



zero  
waste  
NETWORK

# Annual Report

# 2020

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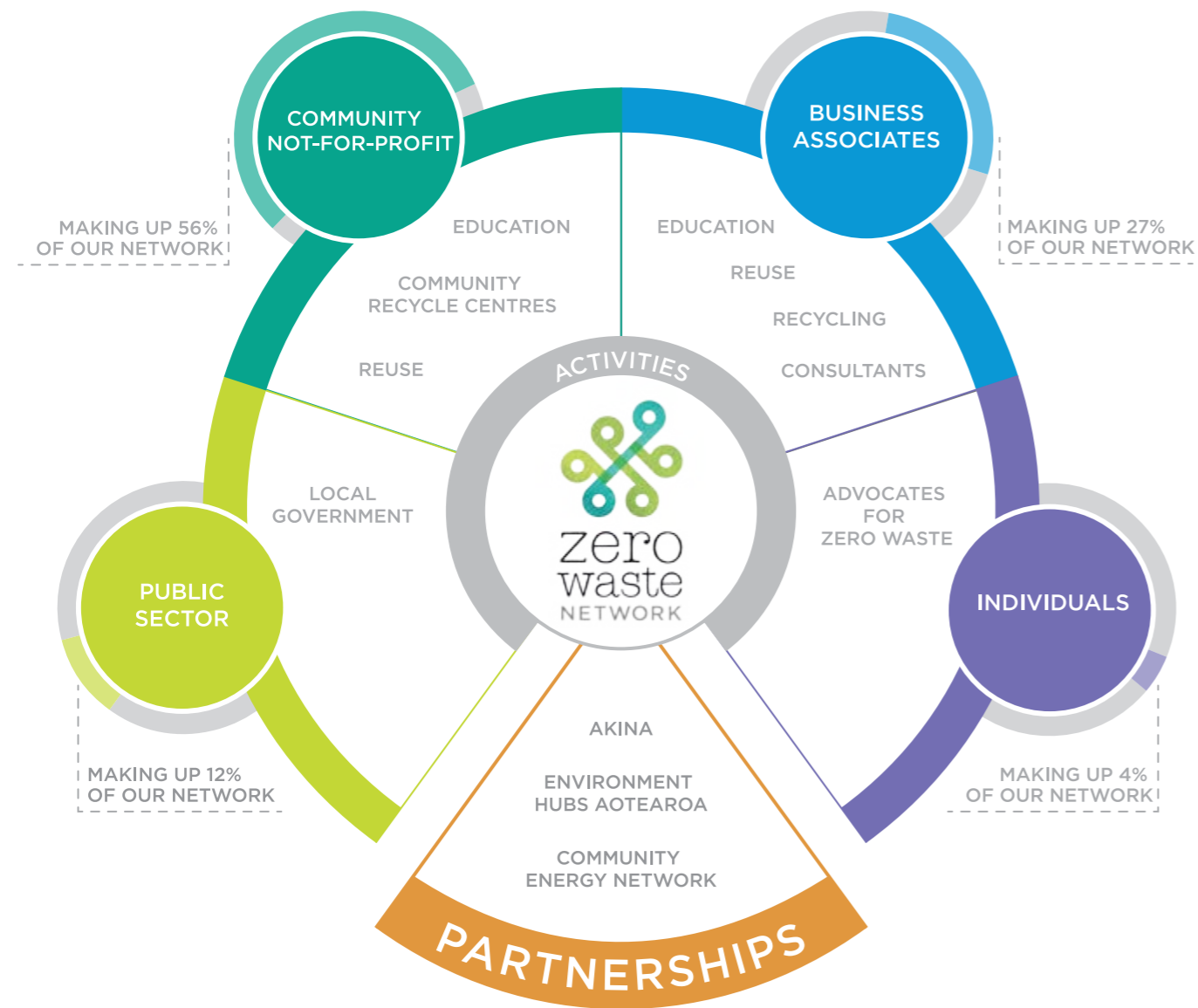
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# The Zero Waste Network

The Zero Waste Network represents community enterprises across Aotearoa New Zealand who are working towards zero waste.

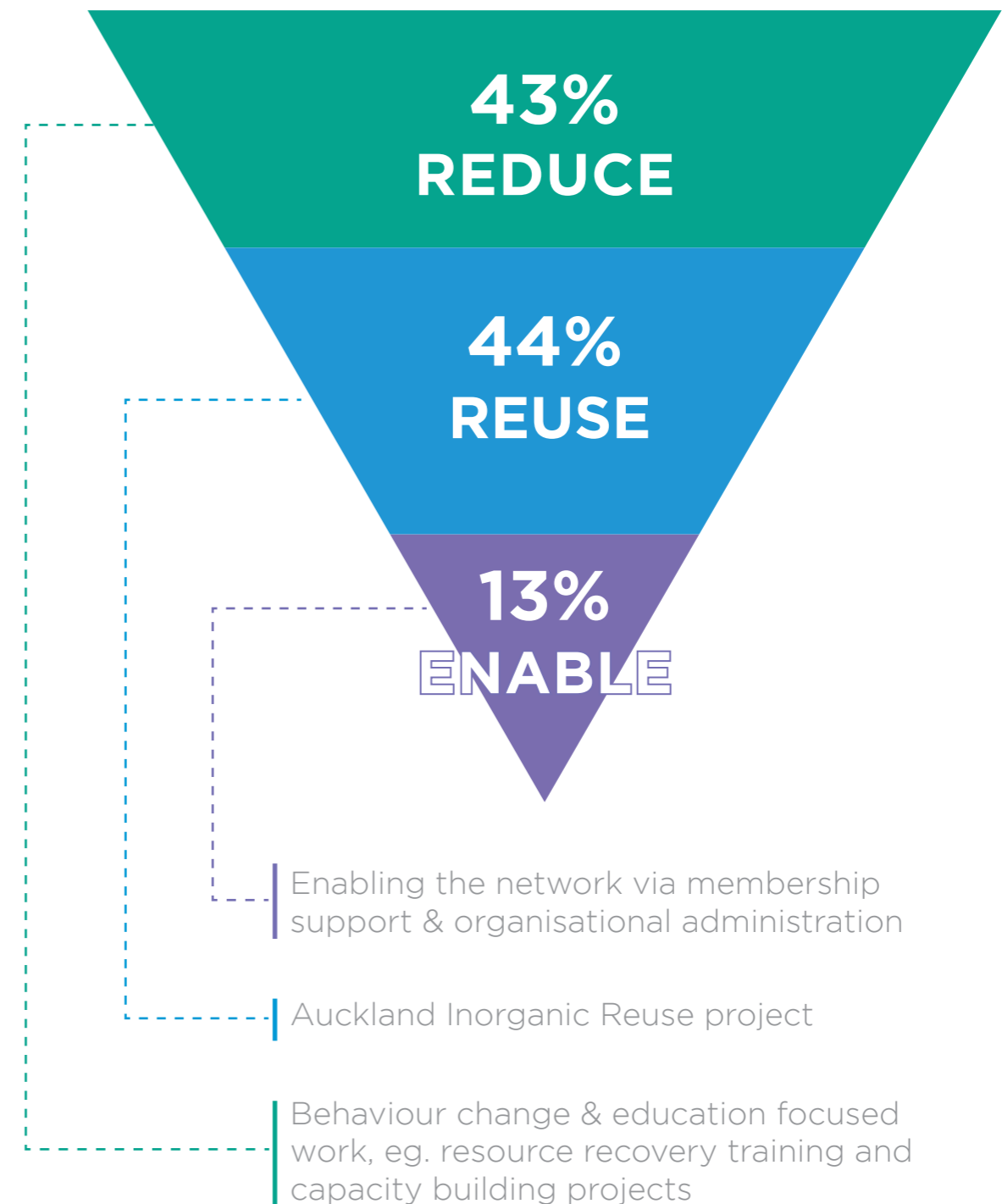
Our mission is connect, educate, enable and inspire them to reach their zero waste goals and to be a unifying voice at local, regional and central government levels.

## Who are our stakeholders?



## Time spent within the waste hierarchy

**10,370 HOURS**  
spent on ZWN projects for 2019-20



# Board of Trustees

## Chairperson

Marty Hoffart  
EERST Trust



## Executive Members

Cliff Colquhoun  
CBECE



Sue Coutts  
Wanaka Wastebusters



Jacqui Forbes  
Para Kore



Treena Gowthorpe  
Helensville Recycling Centre



Jon Morgan  
McLaren Park & Henderson South Community Trust



Rick Thorpe  
Xtreme Waste



Andrew Walters  
Global Action Plan Oceania



Sue Wallis  
Waiuku Zero Waste

# Chairman's Report

Right now, we are seriously challenging our planet's ability to sustain life. People everywhere are looking for ways to preserve valuable resources and prevent pollution, while creating jobs and invigorating a zero waste circular economy.

We are slowly becoming more aware that our finite planet does not have an unending supply of natural resources. At the same time, we are learning the importance of protecting and recirculating our resources. Government, businesses and communities everywhere are looking for better ways to encourage people to refuse, reduce, redesign, reuse, repair, refurbish and recycle the things we use to make sure our resources are not destroyed.



This year I want to comment on the overall trajectory I see the network, zero waste enterprises and the government taking to influence the future direction of zero waste in this country. It has been a busy 12 months and pretty positive 12 months. Our membership keeps growing and we now have a decent sized team to give our Executive Officer, Dorte Wray, the support she needs to keep moving the organisation forward. We are continuing to follow our planned course of action towards zero waste and a sustainable New Zealand. The board has put a focus on formalising our direction towards this goal. Yes, zero waste is a goal. It is a policy driver. We also welcomed some fresh thinking with new board members, Sue Wallis from Waiuku Zero Waste and Andrew Walters of Global Action Plan Oceania.

What has the government been doing? Well, it seems, the government is also making all the right noises and in the right direction. For some of us, it has been two decades of campaigning and disappointment. The haze and the fog certainly has seemed to have cleared.

The release of public consultation document titled, "Proposed priority products and priority product stewardship scheme guidelines" was welcomed by the zero waste community. The consultation document outlined the Government's proposals to establish regulated product stewardship schemes for six priority products under the Waste Minimisation Act 2008. The overall intent of the proposals is to reduce the risk of harm from waste and increase economic and social benefits from a more circular use of resources. The proposed six priority products includes tyres, electrical and electronic products (e-waste), refrigerants and other synthetic greenhouse gases, agrichemicals and containers, farm plastics and packaging.

## Chairman's Report continued...

It was the past year that saw another exciting announcement that work had begun on the development of a beverage container return scheme for Aotearoa. This news was announced by Associate Minister for the Environment Eugenie Sage in October last year. A container return scheme (CRS) will change the way New Zealanders view beverage containers. It means they will become something of value, and we would see increased recycling and new opportunities for refilling. When consumers return their beverage containers, they would get a deposit back, which incentivises higher recycling rates. Beverage containers include anything we drink in plastic, glass, aluminium and even tetrapak. A working group was set up and have been working on the development of the scheme over the past year. It is hoped that a report will be submitted to government before the end of 2020. The Zero Waste Network has representation on the working group and has been participating in this process.

Beverage containers did get some serious airtime in the print, radio and television media. In the past 12 months, we have had the UK, Scotland and other countries announce they are looking at deposits on beverage containers. Across the Tasman, this brings the total to six Australian states that have made announcements for container deposit legislation. Much of the recent momentum in this country around container deposit legislation has been due to the growth in Australia.

This year has seen the Zero Waste Network put a big push to get the message out to Aotearoa that Incinerators work in direct conflict with zero waste objectives. Waste incineration companies have been doing the rounds in the past year trying to sell their technology to anyone that will listen. And some politicians are listening. That is a worry and that is why the network thought it was important to launch Regeneration not Incineration campaign.

Let's face the facts - It has been another tough year in the world of recycling. Commodity prices are still down and some local authorities have stopped accepting certain types of plastics. This has been a green light to companies that make money from making machines that burning up resources.

Our campaign focused on seeking a ban on incineration of mixed municipal solid waste, specifically. Incinerators undermine zero waste goals because they're part of an outdated linear system that forces us to continually extract new resources only to destroy them after we've used them for just a short while. Our future lies in replacing these destructive technologies with regenerative systems.

While we accept that waste is a problem, we know that incinerators aren't the answer. Here in Aotearoa, we can address our waste issues in regenerative ways that preserve rather than destroy valuable resources. We need a focus on programmes and technology that prevent pollution, produce sustainable and innovative products and material systems, create jobs, and invigorate a zero waste circular economy.

In May last year the Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Bill was introduced to Parliament. One of the Climate Change Commission's (CCC) first deliverables will be advising on New Zealand's first three carbon budgets. ZWN was approached by government to ask if we would be part of the Waste Technical Reference Group to support the CCC's work. The commission was seeking independent, expert, technical advice to assist in the process of gathering, creating, assessing and refining the modelling and analysis used to create the budgets. I am pleased to be a part of considerations of the economic, environmental, cultural and social impacts of proposed budgets.

Who can write an annual report without mentioning COVID-19. It certainly was a tough start to 2020 with the lockdown in March. Covid-19 totally disrupted our lives, locked many of us out of our jobs and set back regular recycling collections. Unfortunately large volumes of this material ended up in landfill as a means to keep staff at recycling centres and material recovery facilities safe. It has been a challenging year for those of us trying to do the right thing by keeping recyclable material out of landfills.

Community resource recovery enterprises were certainly impacted and we take our hat off to all our community organisations that made it out the other side of the lockdown. Whether you were running a recycling centre, delivering an education programme in schools or managing waste stations at a zero waste event, it is likely that most, if not all, of your employment literally fell off a cliff during those challenging months at the end of the financial year. Some of us lost staff, some lost entire businesses. It has been tough. On a positive note, many of us began to walk and cycle more, consume less and slow down our lives and our destruction of the planet. Maybe there will be some lasting change from this part of Covid-19. Maybe a few more of us will plant a garden, consume less single use packaging, make better purchasing decisions and care about the planet and each other a little more.

Nga mihi nui



Marty Hoffart  
Chairman

# Strengthening Communities Hui

Kaitaia 2019



# Director of External Affairs

Zero Waste Network members understand how the work we all do at the local and national levels is helping to make New Zealand's economy more circular.

The question of how we can make a just transition to a low waste, low carbon future is becoming a key issue for central and local government, businesses and communities across Aotearoa. The ZWN has been built on the principle of sharing what we have learned with others to support them in their work but we have not always had the resources available to take a leadership role at the national level.



This year we had the opportunity to create a new role focused on building the evidence base, the relationships and the practical tools that will make us more effective in this space. Sue Coutts has moved from her role running Wastebusters in Otago to join Dorte and her team at the ZWN HQ. Sue is now based in Wellington and is working on practical initiatives and policy advice that will enable the Zero Waste Network to have a stronger voice in this area..

Contact Sue on [sue@zerowaste.co.nz](mailto:sue@zerowaste.co.nz)

# Executive Officer's Report

Over the last few years, I have been studying part-time, undertaking research on shared impact measurement in the community resource recovery sector as part of a Masters in Environmental Management. Over the course of my study I have had many conversations about the goal of zero waste and the best path of action towards achieving it. During one of these I was presented with an analogy that I found useful for understanding the challenge the network faces. Imagine that the change we're trying to achieve is in a cart, the goal where we can say it's been achieved is at the top of a great big hill and the work we all do towards zero waste can be represented by pushing the cart upwards. We know that we're making progress towards the top, but it's hard work, and stopping to develop strategies, measure impact and build meaningful relationships with people who might be able to help us push the cart uphill can all feel like they're making the climb much slower than we'd like. Meanwhile, our nemesis (I reckon that's rampant consumerism) is in their own cart, rolling down the hill fast and having a great time.

In the eight years that I have been with ZWN, 2019 felt like the year that the pushing finally got easier. It was definitely a combination of things: a great team, clear direction from our ultra-dedicated governance team, a shift in government policy towards actually using the levers available to them to create change, and strong support and engagement from our members and communities.

The Board started the financial year with a strategy workshop and established five point plan. With this in place, the ZWN Communications team were able to develop a comprehensive set of communication principles and strategies, both inwardly focused on how we talk to our members, and outwardly focused, looking at how we want to present the work of the sector to external stakeholders. It is a significant step for the network to have a dedicated team working on communications and I would like to thank Val Morse and Gina Dempster for their hard work on this. I have really valued their insight and the wide spanning conversations we have had over the year, and think having them on board has been key in the shift to the organisation becoming more proactive. The benefit of having them onboard is evidenced by the significant engagement we had with our guides to the Ministry for the Environment's waste levy and priority products consultations. Val has done a wonderful job in telling the sectors stories in both our members newsletter and the Getting to Zero newsletter, as well as on our Facebook page, which saw an increase of 2900 followers this year.

We had a big boost to our programme delivery when we received funding from the Ministry for the Environment's Waste Minimisation Fund to deliver zero waste training and our Closing the Loop events. It was wonderful to be able to meet so many inspiring people from within our member organisations, and the zero waste community generally at these events, and the training allowed us to deliver practitioner-led education to 66 people from 12 organisations. This project builds on the training that was developed with support from Auckland Council and previously

delivered in Auckland, and it is great to now be able to offer affordable training to our members across the country. The project will run for a total of three years so now is a great time to invest in your team's learning and professional development.

Another important addition to our team was Isy Harris. Isy has been multitasking between doing the data analysis for the Inorganic Project, and being the engine behind the training and Closing the Loop events, as well as helping me with the membership and general administration tasks. She also happens to be a talented illustrator and graphic designer and is the reason that our communications look so good.

The Auckland Inorganic Reuse team have been a big part of our success for the last five years, providing significant opportunities to connect with the Auckland resource recovery sector, building our profile and hands-on experience in the reuse space, all while providing an important source of income. Thanks to Des, Jess and Isy for their dedication to the project, and persistence in trying to achieve positive outcomes for the groups they work with, alongside increased diversion.

Our relationships with the Community Energy Network, Environment Hubs Aotearoa and Akina continue to be important. Connection with organisations such as these means our reach is far wider than just the resource recovery sector, and our perspective richer. The fourth Strengthening Communities hui, held in Kaitia was a welcome opportunity to explore the question of how we best create impact within our own networks, and also collectively. It was an honour to be present for CBEC's 30th Anniversary and to acknowledge the incredible work Cliff and the team have done in the Far North and beyond.

For me, this year ended on a hugely positive note as Sue Coutts joined the team as our Director of External Affairs based in Wellington. Sue is one of the strongest, most convincing voices in the country on the benefits of a strong, community-led approach towards zero waste and we are incredibly lucky to have her. Matthew Luxon was instrumental in getting Sue onboard, a final win before he left his role on the Board. Getting to hang out with the amazing humans that make up the ZWN Board is definitely the best thing about my job, so a huge thanks to all the Board members, past and present.

Our financial year ended just as the world changed and Aotearoa went into lockdown. We've already seen a range of impacts on the resource recovery sector and our members, and it is likely that there are many further changes to come. ZWN will continue to support our members and promote community-led zero waste.



Dorte Wray  
Executive Officer

# Introducing Localised



Localised is an accredited social enterprise committed to supporting the development of community enterprises across Aotearoa. The company is 100% owned by the Community Enterprise Network Trust (CENT), the organisation behind the Zero Waste Network.

Localised was established in 2019 by the ZWN Board who were eager to scale-up the significant benefits of experienced Community Recycling Centre operators working with local community groups in joint ventures to establish successful start-up operations.

Many Zero Waste Network members working in the resource recovery sector are the result of joint ventures between experienced practitioners and local partners, working together to create sustainable community enterprises.

Community enterprise is a great way to solve local problems and create local benefits, but a lack of experience, confidence and finance can make getting going difficult. That's where Localised can help by building on national experience and providing tailored support.

## Localised in practice

In 2019, Localised and its first joint venture partner Mahurangi Wastebusters were awarded the contracts to operate Warkworth and Wellsford Community Recycling Centres on behalf of Auckland Council. The company successfully won the competitive tender on price and community benefit against two large private enterprise waste companies.

The two sites used to be landfills and transfer stations but have now been transitioned in to thriving Community hubs focused on reuse and diversion of waste from landfill.

Mahurangi Wastebusters took over the operation of the sites on 1st July 2019 and key highlights from the first year of operation were:

- A turn-over of \$700k in revenue
- Diversion of 600 tonnes of material from landfill which was over 50% of material handled
- Creation of 15 paid, part and full-time jobs and training opportunities. The minimum wage paid is equivalent to the Living Wage.
- All profits have been reinvested into providing waste diversion services, or distributed to shareholders to further their waste minimisation aims

## Directors

The Zero Waste Network Board have appointed Matthew Luxon and Ian Stupple as the directors of Localised. Both have significant experience in the resource recovery sector working across the community, government and business sectors.

Localised also has the support of experienced practitioners across New Zealand eager to work through Localised to support new, community-led, resource recovery operations.

For further information contact:

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### Ian Stupple

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022 099 1759





# Financial Report

## Statement of Financial Position As of March 2020

	2020 \$	2019 \$
Current Assets		
Cash & Bank Balances	534,654	190,425
Trade Receivables	75,922	38,897
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>610,576</b>	<b>230,251</b>
Non-Current Assets		
Property, Plant & Equipment	13,922	21,589
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>624,498</b>	<b>251,841</b>
Current Liabilities		
Payables & Accruals	65,780	47,814
GST Payable	11,619	10,157
Related Parties	7,436	-
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>84,835</b>	<b>57,970</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>539,663</b>	<b>193,870</b>
Accumulated Funds		
Retained Profits	539,663	193,870
<b>Total Accumulated Funds</b>	<b>539,663</b>	<b>193,870</b>

## Statement of Financial Performance For the year ended 31 March 2020

	Actual 2020 \$	Actual 2019 \$
<b>Revenue</b>		
Donations, fundraising & similar revenue	323,200	1000
Membership Contributions	20,300	18,250
Revenue from providing goods & services	52,0190	553,973
Interest, dividends & other investment	2,951	2,005
<b>Gross Revenue</b>	<b>866,640</b>	<b>574,229</b>
<b>Less Expenses</b>		
Volunteer and employee related costs	232,585	223,959
Costs related to providing goods	261,058	268,874
Grants and donations	3,150	-
Other expenses	24,054	21,184
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>520,848</b>	<b>514,017</b>
<b>Surplus</b>	<b>345,792</b>	<b>60,211</b>

# Closing the Loop Events 2019-2020



# Supporters

Thanks to our hui 2019 sponsors:



Thanks to our project partners:



A wooden boardwalk made of light-colored planks winds through a dense forest of large tree ferns. The ferns are vibrant green and fill the scene, creating a lush, natural environment. The boardwalk curves gently through the forest, leading the eye from the foreground into the background.

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**[www.zerowaste.co.nz](http://www.zerowaste.co.nz)**