



2024/2025 ANNUAL REPORT

Workshops

Markets

Young
Pioneers

Upskillz

Tamathon



‘Building Community From The Ground Up’


Taupō Timebank is a **community hub and garden** dedicated to strengthening connections and fostering skill-sharing among locals. Our mission is to create a space where people can **learn from one another, build relationships, and contribute to a thriving, sustainable community**. By cultivating both the land and a spirit of collaboration, we aim to enhance **health, well-being, and resilience** for all.





Young Pioneers


This year, Young Pioneers has evolved into a successful and well-supported programme, with several local schools now actively participating. With the backing of the local community and partnerships with businesses, we've been able to make this initiative more accessible and impactful.


Young Pioneers is a hands-on learning experience designed to equip tamariki with practical life skills, self-sufficiency, and resilience. The programme caters to both school groups and extracurricular participants, providing valuable real-world knowledge through interactive workshops and activities.


 **Gardening & Agriculture** – Children experienced the full food cycle, from planting seedlings to harvesting kai, learning the joy of growing their own food.


 **Animal Care** – Looking after our chickens and ducks taught responsibility, empathy, and everyday farming know-how.


 **Cooking & Nutrition** – From wholesome meals to crowd-favourite pizzas, participants learned practical cooking skills and the value of healthy eating.


 **DIY Skills** – Building planter boxes, fixing tools, and solving problems gave kids real confidence in “doing it themselves.”


 **Bushcraft & Survival** – Outdoor sessions built resilience and resourcefulness, with skills in fire-making, shelter-building, and navigation.

 **Sustainability & Energy** – Hands-on lessons in solar, water collection, and conservation sparked curiosity about renewable energy.

 **Emergency Readiness** – Activities showed children how to prepare for challenges and look after themselves and others in unexpected situations.

 **Entrepreneurship & Money Skills** – From pricing produce to selling at our markets, kids learned real-world financial literacy.

 **Community Engagement** – Young Pioneers gave back by helping in the gardens, connecting with whānau, and “planting seeds” of community spirit.

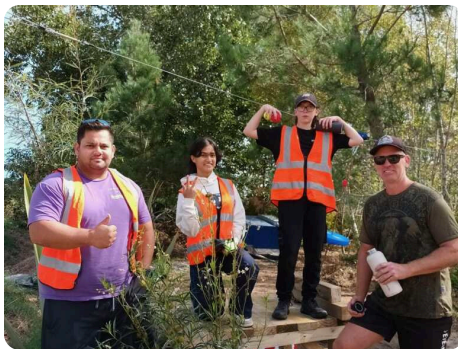
 **Project-Based Learning** – Each term wrapped up with tangible achievements the children could proudly show their families.

With strong community support, Young Pioneers is making a tangible difference. By the end of Term 3, more than 350 tamariki had taken part, learning practical skills that build confidence, independence, and resilience. As additional schools join us, we are excited to expand the programme's reach and deepen its impact in 2026.

Upskillz: Empowering Our Youth with Practical Skills

Our **Upskillz** programme is designed to equip young people with foundational trade and life skills, helping them become more self-sufficient and employable. Through hands-on learning, participants gain experience in basic tool use, carpentry, mechanics, electrical work, gardening, and cooking—all essential skills for independence and future employment.

We are proud to be working with **Taupō Intermediate, Taupo Nui-a-Tia College, Tauhara College, Taupo Pathways and Youthtown** to provide practical learning opportunities that support rangatahi in developing confidence and capability. By fostering partnerships with schools and community groups, we are ensuring that young people have access to valuable, **real-world skills** that will serve them for life.



Repair Cafe

Repair Café & Junktown

In 2024, we launched Taupō's first **Repair Café** in partnership with the Taupō District Council, Project Tongariro, Bike Taupō, and Volunteer Great Lake Taupō. What started as a one-off event has now grown into a quarterly initiative, with four successful *Repair Cafés* held throughout the year. The response from the community has been incredible, solidifying *Repair Café* as a much-anticipated fixture in Taupō.

Building on this momentum, 2025 also saw the launch of a new initiative: **Junktown**. This project tackles the excess donations that charities like Hospice and the Salvation Army cannot take in. Rather than these items being discarded, *Junktown* rescues them and offers them to the community for a koha. This not only reduces waste but also ensures that perfectly usable items find new homes rather than ending up in landfill.

Garden Exchange

2025 has been a fantastic year for the *Taupō Timebank Community Hub*, with our *Garden Exchange* continuing to thrive as a cornerstone of community sustainability and connection. Our *Farmers' Markets*, held regularly throughout spring and summer, have gone from strength to strength, becoming a much-loved gathering place for local growers, makers, and supporters of sustainable living.

We now have a dedicated group of stallholders selling and trading homegrown produce, homemade goods, and handcrafted wares. It has been especially inspiring to see young entrepreneurs showcasing their creations, alongside local musicians who bring a vibrant energy to the markets. The support from the community has been overwhelming, proving that initiatives like these truly bring people together.

The *Garden Exchange* has not only provided a platform for people to share surplus produce and reduce food waste but has also strengthened the spirit of giving and sharing in Taupō. We look forward to another successful season when the *Farmers' Markets* resume in spring 2025!



DIY For Life!

Our new **DIY For Life!** workshop series brings together the best of our previous offerings into a powerful one-day learning experience. Designed to build practical self-sufficiency and community resilience, these workshops cover everything from gardening and food preservation to basic carpentry, solar energy, water systems, and more.

Delivered in a friendly, hands-on environment, DIY For Life! is not only a chance to gain essential life skills—it's also a social connector that brings people of all backgrounds together.



Kai Kitchen

Kai Kitchen: A Community Asset in the Making

This year, thanks to the generous support of **Penny Homes**, we saw the completion of our **Kai Kitchen**—a purpose-built space that will serve as the heart of our food education initiatives. This kitchen will allow us to teach students essential cooking and nutrition skills, empowering them with the knowledge to prepare healthy meals and make informed food choices.

However, to fully realise its potential, the Kai Kitchen still needs essential equipment to function effectively. Once fully equipped, it will not only support our Young Pioneers and Upskillz programmes but will also enable us to run a community café, generating income to sustain our initiatives and promoting food security in Taupō.

With the right support, the Kai Kitchen will become a hub for education, sustainability, and self-sufficiency, benefiting both our students and the wider community.



Partnerships

Building Stronger Connections & Collaborations

Throughout 2025, we have fostered valuable partnerships with like-minded individuals, businesses, and social service providers, working together to share resources and create meaningful opportunities that benefit our community. These collaborations have strengthened our ability to deliver impactful programmes and initiatives that align with our purpose of fostering self-sufficiency, sustainability, and community resilience.

Some of the key partnerships and initiatives this year include:

- **Westpac Volunteers** – A fantastic team from Westpac joined us in the garden, lending their hands to help maintain and expand our growing spaces. Their support has been invaluable in keeping our gardens thriving.
- **Tamathon** – A community-driven fundraiser that successfully raised \$4,000 to support Tama on his journey to walk again. This event brought people together through music, food, and a raffle, showcasing the generosity and spirit of Taupō.
- **Pathways Work Experience Programme** – Supporting young adults as they navigate their way into the workforce by providing hands-on learning opportunities in practical skills, from gardening to basic carpentry and tool use.
- **Youthtown Volunteers** – Young adults gaining valuable experience while giving back to the community—helping in the gardens, assisting with events, and learning practical skills in the process. A true *win-win*!
- **Repair Café** – In collaboration with *Repair Café Aotearoa*, *Taupō District Council*, *Project Tongariro*, *Volunteer Great Lake Taupō*, and *Taupō Climate Action Group*, our *Repair Café* events have been a major success.
- **REAP Central Plateau Workshops** – Facilitating workshops focused on *health, well-being, and nutrition*, empowering participants with essential knowledge and skills for a healthier lifestyle.
- **Mitre 10 Mega & Tui Garden Products** – Volunteer groups, in partnership with Mitre 10 Mega and Tui Garden Products, have supported our gardens, helping us maintain and expand our spaces. We look forward to continuing these collaborations!
- **Local Business Sponsorships** – Several businesses have sponsored *Taupō Timebank* by funding garden beds, with their logos proudly displayed on the sides. This support has allowed us to purchase much-needed tools, soil, and other gardening essentials.
- **Funders** – A HUGE thanks to our many funders that support us! NZ Lottery Commission, Pub Charity LTD, Mazda Foundation, DV Bryant Trust, Bay Trust, WIDE Foundation, Tindall Foundation, Geyser Foundation, Mercury Energy, Contact Energy, Taupo District Council.

These collaborations have been instrumental in strengthening our impact and creating a more connected, sustainable, and resilient community. As we look ahead to 2026, we are excited to continue building these relationships and exploring new opportunities for growth and shared success.

Tamathon

Community Coming Together For a Cause



One of the standout events of 2025 was *Tamathon*, a heartwarming community fundraiser dedicated to supporting Tama on his journey to walk again. The event brought people together for an unforgettable day filled with music, delicious food, and an exciting raffle—all in the spirit of helping one of our own.

With incredible support from the community, we successfully raised **\$4,000** to assist with Tama's rehabilitation and mobility needs. The turnout was overwhelming, with locals showing up in full force to enjoy live performances, share a meal, and contribute to the cause. The generosity and kindness displayed at *Tamathon* were truly inspiring, reinforcing the power of community in making a real difference.

We are so grateful to everyone who participated, donated, and volunteered to make *Tamathon* a success. This event not only raised crucial funds but also showcased the incredible spirit of Taupō—where people come together to support each other in meaningful ways.



Financial Summary

For the year ended March 31st 2025

Income

Category	Amount (NZD)
Donations	\$3500
Grants Funding	\$75,362.24
Other Revenue - Markets/fundraising	\$315.81
Venue Hire	\$300
School Contributions	\$9,854.19
Total Income	\$89,332.24

Expenses

Category	Amount (NZD)
Facilitator Wages & Contracts	\$12,086.96
Programme Materials & Equipment	\$11,987.89
Administration, Compliance & Insurance	\$1,247.85
General Expenses	\$5,829.19
Total Expenses	\$31,151.89

Overall Position

- **Operating Surplus** \$58,180.35*

Notes for Funders

- Taupō Timebank maintains a modest reserve for cashflow and compliance.
- Funding is diversified across government, community trusts, schools, businesses, and grassroots fundraising.
- *In March 2025, Taupō Timebank was awarded a grant of \$40,000 from the New Zealand Lottery Grants Board. This cornerstone grant underpins facilitator wages and demonstrates strong co-funding, alongside contributions from schools and other trusts and ensures continuity of delivery for our Upskillz and Young Pioneers programmes.

Conclusion

Community Looking Ahead: Strengthening Our Impact

In 2025, the *Taupō Timebank Community Hub* has continued to grow as a transformative initiative, fostering self-reliance, self-sufficiency, and environmental stewardship. Through our hands-on educational programmes, we have empowered individuals and families to adopt sustainable practices, deepening their connection to the environment while enhancing their independence.

Our workshops and initiatives in *urban gardening, resource conservation, and practical skills development* have provided participants with the tools to live more sustainably. These efforts have not only reduced reliance on external resources but have also contributed to a stronger, more resilient community. The overwhelming positive feedback and increasing participation highlight the hub's effectiveness in addressing real community needs.

Beyond education, our initiatives have actively promoted environmental awareness and action, leading to measurable improvements in local ecological health. By combining hands-on learning with real-world applications, the hub continues to create a lasting model of sustainability that aligns with modern environmental goals.

Looking ahead, we aim to expand our programmes, strengthen collaborations with local organisations, and incorporate emerging sustainability practices to further our impact. The *Taupō Timebank Community Hub* remains a driving force for positive change, demonstrating the power of community-led action in building a thriving, self-sufficient, and environmentally conscious future.

Contact

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