kok has taken up a leadership role for the Centre.

McKenzie Centre leadership is an important consideration for the Trust and is critical to the strategic direction and culture of our organisation. We will be considering the structure of the Centre as we continue to enhance our operational efficiency and ultimately expand our services for children and families.

Ngā manaakitanga

Paul Bennett Chair



McKENZIE CENTRE CENTRE DIRECTOR REPORT '22 - '23



MISSION

Realising a child's potential



VALUES

Care
Respect
Partnership



STRATEGIC GOALS

Te Aranga / Structure : Our systems and resources support high quality services

He Tangata / People : Our people and whānau are empowered and capable

Te Kotahitanga / Sustainability : We are responsive to community needs through growth and innovation

I am pleased to present the annual report for the year ending June 2023. This year has been one of growth, development and achievement for McKenzie Centre.

I would like to highlight our key achievements and plans.

Programme developments and achievements have included new programmes aimed at enhancing the developmental and educational experiences for our whānau. We have expanded our curriculum to include more inclusive and diverse activities, fostering a more enriching environment for everyone.



We celebrated Matariki with a family evening. Lights, stars, music and kai provided the setting for cultural connection and celebration.

We strengthened bonds by building relationships with children and their whānau and parents commented how much they enjoyed meeting whānau who attended on different days, which has helped build our sense of community.

We continue to promote parent led activities and events with the aim of building parent confidence in their ability to support and advocate for their child as well as provide a space for the emotional well-being for our parents.

We have dedicated support groups for all parents and a group just for fathers. The Dads Hangouts, led by the dads, provides unique and valuable support to address their specific needs and experiences.



continued

We are invested in staff development through workshops and training sessions. Our team attended specific training and conferences which has significantly improved our strategies and management skills.

Community engagement continues to be strengthened through various initiatives.

We hosted a networking hui which was well attended and helped us build stronger connections with our fellow community organisations.

We partnered with the Neonatal Trust to provide a playgroup for babies born pre-term and their parents. This initiative has had numerous benefits including offering a sense of community, valuable resources and specialised activities that promote the well-being and development of both the children and their families.

We completed several upgrades to our facilities to create a safer and more stimulating environment for the children. These upgrades included new fencing, windows and a roof repaint. Overall, due to a diligent and well-planned maintenance register our facilities are well resourced and kept at a high standard of repair.

We would like to thank our dedicated volunteers who assist us in this area. We continue to implement and review our health and safety protocols in response to any legislative or specific concern to ensure the well-being of our tamariki and staff.

Like many organisations we faced challenges, particularly navigating the ongoing impacts of the pandemic and economic issues. We responded proactively by implementing virtual learning, adjusting our budget and enhancing our health protocols.

We remain committed to our mission and continue to prioritise the well-being and development of our children and whānau. We continue to be driven by our efforts to build stronger partnerships with our whānau, as parent leadership creates an empowered community of parents who are integral in shaping the services that impact their families.

Thank you to our donors and funders, you have our deepest gratitude as your generous contributions have been the cornerstone of our programmes enriching the lives of the children and families we serve.



We extend our gratitude to our trustees, whose guidance has been instrumental in our journey this year. Ngā mihi nui ki ngā kaitiaki. Your commitment to our kaupapa ensures a brighter future for our tamariki and whānau.

This year has been a testament to the dedication and hard work of our staff, the enthusiasm of our children and the unwavering support of our whānau and community. As we look to the future, we remain committed to providing a high-quality, inclusive, and nurturing environment for all our children and their families.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to making this year a success.

Ngā mihi nui

Trisha Bengt

Centre Director



McKENZIE CENTRE OVERVIEW OF '22 - '23



highlights

- Our tuakana and peer workers hosted 8 hangouts to build social connections and friendships with other parents and lessen feelings of isolation
- 7 Dads' hangouts, with 14 attendees, most online, and facilitated by one of our fathers. They focus on the things that are important to the special dads in our children's lives
- Matariki celebrations.
 - We hosted a whānau evening to strengthen connections and celebrate our culture.
- We also held an End of Year party for all whānau, including siblings and grandparents
- 32 workshops were held with 284 participants. All of our workshops are designed to build skills and confidence to assist children's learning and development
- We developed 183 Individual Plans to support children's learning
- 231 early childhood and other community visits
- 243 early intervention sessions
- 19 parent-led playgroups.



geographic

45 families live beyond Hamilton city boundary and 101 inside the city.



diversity

Numbers of whānau supported across a wide range of ethnic and cultural backgrounds:

- 53 Māori
- 6 Pasifika
- 56 NZ European
- 25 Asian
- 6 other



age range

Preschool children and their whānau.



supported

We supported 146 families - who have preschool aged children with disabilities - with our range of service options.

FAMILY FEEDBACK

'22 - '23

Thank you. You guys have become like a second home and family to us over the years.

We value the efforts and care you provide to J, and it's heartening to know that he received visits from the staff members.



We can't adequately express our gratitude for all the myriad ways you've supported our whānau!

I cannot imagine how incredibly difficult this whole journey would have been to navigate without all the support, guidance and wealth of knowledge the McKenzie



I want to especially acknowledge the incredible support from Larissa who has been a go between with the daycare and how she's able to discuss inform and educate A's daycare centre on A's needs. Larissa (Early Intervention teacher) and Richard (psychologist) for advocating for A which will make things easier for him when he goes through the hospital system. Emma (occupational therapist) thank you too for all the knowledge around sensory items too. It's been really incredibly helpful.

Once again, I want to express my gratitude for all the great work you and the team at the McKenzie Centre do for J. Your dedication and support are greatly appreciated. I look forward to our meeting and appreciate your understanding regarding J's situation.

I just wanted to say a huge thank you to all the team for the awesome help we have received.

Before coming along, I was really struggling with his behaviour, but after implementing everything suggested he is a different kid.

I've really enjoyed my Wednesday mornings at the centre and will continue to use



Thank you for all the support. It's amazing to see the kids' development after trying new strategies from the teachers!

Nice to connect with other parents who understand the struggles we have – no judgement here.



A special thank you to Keren (tuakana) who has been so lovely since the first day I came along. I always loved chatting to you and really appreciated all the help with both kids. You really made me feel welcome and cared for.



A special thank you to Larissa (Early Intervention teacher) for all her help and understanding. She always listened and really cared about J's progress. She had the best advice and I always felt heard with her.

McKenzie Centre has been the most amazing thing for H. I don't know if she'd be talking or doing half the things she is without you all.

I cannot speak highly enough of McKenzie Centre. I was lost until we came here. I thought I was alone, I felt isolated and I thought I was losing my mind. McKenzie Centre has changed our family's life



McKenzie Centre has been awesome experience for my two "Mahanga". Te Reo Maori is used by staff which is really great, the boys love the sensory room, and play rooms.

Love seeing the children grow in confidence and ability with the wide range of help and support of all the skilled staff here at the centre.



We are so grateful for the McKenzie Centre. Every week we get practical advice that we can apply at home with all our children. The advice we get makes us better parents and gives all our children a calmer family life.



McKenzie Centre is amazing and a great support for my son. He has come a long way since starting.

McKenzie Centre has enabled a superb environment that engages my son's learning and communication development. Thank you so much to all the support workers and people 'behind the scenes' who make McKenzie Centre possible x.



So informative and helpful. Place to feel safe and supported. They help guide us through a very unfamiliar path and all the unknown of having a "special" child.



Love learning from you guys every week – thank you!

It is so lovely to have a supportive and welcoming environment. A place that understands and caters for our children's needs. Also a wonderful opportunity to meet other families with similar situations. Love it!

McKenzie Centre is great for making connection with other parents. They are very hands on with my boy and provide lots of tips and strategies to help or reach a goal.

I love it here! So much great advice. The advice given has really helped my son. It's nice each week having goals and things to work on – and not second guessing what I'm doing. Staff are so lovely and easy to talk to. I feel like they really listen and care.

Coming to McKenzie Centre has been a breath of fresh air in our journey. Before coming here we felt a bit helpless and hopeless, but here we have a team of people (staff and other families) surrounding us with support and guidance. We are so grateful for the help and care we get from the McKenzie Centre.

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS 2023

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We thank BES - Business Enabling Systems for their ongoing
and generous sponsorship support.



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