



# The Kapiti Community Foodbank Inc

## *Supporting The Community We Live In*

Newsletter December 2025

### From the desk of the Operations Manager

We have had a varied year at the Foodbank. With an increase in the number of clients needing help, combined with a downturn in food donations, we have found it necessary to purchase more food.

Fortunately, we have received two grants from Foodstuffs, a total of \$10,000, which has temporarily offset this spend considerably. On the plus side, we have also been connected, through All Black Dane Coles, to Beard Brothers who are supplying sausages and venison to us at no charge. This has been a real bonus for us, and has enable us to provide a great source of protein to our clients.

Once again, Coastlands has given us the opportunity to wrap gifts in the mall and receive the donations during December. Whilst this is quite a logistical effort on the part of Jane and Ellen, it is well worth it for the funds we can raise. **The roster is almost complete, but we still need a few more volunteers who can fill the gaps, do last minute call-ups.** We have many repeat wrappers, indicating that it is a fun to do and not an arduous task.

Voyle & Co are, once again, carrying out a gift drive. For each gift donated to them, they will match it with another gift. It will be wonderful for the Foodbank to be able to give these gifts to clients in need of food to also receive gifts, for their children. It will help to relieve a lot of the stress families feel at this time of year. We are very grateful to the team at Voyle & Co for their commitment to this drive.

We are very appreciative of all the support we receive from our community and our supporters:

**Kapiti Pak n Save, New World Kapiti, Voyle & Co, Action Property Services, the many Church congregations in the area, Rotary and Lions Clubs. Without their support we wouldn't be able to help as many families as we do.**

**Christmas Closing dates: The Foodbank will be closed from December 23rd to 6th Jan 2026. There will be an emergency system in place with contact by e-mail only: [foodbankkapiti@gmail.com](mailto:foodbankkapiti@gmail.com)**

### Official Opening of the Garden



**Kim Black - Opening the Gardens**

On the 18<sup>th</sup> of November, our Operations Manager Jill and Kim Lancaster hosted Kim Black and Rob Salisbury from the Public Trust on behalf of the TG McCarthy Trust for the official opening of the Garden. The event went very well and courtesy of Jane King, we have some lovely photographs of the

day. Well done to our Manager Jill for her organisation of the event. The T G McCarthy Trust granted us \$10,000 for the development of the garden. It was a lovely day, weather-wise. The attendees were our volunteers and Board members. Ben Carlaw (the designer/builder) was invited to hear the compliments about his great work but, he was very unwell on the day warranting hospitalisation. Our Operations Manager Jill, showed Kim and Rob around our facility, and explained what we do at the Foodbank. They appeared very impressed with our setup. Our food containers were



**Guests view the flourishing gardens.**

all but empty at the time so they could see we were in need. All the guests were very positive and excited to see the plants already flourishing. The gardens are not planned to be main producers of food supplies due to their size but anything grown to success will compliment what fresh food we have to offer our clients.

Afternoon tea, was very much appreciated by our Guests, Kim and Rob had limited availability. A thought for the future, perhaps, we could have an 'open home' in February and invite people to view the Foodbank at its best with the gardens in full bloom and plentiful.

**PAK'nSAVE**

OUR POLICY: NZ'S LOWEST FOOD PRICES

**Kapiti Pak'n Save - Consistent Ongoing Financial Supporters of The Kapiti Community Foodbank Inc**



## Board Matters

(A Snapshot of the current work of the Board)

**Chairman's note:** The 2025 AGM was held at the end of October and it was heartening to see a group of people from the community with genuine interest in the welfare of the Foodbank attend and great to see people commit to becoming Board Members. Welcome to: Sara Hayward, Marilyn Stevens (Grant applications) and Brian Geary - Legal matters (new to the Board) and welcome back, Kirsten Ralph (Secretary), Richard Stephen (Treasurer), Kim Lancaster, Carolyn Weston - publicity and Grace Moulton - newsletter. Derek Gower was co-opted to the Board at their first meeting in November. Derek will provide Treasurer Support for Richard Stephen.

The Foodbank is a member organisation and the Board represents the Members so please be involved, let us know your ideas and opinions to ensure the growth of our Kapiti Foodbank.

**Our Staff:** It goes without discussion that we have incredibly dedicated Operational Staff headed up by Jill Mason and the combination of Staff and Board working as a team makes for success. The role of the Board is to Govern and to support Operations in their Management decisions.

It is a known fact that our staff consistently work to support the Foodbank and all the little things they do in the community that are beyond their hours, which are not publicised help to keep us operational and in the public eye. For example; the garden project (Labour provided by Ben Carlaw). The organisation of the Christmas wrapping at Coastlands Mall, finding Volunteers and rostering as well as filling in unfilled spots. These are but two incidents of contribution outside of their working role and just demonstrates their dedication.

**Funding:** In these tougher economic times, it is evident that more people in our community are struggling and numbers of families presenting at the Foodbank increase weekly. A further consequence of the economy is that donations have declined considerably and we do run out of supplies regularly. Our annually applied for Lotteries Grant which in the past covered most of our operational costs has been halved this year due to less funds being available for the community. We continue to work toward finding and securing future funding and we are always open to pursuing new avenues.

We are generously supported by Pak n Save who remain our biggest Supermarket funder and consistent provide support to those who are fund raising to support us. Kapiti New World are also main supporters and daily supply the Foodbank with bread. Kaibosh who are a food rescue organisation with a base here in Kapiti share with us when they have supplies but this is dependent on availability.

Some of the churches are regular donors and some hold regular food drives along with an occasional boost in funds or food from individuals and some local businesses.



## THE LIONS CLUBS OF KAPITI 2025 ANNUAL FOOD DRIVE



The Lions Clubs of Kapiti Annual Food Drive held on the 29th November is reported to be the most successful yet with 441 Banana boxes of food donated by the great community of Kapiti. This year there were only half of the usual amount of

expired and short dated items (5 boxes) which is wonderful. The drive produced ninety more boxes that last year and it is heartening to know our community cares about those who are hungry. Thanks to our wonderful staff who gave their time generously both in setting up on Friday afternoon and tirelessly working the whole day some having to be persuaded to take a break. There were plenty of volunteers throughout the day. The Waikanae Volunteer Fire Brigade were there for the first two hours, unloading cars and carrying the parcels in for sorting. They kept up a pretty fast pace so everyone on-site had a physical workout.

The donated sausage rolls went down a treat, they lasted about a minute on the plates!

The entire day definitely felt more constantly busier than other years, many regulars commented on this. We had fewer from the community



about messages about non collected parcels items, most of those callers were happy to take their donation to the nearest supermarket drop bin. The volunteers we have always seem to enjoy themselves, there is a lot of laughter as well as hard work. Sorting concluded around 2pm, and finished at the Foodbank at 4pm after cleaning up.

**Maintenance to the Foodbank and Upgrading:** We have a lovely building and now a garden but as with all ownership, maintenance up-keep is essential as time passes.

A priority in the year going forward will be to get the third container which has been on site for some time now painted and looking a bit more aesthetically pleasing. Hopefully this will be done over the summer.



**Consistent Ongoing Food Supporters of  
The Kapiti Community Foodbank Inc**

