

The background of the cover is a photograph of a modern architectural structure with a series of white, curved, rib-like elements that create a tunnel-like effect. In the distance, a snow-capped mountain peak is visible against a clear blue sky. The overall lighting is soft and warm, suggesting a sunrise or sunset.

BAF BISHOP'S
ACTION
FOUNDATION

UPDATE REPORT 2020

Creating flourishing communities

BAF is a charitable organisation working to create and sustain flourishing communities

Our Vision

Simply, we want to create communities that flourish. To achieve this we identify the root cause of community and social issues and develop partnerships that can create lasting solutions. We have three core action areas of Research, Collaboration and Service. We like to see ourselves as a catalyst for change, developing collaborations and solutions that can thrive beyond our involvement so that we can continue to look for more good to be done.

Think Tank

Research

We bring community members together to start conversation, think creatively and research ways to create fundamental social change.

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Innovation

Collaboration

BAF works collaboratively with a number of partners across Taranaki and wider New Zealand to lead, support, and sustain programmes that create social change.

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Projects

Programme and Service Hub

We support and implement a number of projects that develop long-term solutions to social issues, helping our community to flourish from the ground up.

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THINK TANK/RESEARCH

BAF & Associates - action focused research

BAF is a catalyst for change contributing to flourishing communities. We aim to identify the root cause of community and social issues and develop partnerships that can create lasting solutions to them. To be effective we often need new knowledge to better understand the issues we are trying to respond to.

As a small organisation BAF does not always have the capacity to undertake all of the research required to generate this new knowledge so we have developed a collaboration with a team of skilled associates who bring a wide range of expertise and research capacity.

Our associates have been carefully selected because they understand the need to deliver targeted research that provides the knowledge required to generate action and because they align with the values and priorities of BAF. Together, BAF and Associates generate collaborative responses to needs that are grounded in a sound understanding of the factors and relationships at play.



Reducing Organisation Impact on Climate

The team at BAF have been working on ways that we can reduce the impact our business activities have on the climate. To help us achieve this, we engaged in an internal research process designed to generate a response map that showed us what we were already doing and gave us a framework within which to identify new initiatives that we could adopt to further increase our sustainable behaviour.

We were thrilled to be recognised for this work by Sustainable Taranaki who let us know they were showcasing BAF for 'their outstanding efforts in reducing their climate impact by implementing a Response Map'. The article at the link below also summarises what we are doing and our plans for further reducing our impact.

www.sustainabletaranaki.org.nz/communitystories/2020/4/9/bishops-action-foundation-sustainable-response-map

Impact Strategy - Theory of Change

BAF is exploring its impact by developing an Impact Strategy. Our Impact Strategy will contain a Theory of Change, otherwise known as an impact model, which is a visualization for how the activities we do lead to positive change. Critical for BAF will be the ability to show how our role as a catalyst for change working alongside a range of other partners plays an essential role and what the outcomes are that can be associated with our leadership.

The outcome of our impact strategy will be the ability for us to better demonstrate the outcomes we achieve, but also the ability to review more effectively where we are making the greatest difference so we can better allocate our time and capacity.

To make sure our Impact Strategy is future focused and objective we are going to engage across our stakeholders to hear what is, and what could be, changing as a result of BAF's work and activities. We have engaged someone to lead this work for us so that our stakeholders are enabled to give both positive and developmental feedback into the process.



Enterprise, Social Enterprise and Rural Communities

Our research focused on the potential impact of enterprise and social enterprise to contribute to the economic and social wellbeing and sustainability of townships around Taranaki.

BAF focused on rural townships which are a key feature of New Zealand, but where socio-economic sustainability remains a constant struggle. With the increasing development of new work practices – further accelerated by the impact of Covid-19 – rurality no longer needs to be a barrier to enterprise and innovation and with the right partners and intentionality rural towns can become hubs for entrepreneurs.

The conclusion of our research was commitment to work with a range of partners to establish an enterprise hub in South Taranaki. The District is relatively large in comparison to others in New Zealand, but has experienced the sixth lowest indexed population growth by district since 1996 with approximately 28,300 people now living in

the district. The population is largely rural-based in nature and is primarily spread over seven urban settlements including Hawera (12,150), Eltham (2,070), Opunake (1,360), Patea (1,160), Manaia (927), and Waverley (861).

In the last decade, South Taranaki's population has experienced little growth and has only grown by around 1,400 people in that time. Despite this overall increase, the smaller townships of the district have experienced population decline as urbanisation draws people and jobs out of these historically rural serviced-based towns.

Establishing an Enterprise Hub in Hāwera will serve as a focal point for the district – a hub which connects people and provides a platform to ignite and nurture an entrepreneurial mindset and develop latent skills in the community.

BAF is leading this initiative alongside Manifold Co-Working and in partnership with South Taranaki District Council, Hawera Bizlink and local Iwi.

INNOVATION/COLLABORATION

Social Enterprise

Get Social was our social enterprise incubator delivered through a partnership between The Bishop's Action Foundation and the Manifold Co-Working. We aimed to position Taranaki as one of the destinations for social enterprise in New Zealand through education, support and partnerships. This intentional focus on nurturing social enterprise would create a more resilient & agile economy by creating employment and social vibrancy.

However, we're now excited to let everyone know that we have merged Get Social into Start-Up Taranaki! Our social enterprise incubator aims still remain, but now we can contribute to the wider aims of Start-Up Taranaki and enable our emerging social enterprise eco-system to benefit from the connections to the regional enterprise and innovation sector. Our Get Social crew are now part of the Start-Up Taranaki team and we were able to help deliver Start-Up Weekend 2020 in Hawera that included social enterprise themes.

Check out Start-Up Taranaki for more details!



NZ Navigator and Community Net

NZ Navigator is an on-line assessment tool that has been developed for New Zealand community organisations by The Bishop's Action Foundation and Platform Trust, and is supported by the Department of Internal Affairs – Charities Services. NZ Navigator is focused on building strong and effective organisations and communities, enabling users to assess the performance of their organisation by rating all the important areas of the organisation's operation – direction, governance, leadership, people, administration, finances, communication, evaluation, and relationships.

Following the success of the NZ Navigator tool which has over 2000 registered community organisations, the NZ Navigator partners worked

with the Department of Internal Affairs to take over management and ownership of the Community.Net database. This has enabled the database to be refreshed as a key resource for the community sector.

The partners have also completed the development and incorporation of the NZ Navigator Trust which will work to create a growing portfolio of digital spaces that equip a thriving charitable and community sector in Aotearoa New Zealand.

For more information visit <https://nzntrust.org.nz/>

Te Hau Maiangi – Voices of Experience

BAF and Access Radio Taranaki joined forces two years ago to create a space to record, listen and share voices of experience from the Taranaki region as well as bringing national and international topics back to the region to enhance action and empowerment at a community level. Te Hau Maiangi continues to collect these voices in a reservoir of knowledge that people can access through the BAF website and also Access Taranaki Radio. Over the rahui/lockdown, the need for airwaves of communication and connection became more evident, and as such Te Hau Maiangi is collecting stories of experience from this time.

Te Hau Maiangi is looking at some further exciting collaboration going into 2021 to enhance community cohesion and bringing forward a wide expanse of voice to the table.

Wellbeing of Older people

BAF has partnered with the Selwyn Foundation and Taranaki's Tainui Village to support the Wellbeing of older people and help prevent social isolation and loneliness throughout the Waikato and Taranaki regions. Through the 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.

All the programmes modified their delivery systems to stay in contact with older people during the Covid-19 pandemic. The need for the support the elderly receive has increased considerably with a number requiring support with food, medication and paying bills on line. We are also looking to work with Marae in South Taranaki to potentially expand this service out to Kaumatua where those services are hard to reach..



The Mentoring Foundation of NZ

BAF continues to support a national mentoring programme focused for community leadership development. The initiative is currently delivered in Taranaki, Bay of Plenty, Whanganui and Auckland.

The Mentoring Foundation is strengthening the community sector by supporting leaders in their roles and with their personal leadership skills. The evaluations from mentees are very positive about the impact both personally and professionally.

During 2020 this initiative partnered with Te Atiawa with a focus on leadership succession within the Iwi and partnered with Community Waikato to expand delivery into the Waikato region.

Get on Board

Working in partnership with the Taranaki Young Professionals (TYP) BAF has created and introduced a new programme called Get on Board. The Get on Board programme supports the development of new board members across Taranaki in the community sector. The programme offers trainees the opportunity to learn from well-functioning, supportive boards who provide positive learning experiences, while developing the trainee's confidence to become an active board member in the community. Trainees receive training support via The Wheelhouse including Governance, Planning and Financial management workshops.

TET one to one support for community groups

BAF continues to work in partnership with the Taranaki Electricity Trust to deliver one to one support to community based organisations in the TET geographical area. This work focuses on governance, leadership and stewardship development, planning, structural advice, management support, policy development, training and mentoring. The one to one support is provided by BAF staff or contracted consultants.





Bashford-Nicholls Trust

BAF manages the scholarships provided by the Bashford-Nicholls Trust. This trust operates two dairy farms in South Taranaki with the aim of generating surpluses to enable scholarships for agriculture and veterinary science study and research (see the detailed criteria of the Trust below).

BAF has developed and now manages an exciting and future focused scholarship programme that has extended the impact of the scholarships offered through the Bashford-Nicholls trust. The exciting scholarship programme has scholarships available for tertiary (vocational or undergraduate) and post-graduate (Masters or PhD) students. For tertiary students awards range from \$1,000 to \$4,000 per year and for post-graduate students from \$13,000 to \$20,000 per year. Applications open at the beginning of October and close mid-November each year. If you are interested in applying for the scholarships, use the Taranaki Scholarships portal.

In partnership with Massey University we also offer a premier research Award. The Pivot: Enabling Innovation in Agriculture Research Award offers up to \$100,000 per year towards high impact research in the fields of agriculture or veterinary science. Applications are open from July, closing at the end

of September. If you are interested in applying for The Pivot Award, use the Taranaki Scholarships portal.

Working in partnership with PKW, Te Karaka Foundation and CommunityForce, an online scholarship portal has been developed to streamline access to Taranaki based scholarships. In 2018 Nga Ruahine, Taranaki Iwi and Ngati Mutunga joined the portal partnership. Scholarships for Bashford-Nicholls and the other partners to the portal are available for applications by visiting <https://taranakischolarships.communityforce.com>

The Bashford-Nicholls Trust exists to grant monies by way of scholarship, bursary or grant for:

- (a) The purpose of training or education in the fields of agriculture or veterinary science at an educational institution; and
 - (b) Research by New Zealand citizens resident in New Zealand, working in or directly connected to the fields of agriculture and veterinary science,
- Such training, education or research must provide a career to the recipient or an economic, social or environmental improvement or benefit to the province of Taranaki.

[Click here to view an article about PIVOT Awards](#)



PROJECTS/SERVICE HUB



Capacity Building

The Wheelhouse project is an online go to point for community organisations to access capacity building support. It provides easy access to a targeted training programmes, funding information, developmental resources, a regional community group directory, a mentoring programme and other capacity building advice.

The online platform offers better co-ordination of training, educational opportunities and provision of resources for community groups throughout the region with the overall vision of creating stronger and more sustainable community organisations.

BAF is a leading partner providing management of The Wheelhouse. The partners also include the TSB Community Trust, New Plymouth District Council, Stratford District Council, South Taranaki District Council, Department of Internal Affairs, Sport Taranaki, Te Puni Kokiri and Tui Ora.

The Wheelhouse continues to develop new resources and source opportunities that are aimed at assisting community groups to achieve their goals and vision – visit www.wheelhouse.org.nz



ICT Gateway

The ICT Gateway is a social enterprise operated by BAF which aims to support local community organisation's including local Iwi and hapū by building the capacity of these organisations to effectively plan and utilise Information and Communication Technology (ICT). ICT is now a necessity to support community organisations to operate as effectively and efficiently as possible and meet their compliance requirements. All community organisations are offered initial support from the ICT Gateway at no charge. Our thanks to the TSB Community Trust as a supporting partner for this service.

The support to community organisations includes strategic advice and guidance, ICT language

translation, ICT plans and most importantly solutions targeting the specific needs of the organisation. The ICT Gateway continues to grow as further community organisations seek ongoing support with their ICT services via service level agreements.

The ICT Gateway grew to include a 2nd technician which enables us to meet the growing demand from the community and adds robustness to the service.

During 2020 the ICT Gateway supported many organisations to ensure they could continue to operate virtually in response to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Manna Home

BAF has worked with the trustees of the Manna Healing Centre to create a new initiative now operating as Manna Home under the leadership and oversight of BAF. This initiative provides a programme that supports young people to transition towards independence.

Our transitional programme is delivered by a dynamic team of 5 staff working with up to 6 young people at a time, aged between 16 - 21 years old. The programme incorporates positive communal living, tailor made support, life skills, physical activities, access to professional care and spiritual/cultural practices. The programme will enable rangatahi to have an independent and hope-filled future, entering adulthood as an equipped young person with opportunities and skills for life. It will consist of a 6 month onsite programme followed by up to 12 additional months of support.

Our programme is part funded through Oranga Tamariki with further resourcing from community based referrals and from donations.

New Horizons Aotearoa

This programme has now completed five years and has seen growth year on year with 2019 seeing programmes completed at Devon Intermediate School, Manukorihi School, Coastal Taranaki School, Spotswood College and Te Pi'ipi'inga Kākano Mai I Rangiatea supporting over 100 rangatahi / young people. Working with DOC and the Taranaki Mounga Project, rangatahi built pest eradication traps, who then had the opportunity to place them at the Blue Rata Reserve, seeing first-hand the impact their work will have on the predator numbers in the National Park.

We have now helped found a dedicated New Horizons Aotearoa Trust who, under the leadership of founder Kere Ell and Chair Emily Butler, will be taking on the New Horizons programme from 2020. BAF continues to provide support to help the Trust successfully transition to running these programmes.

New Horizons Aotearoa sees years 7-10 students work with mentors on groups building projects. The idea was founded by Kere Ell who actively manages the kaupapa of the programme and BAF has been the programme manager connecting the various organisations involved, overseeing the mentors, managing the programme logistics and working with the schools involved.



Alcohol Harm Reduction Project

Over the past 18 months, BAF, has been part of the Taranaki Alcohol Harm reduction Group. The project is funded by the Health Promotion Agency. This year the group were granted funding to facilitate a pilot programme working with Intermediate Schools in the New Plymouth District. The goal is to reduce the amount of alcohol related harm experienced by young people in New Plymouth. This project proposes to target the whanau/caregivers of intermediate aged student with the goal of increasing their knowledge of the benefits of delaying the onset of drinking alcohol by young people aged under 18 years of age.

The project will work primarily with 3-5 schools in the district, and with planned key speakers, consultation and co-design with parents, work to establish additional/alternative channels that they identify with to talk about with their children, before reaching teenage years where significant other pressures are identified.





Ground Breaking Mushrooms

Ground Breaking Mushrooms is a partnership between BAF and Matthew Williams.

Our aim is to remove an ever increasing amount of coffee grounds from the waste system. New Plymouth has a thriving café scene and a consequence of this is a burgeoning level of used coffee grounds. Much of this ends up in landfill.

To achieve our aim we have been testing the success of blending the grounds with a second organic substance and have confirmed that this creates a perfect substrate on which to grow oyster mushrooms. Once the mushroom growing cycle is complete the substrate has then been turned into a high yield organic compost (raw coffee grounds are not useful as a compost).

This means that not only will our project remove coffee grounds from the waste system, it will grow an organic saleable mushroom product and allow the coffee grounds to be re-used for a third time as compost.

Our full enterprise will work within a shipping container and will use repurposed dairy buckets as a growing platform. Our first site is active in Westown on the site of St Chad's Church and we also have a Curious Minds funding grant that has enabled us to partner with Francis Douglas memorial College to create a 2nd site that brings their science and horticulture students on board as part of a research team testing what is the most effective blend of coffee grounds and secondary matter to grow mushrooms.

We were delighted to receive support from New Plymouth District Council through their Waste Levy Fund. This has enabled us to purchase an e-bike and trailer that allows us to collect used coffee grounds with zero carbon impact.

For more information visit <https://groundbreaking-mushrooms.co.nz/>



BAF continues to support the Seasons for Growth Programme throughout Taranaki. Seasons for Growth (SfG) is a peer support programme for young people aged 6-18, experiencing grief, loss and significant change. Changes include parental separation, death, migration, incarceration of a family member, fostering of themselves, or a family member, or serious illness of a family member. Trained volunteer facilitators, called Companions, work alongside children and youth to help them with discussion and strategies to assist them in coping with their changes. Each participant receives a colourful journal (workbook) to guide them through tasks and activities related to loss, change and grief.

Over the Covid-19 global pandemic, there has been a substantial increase in children seeking support through schools and other health providers. The SfG program has been a good tool for schools to utilise. Despite the 2020 disruptions, over 200 children and youth have been supported by the SfG program in Taranaki this year. The Stormbirds post natural disaster support program is another tool available, should schools wish to support larger groups of students. Groups for parents will be resuming in 2021.



CONTACT US

For more information on how to become involved in BAF projects from funding to collaboration and research, get in touch with us!

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